



Australian Fodder Industry Association



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HAY REPORT

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The Hay Report is produced for Dairy Australia by the Australian Fodder Industry Association (AFIA) – the national independent voice for the Australian fodder industry which connects the entire supply chain from seed to feed.
For further information: www.afia.org.au

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NATIONAL SUMMARY

Driving Prices Up

- Late spring rain hampering hay production in many parts of the country now will again reduce the amount of good quality cereal hay being produced on what is already a reduced season due to export concerns and high grain prices.
- Prices for cattle and sheep are not expected to decrease soon and farmers are wanting good quality feed for these animals.
- Where winter like wet conditions have continued in Tasmania and southern Gippsland, farmers have not been able to produce the fodder they would like and will need to look at bringing in additional feed over the next ten months.
- Steady trade to farmers looking to secure progressive loads over the next twelve months will not likely push prices up significantly but will mean the movement of fodder will continue to be steady at a minimum.

Driving Prices Down

- Demand continues to well down and has been for 18 months. A significant amount of last season's weather damaged hay is on the market at a reduced price. With more damaged hay from this season expected to drop onto the market in the coming months.
- Good spring conditions will see many farmers producing and conserving as much silage as they can themselves, particularly along the NSW Coast and Victoria.
- A mild October and rain have meant many farmers have not had to irrigate grass yet. Stock continue to graze and be supported by paddock feed at this point. Farmers able to utilise water for summer months.
- La Nina event where December to February is expected to be wetter than average for the eastern and central parts of the country further reducing the need for farmers to purchase extra feed over the summer months.

Local News

- Wet conditions continue this week with storm activity forecast from Queensland down to Tasmania.
- The hay season is well underway in most regions now with many growers racing to bale as much hay as possible before rain events again this week. Ongoing rain events through New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia this growing season have increased drying time for hay.
- Boarder closures and permit requirements continue to be a concern for contractors as they work to understand the changing rules and regulations that they and staff must comply with when moving between regions and states.
- Silage season continues to be made on the New South Wales coast, and Southern Victoria. Southern Victoria continues to be hindered by wet conditions making it increasingly difficult to produce good quality silage.
- In the north demand in the Atherton Tablelands remains steady with a small amount moving locally. Following the ongoing rainfall in Northern QLD many parts including the Tablelands continue to have an influx of fresh grass. The Darling Downs region reporting one of the best

seasons following good rainfall for the first half of the year. Oaten crops have started to be cut in the area for hay.

- New South Wales reporting good crops following timely rainfall. South Australia impacted by dryer conditions, further in the Southeast crops are on track but yields are expected to be done after difficult growing conditions this season. Hay season is in full swing in Northern Victoria. Several key factors still needed to take place and a relatively dry spring to improve on last year's season.
- Western Australia has recorded one of its best season breaks. Rain has been timely for the west this season. Varied qualities of cereal hay being produced in the West as the season continues to be hampered by ongoing rainfall. Prices remain strong for all fodder types in WA.
- Buyers are encouraged to feed test and view fodder before purchasing to be sure of the quality of the feed.

Regional Commentary

Atherton Tablelands

- Hot and storm conditions this week across the Tablelands with up to 24mm recorded.
- No hay being produced at present due to rain and limited demand. Growers now looking towards summer crop plantings. Some crops have been taken for seed rather than cut for hay.
- Farmers are selling weaning stock with ongoing good market prices rather than carry them through.
- Trade continues to be well down as many farmers further west have had improved conditions and have produced some hay which has been enough to carry current stock numbers through rather than freight hay in from the Tablelands. Reports that amount of hay being freighted in previous years is not being seen this season.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Pasture (Rhodes Grass) hay: +/-0 (\$280 to \$300/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Note: Hay in the Atherton Tablelands is traditionally priced at \$/bale, so it is important to check bale weights for conversion. The price range indicated is for feeds of varying quality with the price range generally indicative of quality of feed. We recommend feed testing and viewing of fodder before purchase to be sure of the quality of feed.

