

# Hay Report

20 June 2025

DELIVERING  
*for* DAIRY

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# Summary

## Driving Prices Up

- Price increases have continued across most hay types, with many regions at all-time highs with no signs of slowing. The freight costs of shifting hay interstate are now weighing heavily on pricing, and demand is outweighing supply, with some regions now looking further afield and thus increasing prices further due to distance.
- Although large parts of southern South Australia, western and central Victoria, and southwest Western Australia have received recent rain, conditions are cold, with frost interfering with the growth of recently sown seeds. The delayed autumn break, along with drought conditions continuing and no guarantee of longer-term rainfall, means fodder unavailability and pricing pressure will continue for several months. Farmers in these regions continue to rely heavily on handfeeding and supplementary grain feeding.

## Driving Prices Down

- Nothing is driving prices down. The only reported drop is an adjustment to Lucerne hay according to the reports of an individual supplier in North Coast NSW.

## Local News

- Victoria has relaxed transport restrictions to boost fodder and grain deliveries into drought-hit areas, particularly in the southwest. The new Emergency Drought Network allows larger road trains (up to 84 tonnes) to run on approved routes, helping move more feed in fewer trips to hard-hit farming regions around Hamilton, Warrnambool, and surrounding districts.
- WA-SA hay trade pause lifts: Green snail quarantine restrictions have been eased for hay deliveries from WA to SA. Conditional importation of hay from specified low-risk areas of Western Australia is permitted on a case-by-case basis, subject to biosecurity controls. It remains banned from parts of southwest WA.
- SA waives fodder inspection fees during drought: A reminder that South Australian farmers are exempt from paying the usual \$167/hour fee for incoming fodder inspections, easing pressure as dry conditions continue. Inspections remain in place to guard against pests.
- All of Victoria now included in the state's drought zone: Direct drought support of \$69 million is available for farmers across Victoria impacted by drought and difficult seasonal conditions.
- BoM update: Dry winter continues in key growing regions, with soil moisture and rainfall well below average across the southeast and west. This puts pressure on crops, pastures, and livestock.
- Red Fire Ant Invasion is continuing to be an issue for QLD and NSW. Recent detections have expanded Queensland's fire ant biosecurity zones to include Brisbane City, Scenic Rim Regional, and Sunshine Coast Regional. These changes took effect on 16 June 2025.
- Buyers are encouraged to feed test and view fodder before purchase to ensure the quality of feed.

# Regional commentary

## Atherton Tablelands

- Atherton and other higher-altitude inland areas will see showers most days from Thursday through Sunday, though totals will remain light. Expect patchy rainfall across higher ground, adding some moisture to the topsoil. Days max out around 21°C, with overnight lows steady at 14–15°C.
- Mareeba and drier inland zones are forecast to stay mostly dry despite cloudy skies, with minimal rainfall expected through the weekend. A practical window for harvest tasks, with temps reaching a warm 24–25°C and overnight lows between 17–18°C.
- BOM has now downgraded fire danger risk, but UV levels remain high, so sun protection is recommended if working outdoors.
- While no known fire ant activity exists this far north, continued biosecurity awareness is important. Handle any movement of landscaping or nursery materials into the region with care.
- The market remains slow, with not much movement off-farm, and nothing for sale in online marketplaces.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Pasture (Rhodes Grass) hay: +/-0 (\$280 to \$380/t). Prices remain steady this week.

Please note: Hay in the Atherton Tablelands is traditionally priced at \$/bale, so checking bale weights for conversion is important. The price range indicated is for feeds of varying quality, with the price range generally indicative of the quality of the feed. We recommend testing and viewing fodder before purchase to ensure feed quality.

## Darling Downs

- No rainfall is forecast through Saturday, with sunny or mostly sunny days across the region. Morning fog is possible in eastern areas but will lift quickly.
- There is widespread frost risk moving into the weekend, especially around Warwick, Goondiwindi, and Stanthorpe, with overnight lows down to 0–4°C.
- The fire danger remains moderate, and UV levels are also in the moderate range. While conditions are dry, light winds mean no immediate threat, but it is advisable to stay alert.
- Red fire ants were recently detected in machinery moved to Cotswold Hills from a known biosecurity zone. Farmers are urged to inspect equipment, hay, soil, and other materials sourced from southeast Queensland and promptly report any signs of fire ants.
- Demand is high and supply is low, with some online marketplaces advertising hay at much higher prices than previously reported. Please note that the hefty \$165/t increase for cereal hay is due to limited hay pricing available from the region over the past couple of months, and accounts for these sale prices online. We will monitor pricing closely over the coming weeks to see if it settles.
- Straw pricing is adjusted for alignment with the rest of the country.

- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +165 (\$510 to \$690/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$450 to \$550/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +20 (\$280 to \$360/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +/40 (\$290 to \$340/t). Prices increase this week.

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## North Coast NSW

- Coastal areas will see a settled lead-in to the weekend, with partly cloudy skies and a slight chance of showers. Lismore will reach a warm 19°C, with mild nights between 10 and 13°C.
- Inland areas are drier overall, with fog possible early, especially near the QLD border. Days will be mild and mostly clear. Grafton will reach 21°C, with overnight lows around 9–12°C.
- Although outside the current fire ant detection zone, the region shares close freight and trade links with southeast Queensland. Farmers are advised to watch for signs of fire ants and be cautious when sourcing materials across the border.
- One North Coast NSW farmer reports continued hay movement despite dry conditions, with demand high and on-farm prices rising. Cereal hay is selling for \$350–\$400/t, and lucerne at \$400–\$450/t.
- Quality feed remains hard to find, with poor-quality hay entering the market through unregulated donations landing with dairy farmers, a growing concern in the region.
- Silage is more available, selling for \$100–\$150/bale on farm (roughly \$400–\$600/t), and is seen as a good short-term option while growers wait and hope for solid rain, and new hay entering the market by late August.
- Straw pricing is adjusted for alignment with the rest of the country.
- Some change to pricing again this week.
- Cereal hay: +20 (\$300 to \$450/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: -10 (\$400 to \$490/t). Prices decrease this week.
- Straw: +20 (\$170 to \$270/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$260 to \$320/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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## Central West NSW

- Cold, dry conditions continue. Expect frost most mornings across the region, especially around Dubbo and Parkes, with lows dipping to  $-3^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Morning fog is possible, mainly on the northern slopes.
- No rainfall is expected. Daytime temps range from  $13\text{--}20^{\circ}\text{C}$  as the week progresses. Fire danger sits at moderate across parts of the region (Upper Central West Plains and North Western), but overall on-ground conditions remain stable.
- All hay types continue to climb. Demand remains firm across the region as farmers near the end of their reserves, with very little in supply.
- Silage appears to be an option for farmers struggling to locate additional fodder, with tightly packed, untested bales being sold online for the equivalent of \$200/t on-farm.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +50 (\$440 to \$560/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +30 (\$460 to \$590/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +20 (\$210 to \$270/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +50 (\$440 to \$500/t). Prices increase this week.

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## Bega Valley

- Dry, settled weather continues through Saturday, with no rainfall expected. Cold mornings will bring widespread frost and patchy fog inland, especially around Bega and Merimbula.
- Daytime temperatures will reach a mild  $12\text{--}16^{\circ}\text{C}$ , warming slightly by Saturday. Light winds mean stable on-ground conditions, but soil moisture remains low.
- BOM has issued a moderate fire danger risk for the Illawarra/Shoalhaven area.
- The trend of steady increases continues. Demand remains firm across the region, with little on offer, even via online marketplaces.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +50 (\$510 to \$670/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +30 (\$530 to \$660/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +20 (\$300 to \$370/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +50 (\$530 to \$610/t). Prices increase this week.

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## Goulburn/Murray Valley

- Goulburn and Murray Valley districts are settling into typical winter conditions. Seymour, Bendigo, Shepparton, and Echuca can all expect cold mornings with widespread frost and some patchy fog, especially in eastern areas. Overnight temperatures will fall to around  $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$ , with daytime highs reaching  $12\text{--}14^{\circ}\text{C}$  under mostly sunny or cloudy skies.
- While the calm weather provides good on-ground working conditions, pasture growth will remain slow as there is no rainfall on the horizon to support soil moisture improvements.
- Northern country growers continue to experience morning frost, putting young crops and sensitive growth at high risk of damage.
- Many farmers are turning to online marketplaces in search of any available hay to feed their livestock, as local supplies dry up. Even well-known local producers with a solid online presence are reporting they're completely out of stock, highlighting just how tight the fodder market has become.
- The trend of steady increases continues, with rises more pronounced than last week. Cereal hay, straw, and pasture hay are all at record highs and continue to climb. Demand remains firm across the region, with supply low.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +85 (\$485 to \$605/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +60 (\$525 to \$655/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +20 (\$210 to \$290/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +85 (\$455 to \$605/t). Prices increase this week.

