

Hay Report

24 January 2025

DELIVERING
for DAIRY



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Summary

Driving Prices Up

- Prices are still steady this week but everyone is anticipating a shortage of hay and the possibility of increased product hitting the market over the coming months. Depending on where people are buying their hay and straw from, transportation costs are pushing up the total purchase price for hay, especially if it is being transported across state lines and longer than usual distances.

Driving Prices Down

- Nothing specific is driving prices down, but the variance in quality always impacts the price. Given the shortage of hay and straw in certain parts of the country, many farmers are looking for alternative ways to save money, and that could mean buying lower grade feed for stock.

Local News

- Western Australians suffered through searing hot days earlier this week and a near record warm night on Tuesday. The uncomfortable days and nights are being caused by extremely hot and dry easterly winds flowing over the west coast in response to Severe Tropical Cyclone Sean. This is causing a severe to extreme heatwave with Geraldton equalling its highest record temperature of 49.3°C on Monday. Across the country, capital cities have seen highs of between 31.5°C to 43.6°C within the first three weeks of the year.
- National weather summary outlook is as follows:
 - A front crossing the southeast brings the odd shower to southern Vic & Tas.
 - Humid winds feeding unstable air trigger showers and storms over northern Qld & northern Top End.
 - Unstable air in areas of low pressure is bringing showers and some storms to southwest WA & eastern NSW.
- Levies and charges on agricultural products have come into effect from 1 January 2025. The DAFF have provided comprehensive information on their website which can be found [HERE](#)
- Buyers are encouraged to feed test and view fodder before purchase to be sure of the quality of feed.

Regional commentary

Atherton Tablelands

- The heatwave across Queensland this week did not affect the region as severely, with the range only reaching a low-intensity heatwave range across the Tablelands for most of the week. Only a handful of locations peaked in the Severe range.
- Daytime temperatures are ranging from high 20s to low 30s with humidity averaging 73% earlier in the week and increasing to 83% on Sunday.
- Recent storms have brought approximately 25mm in rainfall, which for some growers has been good for their corn crop. However, the high temperatures and humidity are making it hard to produce hay. Many are cutting crops for mulch instead of hay.
- Market is still slow, and the recent rain has halted sales of Rhodes grass as there has been enough rain to produce grass in pastures for feed.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Pasture (Rhodes Grass) hay: +30 (\$380 to \$430/t). Prices increase 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

- The region has experienced heatwaves this week with maximum temperatures over inland districts starting in the mid to high thirties, increasing to the high thirties to mid-forties by Wednesday. Overnight minimum temperatures over inland districts were generally in the mid to high twenties.
- Severe heatwave conditions are building over broad areas of southern and central Queensland this week and are expected to persist over inland parts until at least next week. Extreme Heatwave conditions are now forecast over the Southeast Coastal District for the Wednesday to Friday period. A milder southerly change will bring some relief to eastern districts over the weekend.
- The high temperatures interrupt any possible harvesting and use of various machinery due to the high fire danger.
- No obvious movement in the market over the past week. Prices remain steady.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$300 to \$430/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$430 to \$520/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$100 to \$150/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$240 to \$280/t) Prices remain steady this week.

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North Coast NSW

- Low intensity to severe heatwave conditions were experienced over northeast parts of the state this week but are expected to ease later in the week and over the weekend with a milder southerly change.
- Locations likely to be impacted include Byron Bay, Glen Innes, Inverell, Moree, Murwillumbah and Tweed Heads.
- Daytime temperatures in Lismore, Casino, Murwillumbah and Grafton soared into the mid to high 30s during the week before reducing back to the low 30s as the occasional thunderstorm and a few showers rolled through.
- A slow market with very little trading at present.
- The Red Fire Ant invasion remains a concern and is being constantly monitored, managed and treated.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$280 to \$400/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$370 to \$420/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$120 to \$170/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$275 to \$350/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Central West NSW

- It has been very hot and dry across the region for the past week, with recent cloud cover aiding daytime temperatures to reach into the 40s. Brewon peaked at 44.9 degrees and Girilambone reached 44.5 degrees on Wednesday as the heatwave swept over eastern Australia.
- Dry land lucerne is being made on properties with good irrigation channels, which is producing a higher protein hay than anticipated. This is helping to fill a gap in the market given the lack of Vetch available.
- While the market is still slow, the price of lucerne and cereal hay have dropped slightly. This could indicate the need for stock movement out of sheds to make room for new product.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: -10 (\$250 to \$290/t). Prices decrease this week.
- Lucerne hay: -10 (\$360 to \$440/t). Prices decrease this week.

