



Australian Fodder Industry Association



28 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

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NATIONAL SUMMARY

Driving Prices Up

- Pasture Hay has risen across the country this week, except in Queensland where there is enough rain to produce pasture hay on-farm. With weening due to commence soon, farmers are buying in pasture hay now to support the winter period. It is still unknown whether there will be enough rain in April to support seeding and pastures growth in drought-affected areas.
- Good quality Lucerne Hay is hard to get on the north coast of NSW due to flooding rains. This has seen prices jump up for top end Lucerne.

Driving Prices Down

- Nothing is driving prices down this week. However, everyone is keeping an eye on the potential tariffs that could impact livestock exports to the USA.

Local News

- Low pressure over western QLD is drawing tropical moisture across the state and into northern NSW, this is producing rain and showers, some heavy, with areas of flooding.
- An unstable air mass is fuelling showers and storms over northeast WA and the NT's Top End. Dry elsewhere with high pressure.
- Long-overdue rainfall has been eagerly welcomed in parts of Victoria and southern NSW ahead of the Anzac Day sowing deadline, but some areas missed out. In Victoria, Alexandra received 73mm, Wodonga (60mm), Wangaratta (48mm), Mitta Mitta (48mm) and Yarrawonga (39mm). While over the border in NSW, Deniliquin had 34mm, Hay (26mm) and Urana (24mm).
- Activity in the paddocks has also increased, with airseeders planting early crops fuelled by optimism that stored soil moisture will support germination, and some grazing crops have already emerged.
- Livestock markets are feeling the impacts of a dry autumn, and the Eastern Young Cattle Indicator has lost 10.45c/kg in the past week to settle at 643.62c/kg. Heavy lamb prices dropped by 9.13c/kg with the indicator at 780.55 and trade lambs fell 14.77c/kg to settle on 762.59c/kg.
- Bumper rice yields of more than 14 tonnes a hectare has been recorded in NSW as crops benefit from warm conditions. The season started at least two weeks earlier than previous years due to the run of hot weather.
- 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](#)
- **AFIA Hay Meetup WA** – registrations are now open for AFIA's first regional event of 2025. The event is being held at Lake Kimberley Bar & Grill, 680 Cameron Road, York, WA on Saturday 5 April from 4pm – 6pm. To register your attendance please click on the following link: <https://afia.org.au/events/>
- 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.

Funded by federal, state and territory governments, an eradication zone 10 kilometres wide stretches from Caboolture in Queensland's north, west to the food bowl of the Lockyer Valley and south to near the New South Wales border.

The Crisafulli LNP government announced an additional \$24 million in funding over two years. It means an extra 12 contractors will support the state government's total investment of \$61 million over two years in the suppression zone.

Eligible fire ant infested properties of 10 hectares or more can be treated by drone or helicopter at no cost to the landholder. Authorities said it could reduce nest numbers by up to 80 per cent, but eradication would rely on land owners and managers treating their own properties.

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

- Showers and thunderstorms persist across the region, and are predicted to continue into next week. Daytime temperatures are still hovering in the high 20s to low 30s and relative humidity is sitting in the mid 80s.
- Rainfall levels for the month of March range significantly across the region. Innisfail has recorded the highest levels to date with 879.6mm, followed closely by South Johnstone with 749.2mm. In comparison, Mareeba received only 201.8mm this month and Walkamin 156.1mm.
- Moderate to heavy rainfall since Tuesday has caused river and creek level rises across the Cape and parts of the Burdekin River catchments with minor flooding occurring at Taemas and minor flooding possible at Burdekin Falls Dam during Friday. Further showers and storms are forecast across the catchment for the next several days, which is likely to cause further river level rises.
- Moderate to heavy rainfall has been observed across the Herbert River catchment since Saturday evening, particularly in the lower reaches of the catchment. This rainfall has resulted in river and creek level rises in lower parts the catchment.
- Mareeba has been included in the list of recipients for disaster recovery packages worth more than \$50 million, announced by the state and federal governments.