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## Gippsland

- West and South Gippsland remain dry heading into the weekend, with no significant rainfall expected. Overnight temperatures will fall between  $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , bringing widespread frost and patchy fog, particularly around the ranges.
- Daytime conditions will be mostly sunny and settled across the west and south, with light winds and maximum temperatures ranging from  $12^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $17^{\circ}\text{C}$ . While the stable weather allows for uninterrupted on-farm activity, soil moisture levels are unlikely to improve without a shift in the current pattern.
- East Gippsland will see colder starts, with overnight temperatures dropping as low as  $-3^{\circ}\text{C}$  in some areas. Daytime temperatures will be slightly cooler in elevated districts, ranging from  $8^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $15^{\circ}\text{C}$ , with similar calm and dry conditions expected.
- The trend of steady increases continues, with rises more pronounced than last week. Pasture hay is trading at \$570/t; a whopping \$125/t more than the previous fortnight. This week's prices are the highest recorded for all hay types in the region. Demand remains firm across the region, with supply extremely low.

- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +65 (\$470 to \$670/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +60 (\$580 to \$710/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +20 (\$230 to \$360/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +125 (\$500 to \$640/t). Prices increase this week.

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## **Southwest Victoria**

- There is little rain on the radar heading into next week. The outlook stays mostly dry, with overnight lows between 1°C and 5°C, and daytime temperatures ranging from 13°C to 17°C.
- Light northerly winds and clear skies are expected through to Saturday, with patchy morning frost and fog, especially inland and around the ranges.
- Expanded road train access across southwest Victoria is helping ease pressure on local feed supply chains. Under the new Emergency Drought Network, larger truck combinations can now transport fodder more efficiently into key areas like Hamilton and Warrnambool, cutting through red tape and supporting quicker delivery to drought-affected farms.
- Victorian philanthropic organisation, Gardiner Foundation, has opened up targeted drought support for dairy households and farm expenses in the region, with a \$300,000 commitment.
- Feed contractors in the region say the market has become a ‘first come, first served’ situation due to feed unavailability and huge demand, with most movement between NSW and VIC.
- The trend of steady price increases continues, with rises more pronounced than last week. Cereal hay, pasture hay and straw are all at all-time highs. Demand remains firm across the region, and supply is low.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +75 (\$515 to \$635/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +60 (\$530 to \$670). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +20 (\$220 to \$330/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +85 (\$470 to \$600/t). Prices increase this week.

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## **Southeast South Australia**

- A high over SA is keeping conditions stable, with light northerly winds strengthening slightly into the weekend (15–25 km/h) by Saturday.

- After the first decent rain in months last fortnight, many growers hoped for a follow-up, but no rain is forecast this week. It is dry across the upper parts of the region, with a steady run of cool, sunny days, and conditions stay mostly dry across Mount Gambier, Naracoorte, and Coonawarra.
- Daily temps will hover around 14°C through to Saturday, with sunnier spots reaching up to 17–18°C inland. Overnight lows fall to around 4–6°C, and winds remain from the northeast, freshening into Saturday (up to 25 km/h).
- South Australian farmers bringing in interstate fodder are exempt from paying the usual \$167/hour inspection fee, easing pressure during the ongoing drought. The waiver applies statewide, including the Southeast and Central regions.
- Farmers have shared reports of hay scams on Facebook in the region. Approach online marketplaces with caution. Even in times of high demand and tight supply, it is safer to buy from known, trusted sources.
- Local farmers met with state leaders in Glencoe to raise urgent drought concerns. The roundtable brought together producers from the Southeast and Mallee with the Premier and Minister for Primary Industries, providing a clear opportunity to call for practical, on-the-ground support as dry conditions worsen.
- Need for Feed, in conjunction with WA charity Farmers Across Borders, plans to deliver more than 6,000 bales from WA to SA in July, lifting the spirits of many desperate farmers in the region. Need for Feed also donated truckloads of hay to 86 drought-affected farms in the lower southeast region in the past fortnight, with some farms having just two weeks of feed remaining.
- Prices continue to climb at all-time highs, with no signs of stopping yet. Demand remains firm across the region, and supply is critically low.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +40 (\$515 to \$615/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +60 (\$550 to \$610/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +25 (\$250 to \$340/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +95 (\$515 to \$585/t). Prices increase this week.