Darling Downs

- Storm activity this week across the downs, with reports of 40mm falling in some parts. More rain forecast for the Darling Downs as well as flood warnings from predicted heavy rainfall over the weekend.
- Reports that this is one of the best hay producing seasons in three to four years. Growers producing good quality cereal hay in particular barley at the start of the season. Cereal hay will continue to be baled for the remainder of the month. Spring rain has interrupted hay production over the last three weeks.
- Confirmation that new season hay is going into storage for personal use as trade continues to be minimal in the region. Many feedlots now producing their own feed as well as sourcing from News South Wales.
- Growers now looking to summer cropping, with good soil moisture profiles and available irrigation it has potential to be a good season as well.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$260 to \$280/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$380 to \$420/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$60 to \$70/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$200 to \$240/t) Prices remain steady this week.

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North Coast NSW

- Rain this week on the North Coast, with Lismore recording up to 35mm.
- Yields down due to limited rain during the growing season for cereal hay, recent rainfall was too late and has only slowed down production.
- Dairy farmers looking to make silage now for personal use as grass improves following the recent rain. Not as much silage is predicted to be made this season as farmers still have carryover.
- Reports new season cereal hay freighting in from Central New South Wales. Coastal farmers securing progressive loads for the next twelve months.
- Cereal hay, straw, and lucerne prices quoted are for supplies to be carted into the region.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/- (\$250 to \$280/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$380 to \$430/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$100 to \$150/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$200 to \$230/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Central West NSW

- Thunderstorm conditions this week for the Central West with varied amounts falling, Forbes recording 23mm.
- Rain continuing to hamper those wanting to make hay. Only a small amount has been produced thus far and quality is good where rain has been minimal.
- Small amounts of hay moving north to feedlots. Straw reported to be replaced in feedlots by cotton seed hulls which are readily available locally following a good season. Central West growers also unlikely to bale straw following significant mice issues.
- Local trade continues to be minimal, still a significant amount of carry over hay of varied quality from last season stored in the region.
- Changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +\$5 (\$180 to \$220/t). Prices have slightly increased this week.
- Lucerne hay: -\$15 (\$300 to \$340/t). Prices have eased this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$60 to \$80/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$160 to \$200/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Bega Valley

- The Bega Valley has recorded 30mm of rain for the month of November.
- A significant amount of silage has been made thus far. Rain events have slowed production down. An abundance of feed in the area for stock, ideally hay would be made this season in addition to silage, but current conditions would not allow enough drying time to produce pasture hay.
- As farmers head into summer there is plenty of water available for irrigating.
- Trade continues to be low with reduced amounts of cereal hay coming onto the coast for dairy farmers. Smaller farming operations continue to purchase small squares of fodder for equine stock.
- No change to prices this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$290 to \$320/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$480 to \$520/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$200 to \$230/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$350 to \$400/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Goulburn/Murray Valley

- No rain to report this week, but heavy falls forecast again for the coming days.
- Hay season is well under way as many growers again race to bale as much hay as possible before the next rain event forecast over the coming days. Conditions have been milder as the week has progressed and many growers tedding hay to speed up the process. Silage continues to be made in area as well.
- Corn planting for chop silage has also started in the region with forecasts of increased plantings by many dairy farmers this season.
- Trade is minimal at present majority of local farmers have plenty of conserved fodder and good grazing grass for stock. Milder conditions and late spring rain have allowed feed to keep growing without farmers and growers having to utilise irrigation.
- Changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +\$10 (\$180 to \$220/t). Prices have increased this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$380 to \$410/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$70 to \$100/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$220 to \$260/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Gippsland

- Light rain again this week in the north.
- Growers still baling silage in the north between rain events, rain every week at present. Pasture hay to be cut later this month as conditions improve. The south and western parts of the Gippsland are still significantly wet, and grass has struggled to grow. Quality of silage being produced in the south has also been an issue.
- Corn plantings for chopped silage again to be reduced due to the ongoing wet conditions in the south. Farmers have feed out majority of last season's silage and are looking to secure good quality fodder for the next twelve months.
- Growers and traders trying to ascertain the value of new season hay. South Gippsland again will need feed over the next twelve months.
- Changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$200 to \$230/t). Prices remain steady week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$550 to \$600/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$70 to \$85/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$90 to \$110/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Southwest Victoria

