



Australian Fodder Industry Association



07 March 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](http://www.afia.org.au)

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## NATIONAL SUMMARY

### Driving Prices Up

- Nothing is currently increasing prices across the country, but concerns loom should there not be any rainfall in the drought-affected regions within the next month.

### Driving Prices Down

- Until Tropical Cyclone Alfred passes, and the extent of damage is known across southern Qld and northern NSW, it is hard to know if the damage will impact fodder pricing – either up or down. Damaged product from the cyclone could reduce the sale price.

### Local News

- Tropical Cyclone Alfred is currently moving towards southeast Queensland as a category two tropical cyclone. It is currently expected to make landfall somewhere between Double Island Point and the area just south of the Qld-NSW border. This covers about 300 km of coastline, including the Gold Coast, Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast.
- Tropical Cyclone Alfred is predicted to make landfall as a high-end category two tropical cyclone, with wind gusts reaching around 155 km/h near its core. There is a chance that Alfred could become a low-end category three system before crossing the coast, although this is considered a low risk at this stage. Anyone living in southern Queensland and northern NSW should keep a close eye on the latest official tropical cyclone advisories and weather and flood warnings in the coming days.
- Humid, showery winds are affecting much of the NSW coast. Cool southerly winds are filtering over southern SA & Vic. Isolated showers and storms are predicted for WA and the far north.
- **Drought relief funds** are available from various State Governments. The DAFF Future Drought Fund website is a good place to start: <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought/future-drought-fund> Please also look up your State Government website for specific grants and funding that you can apply for.
- 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/>
- **Red Fire Ant Invasion of QLD and NSW:**  
Heavy rain and flooding increase the risk of fire ants rafting through river catchment systems, meaning they could end up on your property or production areas.

Fire ants are highly adaptive and can survive floods by forming floating rafts of worker ants, brood, and the queen. Once the water recedes, these rafts settle on the ground, potentially establishing new nests on places that did not previously have fire ants.

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**

- A mixed bag of weather has, and will be experienced across the region with daytimes tending to be dry and sunny, with some cloud cover. However, afternoon to evening thunderstorms and showers is on the cards over the coming days.
- Daytime temperatures are sitting in the high 20s to low 30s with humidity levels primarily ranging between 70% – 85%. Temperatures will drop slightly over the upcoming weekend, but the humidity levels will increase.
- 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**

- Tropical Cyclone Alfred is stirring up the weather with heavy rainfall, thunderstorms and damaging winds which could lead to flooding across large portions of southern Qld. Damaging wind gusts exceeding 90 km/h are possible on Friday depending on the movement and development of Tropical Cyclone Alfred.
- Daytime temperatures will be ranging from mid 20s to low 30s across the region, and showers are predicted to keep falling into next week.
- One grower commented that excessive rainfall due to the cyclone could have a devastating impact on their lucerne crops in a few months' time, and while they are happy to receive the rain, too much in a concentrated downpour could have a negative effect.
- The market is holding steady with movement of product heading south, however, the cyclone is throwing a spanner in the works so we will need to await the outcome from its affect.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$360 to \$440/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$450 to \$505/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$220 to \$270/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$220 to \$270/t) Prices remain steady this week.

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## North Coast NSW

- Heavy rainfall may lead to flash flooding is forecast to develop about parts of the Mid North Coast, Northern Rivers and Northern Tablelands due to Tropical Cyclone Alfred. Most of the impact will be experienced on Thursday and Friday this week, with showers and thunderstorms expected to continue into next week.
- 24-hour totals between 100mm and 200 mm are likely. Locally intense rainfall which may lead to dangerous flash flooding may develop during Thursday evening and continue into Friday.
- 24-hour totals between 300 and 400 mm are possible, particularly around the eastern facing slopes in the Northern Rivers and Northern Tablelands. These figures are dependent on the movement and position of the system.
- Destructive wind gusts up to 155 km/h may develop over elevated and coastal parts of the Northern Rivers, as far south as Cape Byron, from Thursday afternoon.
- Daytime temperatures are ranging in the mid to high 20s with extremely high humidity levels between 80 – 100%.
- Reports state that there will be fencing and erosion issues. Trees will eventually start falling over depending on how much rain descends.
- One farmer made a very valid point, that when natural disasters occur and charitable organisations jump in to help, there is a need to educate those on the frontline regarding the quality of product they are purchasing to hand out.