- The Australian Government farm business lender, RIC will host a free online “RIC Ready” webinar next Wednesday to help farm businesses learn more about applying for concessional loans.
- Reports locally say the good weather recently allowed some hay to be cut and dried. The rain has been good as only 5mm-10mm is falling per day, producing lush green paddocks.
- Corn crops are also looking good and requests for silage are now coming in. That said, not a lot of hay is moving, only a few loads here and there - primarily to feed lots. The rain has produced enough feed for now, however, once weaning commences there will be more demand.
- 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

- Communities have been cut off and rivers are breaking their banks after 500mm rain has fallen in six days, with the low-pressure system responsible wreaking havoc as it continues its path to the South East. Several towns are cut off by floodwaters as a monsoon trough stretching 1600km makes its mark. The system is set to dump 300mm on the state’s southeast.
- The Queensland government has announced extra funding to help to tackle invasive fire ants, as the pests continue to take a toll on people, livestock and farmers' bottom lines caused by flooding from Cyclone Alfred.
- Closer to the coast, reports state a different scenario - “days of drizzle”. One grower commented, “we don’t need any more rain... there is enough moisture to plant new seeds”.
- However, the constant drizzle could mean the lucerne gets too old to cut and ruins the crop. Nothing getting made right now because of the rain.
- Small square bales are trading for approximately \$16 + GST each ex-farm.
- It could be interesting if more people with horses move into area due to the Olympics holding the equestrian events in the region. This could be positive for small bale sales of lucerne.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$360 to \$440/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +10 (\$465 to \$515/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$220 to \$270/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$250 to \$300/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.

North Coast NSW

- Showers are still falling across the region and will continue doing so for the next week. Thunderstorms will also be experienced along with heavy rainfall, which could lead to flooding in some areas.
- Above-average temperatures are also expected with very high humidity levels continuing.
- The highest levels of rainfall throughout the month were received at Grafton Airport (462mm), in Lismore (433mm) and Casino (337mm).
- Some farmers have taken advantage of rainfall from ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred to start sowing early, while others are waiting for the traditional autumn break before beginning their winter cropping programs.
- There has been some activity with farmers sowing dual-purpose crops following falls of rain, while others have started preparing their firebreaks, getting ready to burn any stubble in preparation for winter cropping. The dry weather has also meant there had been very little summer weed control.
- One farmer stated, “the floods have been at a tolerable level, not a lot of displacement with cattle”. However, the weather is getting cooler and the cattle are getting through the feed. It is hard to get good quality irrigated lucerne.
- More calls for hay are starting to come through now, and even though there has not been any frost yet, many are expecting to see some earlier than usual.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$280 to \$400/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +35 (\$400 to \$460/t). Prices increase 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

- Sheep graziers are warned that cold temperatures, rain and showers and easterly winds are expected during Friday. Areas likely to be affected include parts of the Central West Slopes & Plains forecast district. There is a risk of losses of lambs and sheep exposed to these conditions.

- While there has been some rain across the region over the past week, it is due to dry up by early next week before returning.
- Daytime temperatures throughout the month have consistently been above average by 3% to 4%, whereas rainfall has been quite diverse across the region. Temora has the lowest recorded rainfall for the month at 5mm, followed closely by Girilambone with 5.2mm, and Cowra with only 6.6mm.
- Tipping the scales in the opposite direction, Coonabarabran received the most rainfall with a total of 73.4mm to date. Dubbo has received 55.2mm, and Trangie has received 45.2mm.
- The market is holding steady across the region this week.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$270 to \$320/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$390 to \$470/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$115 to \$165/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$270 to \$320/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Bega Valley

- Increasing rain is expected until mid-next week across the region, which will be welcomed by farmers.
- Rainfall has been below average throughout the month, yet daytime temperatures have been consistently above-average between 1% - 3%.
- The market is holding steady with not much movement of hay this week. The recent drizzle alludes to the possibility of new growth and will assist with soil moisture prior to seeding – assuming enough sinks in.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$355 to \$415/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$450 to \$550/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$215 to \$255/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$360 to \$430/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Goulburn/Murray Valley

- It is still predominantly dry and warm across the region, though daytime temperatures have, and will continue to drop to the mid 20s over the coming weeks. Evening temperatures have dropped considerably to the low to mid-teens.
- There was some good rainfall last week which farmers were very happy to see, and with calving season about to commence, it has sparked hope for new growth.
- The monthly rainfall across the region has ranged from 9.4mm in Redesdale to 46.6mm in both Shepparton and Yarrawonga.
- There is some movement of hay across the region, yet pricing remains steady.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$290 to \$330/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$390 to \$470/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$120 to \$150/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +10 (\$270 to \$300/t). Prices increase this week.