- More rain forecast for the coming days, not significant falls but will be widespread across the Southwest again.
- Silage continues to be made in the south, growers have found it difficult this season due to the constant rain events.
- Reports production is well down in some places greater than 50% on previous years. Limited trade, export concerns, high grain prices as well as a dry autumn have all collimated. Growers who have produced hay have again been impacted by rain. Rain events through the region are up to every three days, in some cases hay has only had light rain and has gone through to still produce a good quality product.
- Farmers have also taken advantage of any reasonable quality cereal and vetch hay left in the Wimmera and storing for use over the coming year in the southern parts of the state. Trade to potentially lift in the new year depending on summer conditions and how much feed farmers have been able to conserve themselves.
- Changes to prices this week.
- Cereal hay: +\$10 (\$170 to \$220/t). Prices have increased slightly this week.
- Lucerne hay: -\$20 (\$330 to \$380/t). Prices have eased this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$60 to \$80/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$150 to \$180/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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quality of feed. We recommend feed testing and viewing of fodder before purchase to be sure of the quality of feed.

Southeast South Australia

- Light rain forecast for the next five days for the Southeast.
- Silage and hay have been cut across the region with many growers reporting the season quickly finishing this year. Early hay was slower to cure and impacted by rain events.
- Lucerne currently being baled has been affected by heavy frosts and aphids, reports production is down half to a third due to damage. Late spring rain has boosted feed for grazing stock, ongoing rain will keep this viable.
- Mainly opportunist buyers that have storage are taking advantage of any good quality fodder on the market. No significant enquiries for new season hay, many growers and farmers storing for when the market lifts, and some will utilise on their own livestock.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$180 to \$210/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$330 to \$350/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$100 to \$120/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$180 to \$200/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Central South Australia

- No rain to report this week, thunderstorm activity at the end of last week brought light showers.
- Crops closer to the coast are taking much longer to dry this year than normal, growers and contractors expecting crops to be down up to six weeks this season on the normal four.
- New season production down closer to 50% this season, quality is up on last year's hay. Majority of hay has had some rain on it during the curing stage, varying amounts from light through to 10-15mm depending on cutting date. New season vetch will be hard to find this season with limited amounts produced due to limited rain during the planting period.
- Trade is well down and new season hay is being produced for personal use. Straw production will again be up this season with orders for pig breeders, small feedlots as well as for use across sandhills.
- Changes to prices this week.
- Cereal hay: +\$10 (\$180 to \$220/t). Prices have increased this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$400 to \$450/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$90 to \$140/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Southwest Western Australia

- Rain has continued to fall on and off in the west.
- Wet conditions continue to hamper hay production with many growers this week trying to finish baling hay that had been impacted by rain over the last fortnight.
- With reduced cereal hay plantings this season many growers are now moving onto grain harvest.
- In general, the season is still on track to finish well in the west. Mixed reports on how much hay will be produced this season. Growers who decreased plantings due to limited export opportunities are now looking at good yielding crops and finding tonnes produced will be on par with 2020. With export only taking reduced amounts of premium hay this season some growers could be storing downgraded hay due to recent weather damage.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$260 to \$290/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$450 to \$490). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$130 to 180/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$180 to \$200/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Northwest Tasmania

- Rain continues to fall in the Northwest, with significant rain again forecast over the next five days.
- Silage season continues to stop, start as growers cannot get on paddocks due to the wet, only the higher country has been able to be baled. Feed has been slow to grow but has started to take off in the last fortnight despite conditions. Growers will consider not cutting for silage, instead topping paddocks to improve quality again and going through to pasture hay.
- Consistent dry conditions needed now for hay season to start.
- Demand continues to be steady as some farmers continue to purchase what they need to get through until the wet conditions ease. Farmers also considering feed needs for the next twelve months with the opportunities to make silage and pasture hay being limited.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$220 to \$280/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$300 to \$350/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$150 to \$200/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$200 to \$240/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Please note unless stated otherwise, prices are per tonne, sourced and delivered locally. The price range indicated is for feeds of varying quality with the price range generally indicative of quality of feed. We recommend feed testing and viewing of fodder before purchase to be sure of the quality of feed.