

DEMAND STRENGTHENS, HAY PRICES RISE IN UPPER MIDWEST

Fae Holin, MFA Communication Specialist

Hay prices increased slightly for higher-quality hay and demand has been strong in the Upper Midwest, according to the [Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest](#) for Dec. 11.

Prime alfalfa hay (greater than 151 RFV/RFQ) averaged \$197/ton for large squares, \$150/ton for large rounds, and \$251/ton for small squares. Grade 1 hay (125-150 RFV/RFQ) averaged \$149, \$107, and \$158/ton for large squares, large rounds, and small squares, respectively. Grade 2 alfalfa (103-124 RFV/RFQ) large squares averaged \$131/ton; large rounds, \$84/ton. Grade 3 (87-102 RFV/RFQ) large squares sold for \$133/ton; large rounds, \$101/ton.

More-recent auction and USDA market reports by state are as follows:

Wisconsin

Second-crop, premium alfalfa large squares out of South Dakota auctioned off for \$225/ton at the [Dec. 20 Tim Slack Auction & Realty hay auction](#) out of Lancaster. Locally grown good-quality alfalfa large squares ranged from \$125 to \$160/ton; fair-quality, \$105-122.50/ton. Good-quality alfalfa large rounds sold for \$117.50-125/ton; fair-quality large rounds, \$42.50-90/ton. Good-quality small squares brought \$2.50-3.20/ton.

Good-quality grass large squares and rounds sold for \$95-132.50/ton and \$100-130/ton, respectively.

First-crop alfalfa large squares ranged from \$80 to \$122.50/ton at the [Reynold's Livestock Dec. 16 hay auction](#) in Dodgeville. First-crop alfalfa large rounds sold for \$70-110/ton, and wrapped first-crop large rounds ranged from \$70 to \$100/ton. Second-crop large squares ranged from \$90 to \$140/ton and the same type of bales wrapped averaged \$80/ton. Large rounds of second-crop alfalfa sold for \$60-120/ton. Third-crop large squares brought \$95 to \$170/ton; large rounds, \$112.50-120/ton; and wrapped large rounds, \$75/ton. Fourth-crop alfalfa large squares auctioned off for \$160-167.50/ton. Grassy small squares averaged \$130/ton; grassy large rounds, \$95-100/ton.

High-quality second- and third-crop alfalfa brought \$130-195/ton at [Equity Cooperative's Reedsville hay auction on Dec. 13](#). High-quality first-crop hay sold for \$85-125/ton and low-quality hay averaged \$80/ton and lower.

Large square dairy-quality hay sold for \$120-160/ton at the [Dec. 11 Fennimore Livestock Exchange hay auction](#); large rounds of the same quality brought \$115-130/ton. Small square prices were \$3.15 to \$4/bale and dry-cow/beef cow-quality hay ranged from \$40 to \$80/ton.

Minnesota

Good-quality alfalfa large squares ranged from \$105 to \$120/ton at the Pipestone, MN, Hay and Straw Auction for Dec. 19, according to [USDA's hay market report](#) of the same date. Good-quality alfalfa large rounds sold for \$105-125/ton while fair-quality large rounds brought \$90-100/ton.

Alfalfa-grass good-quality large rounds averaged \$90/ton; utility large rounds, \$60/ton. Grass good-quality large rounds ranged from \$100 to \$130/ton. Fair-quality grass large squares sold for \$80-90/ton; large rounds, \$80-95/ton. Utility grass large squares and large rounds went for \$70-75/ton and \$60-75/ton, respectively.



Iowa

Hay demand is ending strong for the year at the [Dec. 20 Dyersville Sales Co. auction](#); premium alfalfa hay large squares topped at \$225/ton. Good-quality large squares sold for \$155-185/ton; large rounds, \$150-165/ton. Fair-quality large squares and rounds went for \$135-165/ton and \$120-150/ton, respectively. Utility alfalfa large rounds ranged from \$87.50 to \$115/ton.

Alfalfa-grass good-quality large squares ranged in price from \$135/ton to \$215/ton; large rounds, \$130-160/ton. Fair-quality mixed-hay large squares sold for \$125 to \$165/ton. Fair-quality prairie-grass large rounds averaged \$115/ton. Good-quality grass large rounds went for \$115-145/ton.

Second-crop alfalfa large squares ranged from \$120 to \$185/ton at [Fort Atkinson's Dec. 20 hay auction](#). First-, third- and fourth-crop large squares sold for \$115, \$125, and \$160/ton, respectively. Alfalfa large rounds ranged from \$40 to \$145/ton for first-crop; \$40-150/ton for second-crop, \$110-185/ton for third-crop; and \$110-140/ton for fourth-crop packages. Small squares of first-crop quality ranged from \$75 to \$145/ton; second-crop, \$150-170/ton; third-crop, \$140/ton; and fourth-crop, \$140-190/ton. Large squares of new-seeding grass hay averaged \$100/ton.

[USDA's hay market summary](#) of the Dec. 18 Rock Valley, IA, Hay Auction reported a steady hay market, with good-quality alfalfa large squares ranging from \$125 to \$140/ton. Good-quality alfalfa large rounds sold for \$125-132.50/ton, and utility large rounds, \$60/ton.

Alfalfa-grass large squares, of good quality, averaged \$112.50/ton. Mixed-hay fair-quality large rounds sold for \$92.50/ton. Good-quality grass large rounds went for \$120-137.50/ton. Fair-quality grass hay, in large squares, sold for \$107.50/ton; in large rounds, \$112.50-117.50/ton. Utility large squares brought \$80-90/ton; large rounds, \$85-97.50/ton.

South Dakota

Good-quality alfalfa large rounds ranged from \$107.50 to \$117.50/ton at the Dec. 18 Corsica Hay and Straw Auction, according to [USDA in its Dec. 19 market report](#). Large rounds of fair-quality alfalfa sold for \$90-105/ton. Good-quality grass large rounds sold for \$105-120/ton; fair-quality grass large rounds, \$67.50-102.50/ton.

[USDA's Dec. 15 Weekly East River South Dakota Hay Market report](#) indicated moderate hay demand and a steady market. Supreme alfalfa small squares averaged \$6.50/bale. Premium alfalfa large squares averaged \$170/ton; and small squares, \$6/bale. Good-quality alfalfa large rounds sold for \$150-160/ton; fair-quality alfalfa large rounds, \$125-135/ton. Utility alfalfa large rounds ranged from \$80 to \$110/ton.

Alfalfa-grass large squares, at premium quality, averaged \$150/ton; good-quality large rounds, \$135/ton. Good- to premium-quality grass large rounds also priced at \$135/ton. Good-quality grass large squares and large rounds sold for \$125-130/ton and \$120/ton, respectively. Fair-quality grass large rounds ranged from \$110 to \$125/ton.