

Hay Report

4 April 2025

DELIVERING
for DAIRY



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Summary

Driving Prices Up

- Pasture Hay has risen again slightly this week. Clearly there's more demand as everyone waits for the rains to fall – especially in the southern parts of the country where it is still very dry.
- While there is still local supply in most areas around the country, we are seeing movement of hay across borders, primarily to South Australia. Freight costs, therefore, increase the prices being paid by those in need.

Driving Prices Down

- Nothing is driving prices down this week. However, news of the 10% tariffs to be imposed by the USA could have repercussions for fodder if the export meat market drops.

Local News

- Rain and storms are spreading across already-flooded QLD and northern NSW as moisture feeds a trough. While a low in the east is maintaining hazardous surf on the NSW coast, a high is clearing southern NSW, VIC, TAS, SA and southern NT. A front is finally bringing cool winds to southern WA.
- The BoM released their long-range forecast overview last week which indicates the following for April to June:
 - **rainfall** is expected to be within the typical range for April to June across most of Australia, but above average across areas of the far north and east, and below average for parts of far south
 - **warmer than average days** are very likely across most of Australia, with an increased chance of unusually high daytime temperatures across most of the country
 - **warmer than average nights** are very likely across Australia, with an increased chance of unusually high overnight temperatures nationwide.
- Buyers are encouraged to feed test and view fodder before purchase to ensure the quality of feed.

Regional commentary

Atherton Tablelands

- Similar to last week, reports locally say the weather has been good to assist with seeding. Daily rainfall is still sitting between 1mm to 5mm in most areas, even up to 10mm in others which is producing green paddocks. Mareeba, however, received 59.4mm of rainfall on Wednesday this week.
- Daytime temperatures are stilling the high 20s to low 30s with humidity sitting at approximately 80%.
- The market is steady and not much is moving given the lush paddocks are providing enough feed for grazing.
- 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 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

- A few showers but mostly sunny across the region with daytime temperatures sitting in the mid to high 20s.
- The region has received a good amount of rain which means there is a full soil moisture profile, perfect for winter crops.
- Reports state that there is good movement of Straw and Lucerne across the region, and there is an expectation that demand will increase as the weather cools.
- Straw and Cereal Hay have bumped up slightly this week due to demand.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +10 (\$360 to \$460/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$465 to \$515/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +15 (\$230 to \$290/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$250 to \$300/t) Prices remain steady this week.

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North Coast NSW

- More rainfall again this week right across the region, interspersed with some dry and sunny periods.
- A trough lying over northeast of New South Wales is bringing moderate to locally heavy rain to flood watch areas. Localised river level increases and flash flooding are likely within the areas of heaviest rainfall. Minor flooding is possible for the Richmond, Wilsons, Clarence, Bellinger, and Upper Macintyre Rivers.
- Reports from growers in the region are wishing the “taps could be turned off”, as the rain has impacted soy bean and sugar cane crops due to flooding. Some have paddocks they cannot access.
- There is not a lot of movement of hay at present and pricing remains stable. Several farmers are unloading their cattle.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$280 to \$400/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$400 to \$460/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$150 to \$250/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$250 to \$300/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Central West NSW

- Mostly sunny weather across the region with daytime temperatures sitting in the low to mid 20s.
- Winter cropping preparation is underway, and, in some areas, seeding has already commenced.
- The market is holding steady across the region this week.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$270 to \$320/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$390 to \$470/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$115 to \$165/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$270 to \$320/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Bega Valley

- Sunny conditions across the region with minimal to no rainfall expected. Daytime temperatures are sitting in the low to mid 20s.
- The market is holding steady with not much movement of hay this week; however, preparations have begun for the winter harvest season, with some growers dry seeding if possible.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$355 to \$415/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$450 to \$550/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$215 to \$255/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$360 to \$430/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Goulburn/Murray Valley

- Still no real rainfall expected as the conditions remain dry and sunny across the region. Daytime temperatures are comfortably sitting in the low to mid 20s. Evening temperatures have dropped considerably to the low teens, and we will see them drop down in to single digits over the coming weeks.
- There is movement of hay across the region, and pricing remains steady. There has been a slight uplift in Pasture hay this week.
- On-farm reserves are reducing, and reports state some growers have almost sold all their available hay in storage.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$290 to \$330/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$390 to \$470/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$120 to \$150/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +10 (\$280 to \$310/t). Prices increase this week.

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Gippsland

- East Gippsland has cooled down into the high teens to low 20s during the day, with nighttime temperatures sitting between 5 – 12 degrees. There are possible light showers expected on Friday and Saturday.

- The conditions in the West and South Gippsland are similar to the East, but some coastal showers are predicted.
- Preparation for the winter season has begun and sowing will commence shortly for many across the region. Some have already begun the process.
- The market remains stable and local with a slight increase again in Pasture hay this week.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$340 to \$370/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$460 to \$510/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$170 to \$190/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +10 (\$280 to \$310/t). Prices increase this week.

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Southwest Victoria

- More showers are expected across the region on a daily basis. Daytime temperatures are sitting in the high teens to low 20s, whereas the nights range from 9 – 13 degrees.
- The rain is welcome and will help prepare the ground for the winter crops. That said, some growers have been cultivating the ground with lime.
- The market is moving and we are seeing a slight increase in Straw and Pasture Hay this week.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$320 to \$360/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$400 to \$480). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +10 (\$120 to \$190/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +10 (\$280 to \$320/t). Prices increase this week.

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Southeast South Australia

- Possible showers are predicted across most of the south east; however, it will be limited to less than 5mm per day.
- According to the BoM's three-month rainfall forecast, below average rainfall is expected in southern Australia, which is not the outlook growers and farmers need at this crucial time.
- Reports state that farmers are hand feeding their sheep, which is both a financial and resource burden they do not need.

- Another bump up for Pasture Hay this week while all others remain steady.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$380 to \$430/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$440 to \$480/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$160 to \$210/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +20 (\$300 to \$390/t). Prices increase this week.

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Central South Australia

- Still dry with no rain in sight. Daytime temperatures are sitting in the mid to high 20s.
- Dry seeding will commence at the end of April – which has been the case now for the past two years.
- There is not enough subsoil moisture for canola crops, so lentils, wheat and oaten hay are preferred by growers.
- Hay is still selling ex-farm locally, mainly a mixture of hay with a little bit of straw. However, reserves are running low due to the increase in demand.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$300 to \$400/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$410 to \$470/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +40 (\$180 to \$260/t). Prices increase this week.

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Southwest Western Australia

- The export price for hay has lifted a little which is good. The extra “bump” helps to promote the growing hay across the region.
- Reports from one farmer states he is “not concerned about the Trump tariffs as Americans love their beef”, and therefore, they will still be importing from Australia to meet demand.
- Due to a lack of rain in the south, feed lots are going through hay now.
- Good rains near Lake Grace have allowed the seeding of canola crops to commence.
- Some growers are getting better pricing on their domestically sold hay than from Exporters due to the stringent testing requirements from Exporters. Ensuring you have a good mix of private customers and Exporters to sell to ensures better value for growers.

- The market remains steady again this week as growers prepare for seeding.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +20 (\$220 to \$300/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$400 to \$500/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$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

- Continued drizzle with sunny spurts continue across the region. Temperatures are dropping but not to frost levels.
- Reports state that light showers are assisting with new growth, and the market is still stable. Product is moving as needed.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$220 to \$280/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$390 to \$440/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$110 to \$160/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$235 to \$265/t) Prices remain steady this week.

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