- Straw: +/-0 (\$110 to \$160/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$230 to \$270/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Bega Valley

- Daytime highs in the mid 20s have been standard across the region this past week with various areas receiving light to moderate rainfall.
- Reports state that the recent rainfall is a big turnaround, and the region has gone from being in potential drought to growing good green feed. That said, the drizzle has not been good for making hay.
- No silage has previously been produced either on the south coast due to the dry conditions, but the recent rainfalls have turned things around.
- Reports also state that there is a lot of cereal hay going south into Victoria.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: -10 (\$340 to \$380/t). Prices decrease this week.
- Lucerne hay: -10 (\$420 to \$490/t). Prices decrease this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$210 to \$250/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$320 to \$380/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Goulburn/Murray Valley

- The heatwave affected the region early in the week with Yarrawonga tipping the scales at 41.5 degrees. Kyabram followed closely behind with a high of 41.1 degrees with Shepparton also reaching into the 40s with a high of 40.9 degrees.
- Southerly winds on Wednesday brought the temperature down for a brief reprieve, however temperatures will be rising again on the weekend and into next week.
- Farmers based closer to the Mallee region are busy and are starting to run of cereal hay and legumes. Lucerne is also moving quickly, with the majority of product being transported to South Australia and western Victoria.
- The weather has been excellent for lucerne production, however there is clearly a shortage of hay and straw based on the demand.
- Reports state that smaller dairy farmers are only buying roughage and are happy to purchase old leftover oaten hay.
- No change to pricing this week.

- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$270 to \$310/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$360 to \$430/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$110 to \$150/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$240 to \$270/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Gippsland

- A strong wind warning was issued for the East Gippsland Coast this week, reaching up to 30 knots.
- Most of western and southern Gippsland region reached daytime highs between low to mid 20s, however, Warragul peaked at 37 degrees on Tuesday which is more than 10 degrees higher than average for this time of year. The Latrobe Valley reached a high of 33.8 degrees on Tuesday, which is 7 degrees higher than average.
- Omeo over in east Gippsland reached a high of 33.6 degrees on Tuesday which is 6.4 degrees higher than average.
- Movement of hay is still slow.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$320 to \$350/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$430 to \$470/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$170 to \$180/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$245 to \$265/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Southwest Victoria

- Over the past week the region has experienced a mix of weather conditions, including periods of extreme heat and some rainfall. Temperatures rose early in the week to the low to mid 30s across the region with Casterton, Hamilton and Mortlake all exceeding 36 degrees Celsius.
- The recent bushfire in the Grampians has raised concerns among wildlife advocates, who are urging a halt to kangaroo culling in the region. The fires have burned significant areas of national park and farmland, potentially impacting local agriculture and wildlife.
- Upcoming extreme heat and potential thunderstorms may further affect agricultural activities.
- The fodder market is still slow this week.
- No change to pricing this week.

- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$300 to \$340/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$340 to \$430). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$115 to \$165/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$240 to \$280/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Southeast South Australia

- It has been warm to hot and dry across the region this week. Keith recorded the highest daytime temperature of 39.3 degrees on Sunday, followed by Naracoorte who peaked at 38.7 degrees. Padthaway and Coonawarra reached a high of 37.8 degrees.
- Reports state that money is tight at the moment given the low yields produced across the region.
- Straw is still being baled but not much is moving. Reports state that once people are back from holidays it the market should pick up.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$340 to \$390/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$420 to \$440/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$135 to \$165/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$250 to \$330/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Central South Australia

- Hot and dry conditions continue across the region this week with temperatures in the high 30s to low 40s.
- One farmer is buying as much straw as possible right now to sell to their customers as there is nothing available in region. They would usually find stock to buy within 20km of their property, but are having to go further afield in SA, VIC and NSW. Next, they will be buying in hay. This is the first they have had to buy in fodder from other states as the dry harvest season drastically limited production.
- Very little hay was harvested this season prompting many to purchase hay from other states or to keep it for themselves rather than sell.
- Some farmers have decided to sell their animals given the shortage of feed and inability to pay for fodder.

- News of recent hay shed fires in the region is causing concern for farmers as it is becoming harder to get insurance coverage.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$300 to \$30/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$410 to \$470/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$160 to \$200/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Southwest Western Australia

- Maximum temperatures are ranging from the mid-thirties to the mid-forties with overnight minimum temperatures mostly in the low to high twenties. Extreme heatwave conditions are forecast over the Central Wheat Belt, Great Southern, Goldfields and South Interior districts.
- A strong wind warning has also been issued for the Leeuwin Coast and Esperance Coast.
- Several towns, including York, Duncraig, and Calingiri, experienced extreme heat, with temperatures exceeding 44°C.
- No significant rainfall was recorded during the past week.
- Reports state that there is still hay around and good local demand across the region.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$280 to \$350/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$400 to \$500/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$100 to \$140/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$250 to \$300/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Northwest Tasmania

- Over the past week the region's daytime temperatures reached highs in the low 20s, however Luncheon Hill peaked at 27.7 degrees on Tuesday. A few showers are forecast for the end of the week.
- The market is still slow across the region and country. Not much commentary available from the farming community.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$310 to \$350/t) Prices remain steady this week.

- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$380 to \$430/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$110 to \$160/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$270 to \$300/t) Prices remain steady this week.

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