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Gippsland

- The rain experienced last week meant a lot of people were running around putting in seed and crops, trying to make the most of it.
- However, on the flip side, there has been a lot of cattle on offer at the markets recently, noticeably in South and West Gippsland. Some commentary feels this is premature and that they should hold out until it starts to rain.
- Across East Gippsland some good rainfall is predicted over the coming days, with up to 40mm falling per day in some areas.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$340 to \$370/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$460 to \$510/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$170 to \$190/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +10 (\$270 to \$300/t). Prices increase this week.

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Southwest Victoria

- Bureau of Meteorology figures show part of the south-west has had record low rainfall since April 2023. The rainfall deficiencies through south-west Victoria and south-east South Australia have been very low, almost the lowest on record.
- While there is no significant rainfall forecast for the rest of the month, farmers in the west are keeping their fingers crossed. Many have planned to start their seeding program around ANZAC Day, and will do so even if it is dry.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$320 to \$360/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +20 (\$380 to \$460). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$115 to \$175/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +10 (\$260 to \$300/t). Prices increase this week.

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Southeast South Australia

- As the dry conditions continue, demand for hay across the region remains. Prices have increased this week for both Cereal Hay and Pasture Hay.
- The total rainfall across the Upper Southeast region for the month is well below average with Meningie receiving a tiny 0.5mm. Keith recorded the highest rainfall levels with 7.9mm.
- The Lower Southeast, however, received clearly more rainfall throughout the month with a total of 36.6mm falling in Coonawarra, but a low of 6.2mm in Cape Jaffa.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +15 (\$380 to \$430/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$440 to \$480/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$160 to \$210/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +20 (\$280 to \$370/t). Prices increase this week.

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Central South Australia

- After farmers called for action on the steps of Parliament House last week, Premier Peter Malinauskas held an emergency meeting, and the state government says it is exploring what other support it can provide farmers - they stand ready to act.
- With daytime temperatures still above average across the region by 2.5% - 4.5%, and no decent rainfall predicted, farmers are getting more and more concerned. And while the Government decides whether they can expedite another \$18M in support funding, the Opposition is petitioning the government to make unused Murray-Darling Basin water allocations available for farmers by redirecting flows into regional reservoirs.
- The Australian Women in Agriculture National Conference dates have been announced and will be held in Adelaide from 5-7 August, 2025.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$330 to \$430/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$435 to \$495/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$160 to \$200/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Southwest Western Australia

- Perth is set for a potentially record-breaking hot spell as a heatwave bakes western and southern WA this week, while its run of warm overnight temperatures could threaten some records too. While no individual records are likely to be broken this week, the city will experience a sequence of scorching days for this time of year.

From this Monday through to Thursday, Perth is forecast to hit 38°C, 37°C, 37°C and 37°C (the average March maximum is 29.6°C). Perth hasn't seen such a hot four-day run in the second half of March since 1985. If the mercury exceeds 37.2°C on all four days, it will be Perth's hottest sequence of late-March days on record.

- A strong wind warning has been issued for the following areas: North Kimberley Coast, West Kimberley Coast, Bunbury Geopraphe Coast, Leeuwin Coast and Albany Coast.
- The market remains steady this week as growers prepare for seeding.
- 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

- Below average rainfall was experienced throughout the month with a maximum of 33.6mm falling in Luncheon Hill and a minimum of 0.6mm in Sheffield.
- Daytime average temperatures were above average this month, between 1.5% to 2.8%.
- While the evening temperatures are cooling into single digits, there is no frost expected yet. Reports state that light showers are assisting with new growth, and the market is still stable. Product is moving as needed.
- 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:

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