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## Central South Australia

- A high over SA is keeping conditions stable, with light northerly winds strengthening slightly into the weekend (15–25 km/h) by Saturday.
- After the welcome rains last fortnight, there is no rain in sight this week for farmers looking to plant, spray, or follow up soil moisture levels across Port Pirie, Clare, Snowtown, Roseworthy, and Jamestown.
- Daytime temps are sitting around 14–16°C, with cold starts near 5°C through to Saturday. Light frosts are possible inland, particularly around Jamestown and Clare.

- North to northeasterly winds are rising to 25 km/h by Saturday, helping dry out topsoil and push dew off early.
- Supplementary feeding for milking cows and lambing ewes continues as we wait for the impact of regular rain on crop growth and hay supply, which will take several months. There still appears to be very little available or moving.
- South Australian farmers bringing in interstate fodder are exempt from paying the usual \$167/hour inspection fee, easing pressure during ongoing drought. The waiver applies statewide, including the Southeast and Central regions.
- Farmers in the mid-north were delivered over 1,500 bales of premium-graded cereal hay at the Rapid Relief Team's Farmers Community Connect event at Jamestown earlier in June. This initiative aimed to bring the community together and offer practical support in light of the drought.
- Straw pricing is adjusted for alignment with the rest of the country.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$400 to \$500/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$410 to \$470/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +20 (\$200 to \$280/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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## **Southwest Western Australia**

- Cold fronts sweeping the southwest are setting the region up for a wet and cooler run, including inland areas of Bridgetown, Manjimup, and Collie. Showery conditions and falling temperatures will define the next several days, with paddock access and ground conditions worth watching.
- Widespread rain from Thursday into the weekend will keep paddocks damp and likely boggy in heavier country. Localised thunderstorms are on the cards, and winds will stay fairly gusty through to Saturday.
- Cooler air settles in behind the fronts, with inland daytime highs dropping to around 11–13°C and overnight lows down near 3–4°C. This raises the risk of light morning frosts from Sunday into early next week.
- While showers ease a little after the weekend, conditions stay cool and partly cloudy, offering a slight window for drying if winds settle and skies clear by mid-next week.
- Green snail restrictions have eased for WA-SA hay trade, but movement from southwest WA remains restricted. Only hay from specified low-risk areas is being allowed into SA under strict biosecurity controls.
- Very little hay around, with some farmers shifting to oats and canola. Small batch oaten hay is being sold per bale on online marketplaces for \$260–325/t on-farm.
- Straw pricing is adjusted for alignment with the rest of the country.

- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$220 to \$300/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$400 to \$500/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +20 (\$100 to \$160/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$300 to \$350/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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## Northwest Tasmania

- After a damp start to the week, the weather is shifting. Showers are easing across Burnie, Deloraine, Smithton, and nearby areas, with a colder air mass beginning to take hold. While Friday through Sunday brings clearer skies and calmer conditions, chilly nights and early frosts will be a feature, especially inland.
- Showers ease from Thursday into the weekend, with the best chance of staying dry during Saturday and Sunday, though fog is likely, and some light patchy rain may return late Sunday.
- Chilly nights and early frosts are likely across inland areas like Deloraine, where overnight temps will regularly fall near or below 1°C, especially Saturday and Sunday morning.
- A wetter pattern develops again from Monday, with rain returning across much of the North West coast. Ground conditions may stay damp, especially across low-lying paddocks or heavier country.
- Professionally planted crops in the eastern part of the region are reportedly doing well, as contractors hold out hope for new hay entering the market in Spring.
- Prices remain flat because, according to hay contractors in the region, “there is nothing about to sell”. They are receiving an influx of calls, but the selling network has exhausted all good quality hay in the state. Silage is available in the south of the state for \$200 a bale, with an additional \$30–\$40 freight added, making it a backup option for farmers who do not have enough hay to get through the winter.
- Straw pricing is adjusted for alignment with the rest of the country.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$325 to \$415/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$405 to \$485/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +20 (\$130 to \$190/t) Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$305 to \$375/t) Prices remain steady this week.

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Australian Fodder Industry Association

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