



Australian Fodder Industry Association



17 January 2025

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

- The drought conditions in South Australia which has impacted both the quality and quantity of crops, as well as the fodder available for dairy herds, is seeing the price of hay slowly increasing across the State due to these conditions.

Driving Prices Down

- Nothing to report this week.

Local News

- Producers located throughout Queensland's northern and western districts should regularly monitor their properties for locusts or any unusual grasshopper activity, especially after rainfall. High-density swarms can develop and consume vast amounts of vegetation causing significant economic losses for producers, particularly those growing summer crops.
- National weather summary outlook is as follows:
 - Showers, storms and gusty south-westerly winds are sweeping over SA, Vic, NSW's southeast, and Tas with a cold front.
 - Showers and storms extend over WA's north, the NT, Qld's north and east and northeast NSW.
 - Hot and humid with heatwave conditions over much of Qld.
- Early Bird Registrations are now open for the AFIA National Fodder Conference being held from Tuesday 22 to Thursday 24 July 2025 at the Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort, Gold Coast. For organisations interested in sponsoring or exhibiting at the event, you can download the Sponsorship Prospectus from the AFIA website. Please visit the following link for more information: <https://afia.org.au/events/>
- AgJobs Central is seeing a post-holiday increase in jobs being advertised on their website. See: <https://www.beefcentral.com/recruitment/>
- Red Fire Ant Invasion of QLD and NSW: Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, everyone has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) to take all reasonable steps to prevent the spread of fire ants. *Fire ant biosecurity zones are also in place* to help manage the movement of materials that are known to spread fire ants such as soil, hay, mulch, manure, quarry products, turf and potted plants.
- Buyers are encouraged to feed test and view fodder before purchase to be sure of the quality of feed.

REGIONAL COMMENTARY

Atherton Tablelands

- Temperatures have ranged from lows of approximately 20°C to highs around 35.0°C. Rainfall has been minimal over the past week, however showers and thunderstorms are about to descend with more to come into the following week.
- These conditions are typical for this time of year, characterised by warm temperatures, high humidity, and occasional showers.
- Market is still slow, and the recent rain has halted sales of Rhodes grass as there has been enough rain to produce grass in pastures for feed.
- Small domestic sales are trading well for producers who are weening cattle or require small bales for horses.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Pasture (Rhodes Grass) hay: +/-0 (\$350 to \$400/t). Prices remain steady this week.

Please 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

- The region has experienced temperatures ranging from the low 20s to high 30s, but a change is coming through causing a drop in temperature and possible showers later this week across the region.
- Toowoomba and Oakey have received the highest levels of rainfall over the past week with 70mm and 58mm of rain falling respectively.
- The market is moving slowly but the price of ordinary to good cereal hay and lucerne is on the increase due to high demand from dairy farmers.
- Rhodes Grass trading has stopped due to enough grass from the rain.
- Some farmers have a fair bit of second grade hay stored, waiting for the market to pick up again.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +65 (\$300 to \$430/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +85 (\$430 to \$520/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$100 to \$150/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$240 to \$280/t) Prices remain steady this week.

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North Coast NSW

- There has been quite a bit of rainfall over the past week across the region with Murwillumbah receiving over 96mm to date, Lismore receiving over 60mm, and Casino has had over 35mm of rain.
- More showers and thunderstorms are predicted until early next week. Daytime temperatures range from high teens to mid-twenties across the region.
- Very little movement of hay across the region as is typical for this time of year.
- Some farmers are struggling to get their cereal hay dried enough for baling due to the intermittent rainfall. This is reducing the quality of the hay on the market as many are baling before it's had enough time to dry before the next rainfall.
- The Red Fire Ant invasion remains a concern and is being constantly monitored, managed and treated.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +25 (\$280 to \$400/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$370 to \$420/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$120 to \$170/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$275 to \$350/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Central West NSW

- The region has experienced a range of weather conditions over the past week with scattered showers, sunny days, and warm temperatures. More sunshine is predicted over the coming week.
- In terms of rainfall, most fell early in the week. Coonamble and Trangie both received over 67mm with over 55mm falling in one day in Coonamble. 36mm has fallen in Temora and 29mm of rainfall fell in Parkes.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$260 to \$300/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$370 to \$450/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$110 to \$160/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$230 to \$270/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Bega Valley

