

### **STEADY HAY PRICES; CENTRAL WISCONSIN HAY SUPPLY IN GOOD SHAPE** *Fae Holin, MFA Communication Specialist*

Hay prices in the Upper Midwest have been steady the week before Thanksgiving, according to the Nov. 22 [Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest](#). It is compiled by Richard Halopka, University of Wisconsin Extension Clark County Crops & Soils Educator, located in the central part of the state.

“Overall, forage supply in central Wisconsin is in good shape. Wisconsin is catching up with a very long growing season,” Halopka says, adding that farmers were still harvesting hay into November. “Many are adding to their supply following excellent growing conditions in October.” Some Wisconsin hay is being sold to Minnesota drought areas. “In drought areas, farmers are taking measures to limit need for winter feed (early weaning and moving calves to feedlots).”

Some Wisconsin regions made use of spotty rains, allowing late-season grazing, possibly even grazing fall-planted cereals, he says. Good weather also gave farmers the opportunity to bale cornstalks to add to their supply.

Average prices for prime hay (greater than 151 RFV/RFQ) brought \$230/ton for large squares, \$214/ton for large rounds, and \$258/ton for small squares, according to the Midwest hay report. Grade 1 hay (125-150 RFV/RFQ) averaged \$188/ton for large squares, \$164/ton for large rounds, and \$174/ton for small squares. Grade 2 hay (103-124 RFV/RFQ) brought an average of \$151/ton for large squares and \$143/ton for large rounds. The only Grade 3 hay (87-102 RFV/RFQ) prices posted were for large rounds at \$115/ton.

#### **Wisconsin**

Third-crop, premium alfalfa large squares topped \$245/ton and good-quality second-crop large rounds, \$140/ton at the Nov. 17 Tim Slack Auction and Realty hay auction at Lancaster. Good-quality alfalfa large squares ranged from \$170 to \$200/ton; large rounds, \$135 to \$140/ton; and small squares, \$4 to \$4.75/bale. Grass good-quality large squares priced at \$155-160/ton, large rounds, \$100-135/ton; and small squares, \$5.75/ton. Fair-quality grass small squares sold for \$3.25/bale. Nov. 24 auction prices will be posted [here](#).

Fourth-crop alfalfa large squares sold for \$310/ton at the [Nov. 20 Reynolds Livestock Auction](#) at Dodgeville, and third-crop large squares topped \$280/ton and averaged \$150-187.50/ton. Second-crop alfalfa large squares ranged from \$152.50 to \$200/ton. Third-crop alfalfa large rounds sold for \$120-150/ton; first-crop, \$110-147.50/ton; and second-crop, \$137.50-142.50/ton. Third-crop wrapped alfalfa large rounds priced at \$80-160/ton; fourth-crop, \$130/ton; and first-crop, \$80/ton. Grass large squares sold for \$150-152.50/ton; large rounds wrapped, \$135/ton.

Second- and third-crop high-quality alfalfa priced at \$110-160/ton at the Nov. 17 Equity Cooperative hay auction at Reedsville. High-quality first-crop hay ranged from \$60 to \$120/ton and low-quality hay sold for \$60/ton and lower. Nov. 24 auction prices will be posted [here](#).

#### **Minnesota**

Supreme alfalfa small squares averaged \$270/ton; premium large squares and small squares, \$205/ton and \$6/bale, respectively, at the Pipestone Hay and Straw Auction, according to USDA's Nov. 17 market report. Good-quality alfalfa large rounds ranged from \$165 to \$180/ton; fair-quality large rounds averaged \$155/ton. Alfalfa-grass premium large rounds averaged \$175/ton. Premium grass large rounds ranged from \$160 to \$200/ton; small squares, \$5/bale. Good-quality grass large rounds sold for \$140-155/ton. The Nov. 24 USDA report of the Pipestone Auction will be posted [here](#).

#### **Iowa**

Market demand was “very active” last weekend at the Dyersville Sale Hay Auction, held Nov. 17. Premium alfalfa large squares sold for \$260-270/ton; good-quality, \$150-195/ton; and fair-quality, \$140-160/ton. Good-quality alfalfa large rounds priced at \$120-160/ton; fair-quality, \$100-120/ton, and utility, \$90/ton. Alfalfa-grass large rounds sold for \$130-145/ton at good-quality. Grass good-quality large squares averaged \$125/ton; fair-quality, \$110/ton. Good-quality grass large rounds ranged from \$100 to \$125/ton. Oat hay large rounds, at fair quality, sold for \$65/ton. Good-quality cornstalk large rounds (5 x 6'), sold for \$37/bale. Nov. 24 auction prices will be posted [here](#).

Alfalfa good-quality small squares sold for \$6 and \$7/bale, according to [USDA's Nov. 23 Iowa Direct Hay Report](#). Alfalfa-grass good-quality large squares priced at \$225/ton; small squares, \$5/bale. Clover-grass large rounds averaged \$65/ton at fair quality. Premium grass medium squares averaged \$80/ton.

Premium alfalfa large squares brought \$190/ton while large rounds ranged from \$190 to \$197.50/ton at the [Nov. 22 Rock Valley Hay Auction](#), according to USDA's market report of the same date. Good-to-premium alfalfa sold for

\$175/ton in large squares, \$182.50/ton in medium squares, and \$180/ton in large rounds. Premium alfalfa-grass medium squares averaged \$190/ton. Grass premium-to-supreme large rounds ranged from \$205 to \$210/ton; premium large rounds, \$190 to \$195/ton; good-to-premium large rounds, \$167.50 to \$170/ton; and good-quality large rounds, \$145 to \$155/ton.

### **South Dakota**

Supreme alfalfa large squares averaged \$285/ton, according to USDA's Nov. 18 South Dakota Direct Hay Report. Premium-to-supreme alfalfa large squares brought \$250/ton; premium alfalfa large rounds and large squares, respectively, sold for \$250 and \$240/ton. Alfalfa-grass premium large squares ranged from \$170 to \$200/ton. Grass fair-quality large rounds averaged \$150/ton. The latest Direct Hay Report will be updated [here](#).