



Australian Fodder Industry Association



28 February 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

- Demand for Straw nationally is pushing pricing up across all regions.
- Some farmers are taking advantage of the need for hay in South Australia and have therefore been nudging their prices up. This then impacts the total cost with freight, so some contractors are refusing to purchase hay from those asking a higher price.

Driving Prices Down

- Pasture Hay is lower in price across North Coast NSW as it is not needed across the region, there is enough pasture hay on farms.

Local News

- A burst of warmth will envelop large parts of Australia over the final week of summer, with four eastern capitals sweating through temperatures in the mid-thirties while persistent extreme heat lingers in the country's interior.

As the high-pressure system currently centred over the Great Australian Bight pushes eastwards, northerly winds circulating around it will drag hot, dry air southwards. For the southeastern capitals, that will mean:

- Adelaide should hit 34°C on Tuesday, and while that's a long way off its 43.3°C day on February 12 (Adelaide's hottest day in five years), it's a reminder that summer isn't done yet after highs in the twenties for 10 of the previous 12 days (including this Monday).
- Melbourne will be the next cab off the rank with a maximum of 34°C expected on Wednesday.
- Beginning Wednesday, Canberra will have a run of several days in the thirties, with Thursday and Friday likely to be the warmest with top temps around 33°C.
- Sydney won't have its hottest day of the week until Friday, when the maximum should reach around 32°C in the city but will push a lot closer to 40°C in the western suburbs.
- Hobart should reach 29°C on Wednesday. The Tasmanian capital has reached 30°C or higher seven times in the summer of 2024/25 to date.
- Satellites have captured a rare sight of three tropical cyclones spinning simultaneously over the South Pacific Ocean this week. While Alfred, Seru and Rae aren't expected to directly impact populated landmasses in the coming days, meteorologists will also be keeping a close eye on Tropical Cyclone Alfred in the Coral Sea. While current forecasts from the Bureau of Meteorology show that this system will stay offshore for the rest of this week, some forecast models suggest that it could move closer to Australia's east coast early next week.
- Tropical Cyclone Bianca is spinning over the Indian ocean to the northwest of Exmouth, WA and will likely strengthen in the coming days. This system is forecast to move west to southwest away from Australia's mainland and sparing Western Australia after a busy few weeks of tropical activity.
- Levies and charges on agricultural products came into effect from 1 January 2025. The DAFF has provided comprehensive information on their website, which can be found [HERE](#)
- 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.

Download the Sponsorship Prospectus from the AFIA website for interested sponsors and exhibitors here: <https://afia.org.au/events/afia-national-fodder-conference/>

- **Dairy Australia event: Grounds for Growth** is a soil and pasture biodiversity event supporting farmers with adopting multi-species pastures and other practices to improve soil health and function. This three-day event in Warrnambool on 4-6 March 2025 focuses on the benefits, challenges and practical dairy farmer experiences of adopting soil and pasture systems to improve soil health and function. For more information, please visit the [Dairy Australia website](#)
- **Red Fire Ant Invasion of QLD and NSW:** Under the [Biosecurity Act 2014](#), everyone—including individuals and organisations—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 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 ensure the quality of feed.

REGIONAL COMMENTARY

Atherton Tablelands

- The region has seen some areas receive large amounts of rainfall over the past week, but the showers will be clearing by the weekend.
- Daytime temperatures are sitting in the high 20s to low 30s with humidity levels primarily ranging between 59% – 70%.
- The market is still stable and slow.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Pasture (Rhodes Grass) hay: +/-0 (\$280 to \$380/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

- Despite Tropical Cyclone Alfred circling offshore, the region has been hot and dry with showers only expected to fall early next week.
- Daytime temperatures range from mid 20s to mid 30s, with Texas reaching 36.7 degrees, and Goondiwindi reaching 35.8 degrees on Monday this week.
- Growers are hoping the cyclone will bring some good rainfall to support new growth and increase soil moisture.
- The market is holding steady with little movement; however, some contractors are starting to see product being moved across state lines.

- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +10 (\$360 to \$440/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$450 to \$505/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +35 (\$220 to \$270/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$220 to \$270/t) Prices remain steady this week.

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North Coast NSW

- Warm temperatures remain with a scattering of showers, but there is a possibility of thunderstorms predicted for early next week.
- Lismore recorded the highest levels of rainfall this month (128.6mm) with 96mm falling in one day on 13th February. Ballina follows closely with a total of 101mm for the month, and they received 47mm on 13th February.
- Reports state that the market is still quiet with nothing out of the ordinary for this time of year. However, Pasture Hay is lower in price at present as it is not needed across the region, there is enough pasture hay on farms.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$280 to \$400/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$370 to \$420/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$150 to \$250/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: -38 (\$250 to \$300/t). Prices decrease this week.

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Central West NSW

- The continuation of hot, sunny days is prevalent across the region, before daytime temperatures start to drop slightly next week as the beginning of Autumn commences.
- Both daytime and night time temperatures are trending slightly higher than average for this time of year.
- While there is movement of fodder out of this region both north and south, the market is stable and pricing remains steady.

- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$270 to \$310/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$365 to \$445/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$115 to \$165/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$270 to \$310/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Bega Valley

- Warm and cloudy weather has persisted but will ease by the weekend with temperatures dropping into the low 20s early next week.
- Thunderstorms are predicted to commence from Sunday across the region, dropping temperatures and heralding in the beginning of Autumn.
- The market remains steady this week after price increases last week. Movement of product is slow and farmers eagerly await the rainfall to commence.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$355 to \$405/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$435 to \$515/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$215 to \$255/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$360 to \$420/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Goulburn/Murray Valley

- The weather has been consistently dry and hot with no rainfall predicted. Daytime temperatures are ranging from the mid to high 30s with low humidity.
- Rainfall throughout the month has been low across the region, but farmers are hoping that the new moon will bring the rains, leading into a good start to the new season.
- Reports state there is movement of hay across the region and interstate, but the market remains steady with only a slight increase to Straw prices.
- Some change to pricing this week.

- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$280 to \$320/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$375 to \$445/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +5 (\$120 to \$150/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$255 to \$285/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Gippsland

- The BOM have issued a strong wind warning for East Gippsland, please keep an eye open for updates.
- Mostly sunny across East Gippsland with possible showers in the evenings. Similar conditions are expected across West and South Gippsland as well.
- The steady market conditions continue across the region with some movement of product. Farmers need to start thinking ahead as to whether they need additional feed for the months ahead as product is starting to make its way out of Southern NSW and Victoria into South Australia.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$330 to \$360/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$445 to \$485/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +5 (\$170 to \$190/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$260 to \$280/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Southwest Victoria

- The heatwave across the region is starting to subside, with daytime temperatures dropping late this week. Last Saturday, Dartmoor peaked at 39.6 degrees, Casterton and Mortlake reached a high of 39.4 degrees, closely followed by Warrnambool at 39.3 degrees.
- Along with the cooler temperature, there is a chance of showers near the Otways.
- After the increases experienced last week, the market is holding steady. Movement of product across the region is picking up as enquiries are starting to come through.
- Some change to pricing this week.

- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$310 to \$350/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$355 to \$445). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +5 (\$115 to \$175/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$255 to \$295/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Southeast South Australia

- Aside from some light showers, it remains mostly sunny and warm with daytime temperatures sitting in the mid 20s. However, the region can expect hotter temperatures from Tuesday next week heading into the low to mid 30s.
- Rainfall across the region throughout the month has been minimal, highlighting the need for hay to be transported into the State for those who do not have any in their sheds.
- Reports indicate farmers are happy for conditions to stay dry for the rest of this month, but will welcome the rain from March.
- The market is seeing a few fluctuations in the region, noticeably with the price of Straw, but otherwise it remains steady and still slow.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +5 (\$365 to \$415/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$430 to \$450/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +20 (\$160 to \$210/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$265 to \$345/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Central South Australia

- Daytime temperatures across the region are sitting in the high 20s to mid 30s with no rainfall experienced or expected for the rest of the month.
- The market has picked up in the last few weeks. People are needing to feed stock given the dry weather.
- Cereal Hay has jumped up in price as a consequence of recent enquiries.
- Reports state that feed is holding its value better because it is dry. There is more value in the stubble as it has more sugar, which the sheep enjoy.

- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +20 (\$300 to \$400/t). Prices increase 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

- A Heatwave Warning has been issued for the following areas: Pilbara, Gascoyne, North Interior and South Interior. Maximum temperatures will reach into the mid-forties, with overnight minimum temperatures in the mid to high 20s, increasing to around 30 degrees over parts of the Gascoyne.
- Severe heatwave conditions are expected to increase in the area and intensity over the weekend, into the new week. Locations likely to be impacted include Exmouth, Paraburdoo and Warburton.
- Many farmers were hammered by storms last Wednesday and have been in cleanup mode since.
- There is an over-supply of Cereal Hay and therefore exporters have backed off on pricing. There is also resistance from overseas buyers. On the flipside, there is very little Pasture Hay available. Rye grass can be found but not a lot is growing.
- The demise of the sheep industry due to the lack of live exports is hurting farmers in numerous ways. People are selling their stocks and are letting their Rye grass go to seed. If this happens it becomes unsalable due to the toxins it produces. Furthermore, farmers are not breeding sheep for sale over to the east coast which will reduce herds even further.
- More education and understanding is needed of twist fungus which helps combat the toxins in the Rye grass.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: -75 (\$200 to \$280/t). Prices decrease this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$400 to \$500/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +10 (\$100 to \$160/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$300 to \$350/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Northwest Tasmania

- While the weather is still mostly dry, there was some recent rainfalls which will continue this week. The showers will clear over the weekend but will resume mid next week.
- Daytime temperatures are warm and are sitting in the low 20s, but the nights are getting colder which is not good for drying hay.
- Many farmers are irrigating their paddocks and some are having more success selling smaller bales rather than large bales.
- Reports state that because feed was so short last season, many farmers secured what they could early on, which has left the market in a vacuum – there is not a lot around. People are sitting on their stock.
- After heavy fluctuations in pricing last week, the market remains stable with only a slight increase to the price of Lucerne.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$280 to \$220/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +10 (\$390 to \$440/t) Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$110 to \$160/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$235 to \$265/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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