Poor quality product is not helpful to those in need, so testing the quality and verifying its use should be done prior to purchasing. Perhaps a quick checklist of questions could be created for such organisations to help identify the difference between poor quality and good quality fodder prior to purchasing.

- Sadly, some people use these opportunities to “clean out the shed”, and those who are unaware of what to look for when purchasing, do not realise they are only rubbing salt in the wound.
- No 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: +/-0 (\$250 to \$300/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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## Central West NSW

- The continuation of hot, sunny days is about to change as showers are predicted across the region over the weekend and into early next week. Daytime temperatures will also drop slightly from the mid 30s to high 20s.
- Sunday looks to be the wettest with some areas expected to receive up to 40mm of rainfall over a 24-hour period.
- There is still 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

- Daytime temperatures across the region have dropped into the low to mid 20s with most places receiving less than 10mm of rainfall over the past week.
- There is a medium to high chance of rain from Friday, through to next week. One farmer stated, “we’d love 5mm of rain to fall”, but they are not optimistic despite the prediction of showers over the weekend.
- The market remains steady this week, not much hay is moving around but growers have started sowing oaten hat and rye grass.
- 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 this month. Daytime temperatures are ranging from the low to mid 30s with low humidity.
- While some late showers are predicted in the eastern part of the region over the weekend, some places will, at best, receive 5mm of rainfall.
- Reports state that Dairy Farmers across the region are only buying in what feed they need, which means milk production is down.
- Farmers are not so concerned if there is a lack of rain throughout March, but will be disappointed if there is still no rainfall come April when seeding commences. One farmer stated that they will then head north to gas rye grass should the drought conditions continue.
- No 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: +/-0 (\$120 to \$150/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$255 to \$285/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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## Gippsland

- The west and south region is enjoying sunny and dry conditions with daytime temperatures between mid 20s to low 30s. There may be a few showers on the coast, but nothing to get excited about.
- Across East Gippsland the temperature is similar, but with a higher chance of showers early next week, up to 10mm in some places.
- The steady market conditions continue across the region with some movement of product.
- No 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: +/-0 (\$170 to \$190/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$260 to \$280/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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## Southwest Victoria

- Temperatures across the region are fluctuating from one town to another. After the recent heatwave, daytime temperatures have dropped, but are ranging from the mid 20s to the low 30s.
- There is a chance of showers near the Otways and along the coast, but any rainfall will be less than 5mm
- The market is holding steady again this week. Movement of product across the region is picking up and trucks are moving across Victoria.
- No 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: +/-0 (\$115 to \$175/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$255 to \$295/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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## Southeast South Australia

- Hot and dry conditions persist with daytime temperatures fluctuating from mid 20s to mid 30s.
- Rainfall probability is low with the potential for less than 5mm on the weekend.
- The market is holding steady, but some farmers are concerned that prices will rise if there is no rain in the next month.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$365 to \$415/t). Prices remain steady 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 is holding steady this week, and with the dry spell continuing, growers are wondering if whether they will be sowing in dry ground come April/May.
- One farmer commented that prices may increase if there is no rain by the end of April. Legumes will be ok to sow but it is all “up in the air”.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$300 to \$400/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

- The heatwave experienced last week has subsided slightly, but daytime temperatures are still ranging from the low to high 30s across the region. This is likely to change over the weekend with light showers predicted in some areas, aligned with and a drop in temperature into the mid 20s.
- The market has stabilised this week. Hay is moving around, with primarily hobby farmers buying rolls of feed.
- One farmer stated that the “grass goes mad in the heat and humidity, weeds are becoming a problem, namely pig melons”.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$200 to \$280/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$400 to \$500/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$100 to \$160/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$300 to \$350/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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## Northwest Tasmania

- The weather is still dry with no rainfall expected until the middle of next week, and even then it will be less than 5mm.
- Daytime temperatures are warm and are sitting in the low to mid 20s, the nights are relatively mid in the teens.
- There is plenty of rye grass moving, same for barley straw and wheat straw. One farmer commented that the bit of moisture received has made the grass grow.
- Soil probes are indicating dry ground. Seeding of grasses will commence at end of March.
- The market remains steady this week with little movement of product.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$280 to \$220/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-00 (\$390 to \$440/t) Prices remain steady 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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Australian Fodder Industry Association

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:

[info@afia.org.au](mailto:info@afia.org.au) [www.afia.org.au](http://www.afia.org.au)



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