

### HAY AUCTIONS REPORT STEADY TO STRONGER PRICES

*Fae Holin, MFA Communication Specialist*

Some Midwestern auctions reported steady to stronger hay price and smaller hay auctions during Easter week largely due to spring planting. One auctioneer believed the hay market is turning around in part from the loss of Western hay supply after wildfires.

Hay prices across the Upper Midwest averaged \$174/ton for large square bales and \$203/ton for small squares of Prime (greater than 151 RFV/RFQ) hay, according to the April 10 [Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest](#). No round bale sales of this quality were reported.

Grade 1 hay (125-150 RFV/RFQ) averaged \$123/ton for large squares, \$89/ton for large rounds, and \$186/ton for small squares, according to University of Wisconsin Extension/Clark County Crops & Soils Agent Richard Halopka, who compiles the report. Grade 2 hay (103-124 RFV/RFQ) sold for \$90/ton and \$66/ton for large squares and large rounds, respectively. Grade 3 hay (87-102 RFV/RFQ) averaged \$68/ton for large squares and \$51/ton for large rounds. No small square sales were reported for Grade 2 or 3 hay.

#### Wisconsin

High-quality second- and third-crop alfalfa ranged from \$80 to \$140/ton at the April 12 Equity Cooperative's Reedsville hay auction. High-quality first-crop alfalfa sold for \$60-95/ton while low-quality hay went for \$30-55/ton. A report on the hay auction scheduled for today can be [viewed here](#).

First-crop alfalfa large squares sold for \$40-75/ton; large rounds, \$25-40/ton; and large rounds wrapped, \$42.50/ton at the [April 15 Reynolds Livestock hay auction](#), Dodgeville. Second-crop alfalfa priced at \$25-90/ton for large squares, \$25-77.50/ton for large rounds, and \$20-67.50/ton for wrapped large rounds. Third-crop alfalfa ranged from \$52.50/ton to \$137.50/ton for large squares, \$20/ton for wrapped large squares, and \$127.50/ton for large rounds. Fourth-crop wrapped alfalfa large rounds sold for \$50-57.50/ton, and grassy large rounds averaged \$70/ton.

The auction report for the most current Fennimore Livestock Exchange hay sale can be [retrieved here](#). The latest Tim Slack Auction and Realty market report can be [seen here](#).

#### Minnesota

Per-bale prices at the [Zumbrota Hay/Bedding Auction for April 15](#) ranged from \$29 to \$42 for medium square alfalfa bales, \$32-36 for round alfalfa bales, and \$1-2.75/bale for alfalfa small squares. Alfalfa baleage round bales averaged \$38/bale while alfalfa-grass baleage round bales sold for \$31-36/bale.

Alfalfa-grass medium squares ranged from \$25/bale to \$42; round bales, \$12/bale to \$40; and small squares, \$1 to \$4/bale. Grass hay sold for \$25-34/medium square bale; \$13-41/round bale; and \$1.25-2.50/small square bale.



Alfalfa large squares, rounds, and small squares brought \$85/ton, \$55-85/ton, and \$115/ton, respectively, at the [Pipestone, MN, Hay and Straw Auction for April 18](#). Grass round and small squares sold for \$30-90/ton and \$65/ton, respectively, with no large square sales reported. Mixed hay went for \$20-85/ton for round bales and \$70-100/ton for small squares, with no sales of large squares.

## **Iowa**

The [April 12 auction report from the Dyersville Sales Co.](#) observed that the hay market is “looking positive for the first time since 2014.”

“Local dairies are continuing to expand, and beef producers are enjoying some profits for the first time in a while, so the demand looks to be pretty stable,” according to the auction report. Nevertheless, farmers are dealing with winterkilled alfalfa; some are turning to corn to take nitrogen credits on those damaged acres, the report continues.

Premium alfalfa large squares sold for \$150-180/ton, and good-quality alfalfa large square and round bales went for \$125-185/ton and \$70-105/ton, respectively. Fair-quality alfalfa large square and round bales sold for \$70-110/ton and \$45-65/ton, respectively. Utility alfalfa large squares went for \$40-70/ton; large rounds, \$20-50/ton. Good-quality mixed-hay large squares ranged from \$125 to \$165/ton; large rounds, \$65 to \$105/ton. Good-quality grass large rounds went for \$45-75/ton.

“Higher-quality hay continues to be hard to come by. Warming temperatures have producers looking to return animals to pastures,” reports [USDA's Iowa Hay Summary for April 14](#). Premium, alfalfa large-square and small-square prices ranged from \$150 to \$180/ton and \$180 to \$240/ton, respectively. Good-quality alfalfa large rounds sold for \$70-100/ton. Alfalfa-grass hay auctioned off at \$200-240/ton for premium small squares while good-quality large squares and rounds, respectively, went for \$125-165/ton and \$65-110/ton. Grass large rounds – no quality specified – ranged from \$60 to \$80/ton at auction.

The [Rock Valley Hay Auction for April 17](#), reports USDA, is experiencing a steady-to-stronger hay market with good-quality alfalfa large squares ranging from \$92.50 to \$112.50/ton; large rounds, \$82.50 to \$92.50/ton. Fair-quality alfalfa large rounds sold for \$62.50-77.50/ton; utility large rounds averaged \$57.50/ton. Good-quality grass large squares and large rounds sold for \$75/ton and \$70-80/ton, respectively. Fair-quality grass large rounds averaged \$60/ton.

## **South Dakota**

Good-quality alfalfa large rounds sold for \$70-82.50/ton, while fair-quality alfalfa large rounds went for \$62.50-67.50/ton at the [April 17 Corsica, SD, Hay and Straw Auction](#), according to USDA. Good-quality grass large rounds auctioned off for \$70-85/ton; fair-quality large rounds, \$45-67.50/ton.

USDA's [April 14 Weekly East River South Dakota Hay Market Summary](#) reported no new sales for last week and quoted prices from the first week of April. Only good-quality alfalfa small squares, at \$5/bale, and utility alfalfa large squares, averaging \$90/ton, were sold other than mixed hay and alfalfa pellets. Alfalfa-grass hay premium large squares averaged \$130/ton; small squares, \$7/bale. Fair-quality mixed-hay large squares averaged \$80/ton.