



**Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest  
As of March 15, 2017**

Data Compiled by [Richard Halopka](#) UW-Extension Clark County  
Crops & Soils Agent

*All hay prices quoted are dollars per ton FOB point of origin for alfalfa hay unless otherwise noted.*

*The information presented in this report is compiled from public and private sales and reports in the Midwest.*

*The past several months of hay reports are archived. To view previous hay reports, go to <http://fyi.uwex.edu/forage/> on the Team Forage web site and click on the [past hay reports](#) section.*

Hay auction data is collected on the first and third week of the month and posted on the following Monday when possible. Prices quoted in this report are for “as fed” alfalfa hay.

**Demand and Sales Activity**

The market was steady this week; there is demand for dairy quality hay. Large supplies of lower quality hay have depressed the overall market.

**Upper Midwest Hay Price Summary by Quality Grade**

Hay Grade	Bale type	----- Price (\$/ton) -----		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	\$185.00	\$150.00	\$240.00
	Large Square	\$178.00	\$135.00	\$240.00
	Large Round		No Reported Sales	
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	\$179.00	\$120.00	\$250.00
	Large Square	\$122.00	\$100.00	\$160.00
	Large Round	\$75.00	\$55.00	\$95.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square		No Reported Sales	
	Large Square	\$83.00	\$65.00	\$100.00
	Large Round	\$60.00	\$35.00	\$90.00
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square		No Reported Sales	
	Large Square	\$52.00	\$30.00	\$80.00
	Large Round	\$47.00	\$15.00	\$85.00



*For Nebraska*, demand is light to moderate with steady prices. Farmers are buying hand to mouth, not buying any reserve supply looking for an early spring. Some field work has begun in the state. *For Iowa*, hay prices are steady to lower with small square bales hard to find. Fluctuating weather has caused demand for straw and hay to be variable. No organic hay was available this week.

*In South Dakota*, buyer demand is light with abundant suppliers and prices are weaker. Spring road restrictions may contribute to less demand for hay. *In Illinois*, no reports this week.

*For Missouri*, hay supply is moderate, demand is light, and prices remain steady. Cattle are chasing green blades of grass and farmers are fertilizing pastures anticipating an early grazing season.

*In Southwest Minnesota*, good supply of hay at the market. Prices were weaker with mostly lower quality of hay at the market.

*In Wisconsin*, steady prices in a buyer's market with a large supply of lower quality hay.

**From the rumor mill**, there will be an increase in hay prices in the near future. Why? Fires in Texas and export demand from Saudi Arabia (Saudi is limiting water for hay production). The report from wildfire areas is currently there are adequate supplies of hay in the region. Aid now is needed for fencing materials. Reviewing the March 10, 2017 export market report, currently export prices are very similar to the reported Midwest prices. The current export market for alfalfa depending on quality ranged from \$75.00 - \$120.00 per ton from USDA.

Prices for straw were unchanged from the last report. Small square bale straw price averaged \$3.35 a bale this week (range of \$1.00 to \$6.00). Large square bale price was \$32.00 per bale (range of \$5.00 to \$58.00; one report of low quality straw) an increase of \$1.00/bale. Large round bales were a few dollars higher than the last report priced at \$33.00 per bale (range of \$17.00 to \$40.00).

The next Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted by Monday, March 27, 2017.

**Due to the lack of quality-tested hay auctions in Wisconsin**, the following links are included in this report allowing producers to obtain some state and nearby state prices (these may or may not be quality tested auctions). The Equity Cooperative market report is at [http://livestock.equitycoop.com/market\\_reports/](http://livestock.equitycoop.com/market_reports/). Go to the Lomira, Reedsville, and Stratford locations for their reports on untested hay and straw prices.

The Fennimore Livestock Exchange is at

<http://www.fennimorelivestock.com/index.php?site=home>.

The Reynolds Feed & Supply, LLC of Dodgeville is at <http://www.reynoldslivestock.com/whatIsnew/>.

The Tim Slack Auction and Realty, LLC of Fennimore is at

<http://www.timslackauctionrealty.com/market%20report.html>.

The Zumbrota Hay & Bedding Auction of Zumbrota, MN is at (market runs September – May)

<http://cla.crinet.com/page5295/ZumbrotaHayAndBeddingAuction>.

The Dyersville Sales Company of Dyersville, Iowa is at <http://dyersvillesales.com/hay-auction/hay-auction-results/>. Fort Atkinson auction is at <http://www.fortatkinsonhay.com/>

**The Farmer to Farmer website** is an electronic neighborhood bulletin board that allows local farmers to get in touch with one another to facilitate the marketing of feed commodities. It has recently been expanded to connect those with productive pastures to those producers who are in need of pastures. It can be found at <http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu/>. If you would like assistance posting to this web site, contact your county's UW-Extension agriculture agent.

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