- Heavy rainfall has been received this week with over 226mm of rain already calculated. The showers should ease by the weekend.
- Daytime temperatures are ranging from mid to high 20s.
- On-farm hay production only as 99% of the area is for silage production. Farmers buy in their hay primarily from Cooma (NSW) or Bairnsdale (Vic).
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$350 to \$390/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$430 to \$500/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$210 to \$250/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$320 to \$380/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Goulburn/Murray Valley

- Warm and sunny days with light scattered showers have been present across the Northern Country of Vic and Riverina. Daytime temperatures are sitting in the mid 30s.
- Temperatures in the Mallee are climbing higher into the high 30s.
- Farmers have been busy baling straw since before the holiday period and are still going strong. In Berrigan, lucerne is also still being harvested.
- Very little movement of hay across the region as is typical for this time of year.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$270 to \$310/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$360 to \$430/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$110 to \$150/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$240 to \$270/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Gippsland

- The conditions have been temperate across the region this week with daytime temperatures in the low to mid 20s. The weather is improving, and parts of the region will reach highs in the low 30s later in the week.

- Scattered showers have been experienced across the region; however Mt Baw Baw has received 93mm, Mt Moornapa received 65mm, the Latrobe Valley received 63mm, and Sale received 59.8mm of rain in the past week.
- In East Gippsland, farmers are cutting as much lucerne as possible as it is selling well and in high demand.
- Over in West and South Gippsland, the movement of hay across the region is slow, as is typical for this time of year.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$320 to \$350/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$430 to \$470/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$170 to \$180/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$245 to \$265/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Southwest Victoria

- The region has experienced predominantly hot and dry conditions over the past week. Temperatures during the day are ranging from the mid to high 20s in areas closer to the coast, however towns inland are reaching highs into mid 30s.
- Most producers are only cropping and selling grass hay for cattle at present. One farmer has nearly sold all his hay aside from keeping what they need for their own sheep and cattle.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$300 to \$340/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$340 to \$430). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$115 to \$165/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$240 to \$280/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Southeast South Australia

- More warm to hot weather across the region this week with minimal rainfall. Naracoorte is expected reach 38 degrees, with Coonawarra and Cape Northumberland expecting a high of 37 degrees on the weekend.
- Hay is done for the season as it wasn't a great year in the region, however straw is still being baled at present. The market is still slow moving.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$340 to \$390/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$420 to \$440/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$135 to \$165/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$250 to \$330/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Central South Australia

- High temperatures with minimal rainfall over the past week have continued across the region. The Mount Lofty Ranges has daytime temperatures sitting between the high 20s to mid 30s. The Yorke Peninsula is slightly cooler with daytime highs in the mid to high 20s, however, in the Mid North of SA temperatures are creeping into the high 30s.
- The market is still very slow and farmers have mostly finished harvesting for the season and they are making use of fodder in the paddocks. There is not much hay trading, but straw is being moved to markets and depots at present.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$300 to \$330/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$410 to \$470/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$160 to \$200/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Southwest Western Australia

- Dry and hot across the region with daytime temperatures ranging from mid 20s to high 30s. Rain is predicted to arrive early to mid next week.
- Reports state that there is a fair bit of hay around and good local demand across the region, but it is still not looking great for hay exports.
- The grading of hay for exports has become harder, and many producers are not reaching the prices they were expecting when they planted for the summer harvest.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$280 to \$350/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$400 to \$500/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$100 to \$140/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$250 to \$300/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Northwest Tasmania

- The region is experiencing mild conditions compared with the rest of Australia with daytime temperatures ranging from mid-teens to low 20s.
- Luncheon Hill received over 59mm of rainfall in 24 hours earlier in the week, whereas other towns across the region saw nothing on the same day fall.
- The market is still slow but reports say they expect it to pick up in the next few weeks.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$310 to \$350/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$380 to \$430/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$110 to \$160/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$270 to \$300/t) Prices remain steady this week.

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The Australian Fodder Industry Association (AFIA) is the independent, national peak body for Australia's fodder industry. Since our establishment in 1996 our network of members, sponsors, supporters and engaged participants has worked for over 25 years to help the fodder industry grow.

For more information contact AFIA:
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