

Hay Report

11 July 2025

DELIVERING
for DAIRY

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Summary

Driving Prices Up

- Continual price increases have now occurred over the past eight weeks in Central West NSW, Bega Valley, Goulburn/Murray Valley, Gippsland, South West VIC and South East SA. In some cases, we are seeing \$200+ per tonne increases since mid May 2025.
- Demand for feed is high while supply is low. Freight costs add to the increased prices, as do some unscrupulous sellers who are gouging the system.

Driving Prices Down

- Nothing is driving prices down.

Local News

– National weather summary and outlook

- Queensland and New South Wales reported above average January to June rainfall and record high rainfall totals in some areas. All other states and the Northern Territory had below average rainfall, with lowest on record rainfall reported in south-east South Australia and north-west Victoria for January to June.
- For January to June, Australia's mean temperature was the third highest on record, with South Australia and Victoria reporting their highest mean temperature on record. Notably, southern Australia (the area south of 26°S) had its highest maximum, minimum and mean temperature on record.
- The long-range forecast for July to September shows no strong rainfall signal for much of south-eastern and western Australia, including rainfall deficient areas. This means there's an equal chance of above, below, or near-average rainfall, with no clear indication of wetter or drier conditions.

– Red Fire Ant Invasion continues to be an issue for QLD and NSW.

- Fire ants found in Rathdowney, Scenic Rim - Businesses and industry should stay alert for fire ants after a nest was found in Rathdowney in the Scenic Rim. A local resident reported the nest and fire ants were confirmed by scientists on 7 July 2025.

– Rate relief and water funds for affected Victorians

- The State government has announced a total of \$144 million for farmers during the extended dry conditions. The state's south-west has been worst affected with 15 months of record low or below-average rainfall until last month.
- Almost \$36 million will go towards rate relief for farmers in the council areas of Ararat, Moyne, Colac Otway, Pyrenees, Corangamite, Southern Grampians, Glenelg, Surf Coast, Golden Plains, Warrnambool, City of Geelong and southern parts of West Wimmera.

- Buyers are encouraged to **feed test and view fodder** before purchase to ensure the quality of feed.

Regional commentary

Atherton Tablelands

- Mareeba is enjoying warm and partly cloudy conditions with daytime temperatures sitting in the mid to high 20s. The rest of the tablelands is also experiencing similar conditions, while the evenings are dropping into the low teens.
- Reports state that good quality hay is moving, primarily small rounds and squares. Big squares are on the move, but the emergence of Bush hay being sold in the Gulf has slowed the market. That said, prices have jumped significantly for good quality Rhodes Grass.
- Cavalcade fell short due to mould as too much moisture got in before cropping was possible.
- One hay contractor mentioned that the region will be out of hay again in a fortnight as demand is high. They are hoping new pasture growth will support feed requirements until crops can be harvested.
- Prices have spiked this week for high quality Rhodes Grass. Some is being transported south to NSW and Victoria which is a key factor in the increased pricing.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Pasture (Rhodes Grass) hay: +200 (\$450 to \$650/t). Prices increase 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

- A large high moving east across mainland Australia, will promote settled conditions across most of the state apart from the northeast tropics by the weekend with lighter winds and extensive interior frosts.
- Daytime temperatures are reaching into the high teens while the evenings are dropping down to between minus 1 and 2 above zero. Frost conditions are prevalent across the region.
- With enquiries from Victoria coming in and small farms happy to pay for high quality lucerne, pricing has dramatically risen this week. Regardless of the quantity being purchased, pricing remains high and primarily sold per bale rather per tonne. Lucerne can be found for \$22 per bale ex farm.
- Reports are also seeing Barley hay at \$540 p/t, high quality Rhodes Grass for \$110 p/round and lower quality Rhodes grass for \$80 p/round. Shredded Lucerne is also being sold for \$14 p/bale. Cheaper Rhodes grass is being transported to VIC farmers who are chasing cheap hay given the transport costs are high.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$510 to \$690/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +130 (\$560 to \$700/t). Prices increase this week.

- Straw: +/-0 (\$280 to \$360/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +5 (\$290 to \$350/t). Prices increase this week.

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North Coast NSW

- A strong cold front crossing the state brought windy conditions to many areas. A high pressure system will slowly drift across the state through the weekend before the next front is expected to cross the state early next week.
- Reports state there might be some successful winter forage crops; however it is still too wet to know. Many are not expecting to see much change until the end of the year.
- Rhodes grass will only start to grow in October, depending on access to irrigation.
- The market will be short of hay for some time, so alternatives such as Sugar cane tops are being baled to assist with the shortfall.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +25 (\$350 to \$450/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +15 (\$420 to \$500/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$170 to \$270/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +10 (\$270 to \$330/t). Prices increase this week.

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Central West NSW

- A strong cold front crossing the state brought windy conditions to many areas. A high pressure system will slowly drift across the state through the weekend before the next front is expected to cross the state early next week.
- There will be a mix of showers, frost, cloud cover and some sunshine across the region over the coming week, with daytime temperatures sitting in the low to mid teens while the nights are dropping down between 0 – 5 degrees.
- Small bales are moving to service the smaller farmers and hobbyists, while large squares have been sold or people are holding on to them for their own needs. They are impossible to purchase at present.
- Vetch and Lucerne (if sourced) is moving. One contractor has been sourcing hay from out west but it is gone as soon as it arrives.
- There is also a small amount of cereal hay moving; however it is believed to have been purchased months back to existing customers.

- Reports state that most people are managing their feed to get them through the winter.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +40 (\$570 to \$650/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +40 (\$580 to \$720/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +10 (\$220 to \$300/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +40 (\$540 to \$640/t). Prices increase this week.

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Bega Valley

- A cold front and windy conditions are sweeping across the region, with strong winds expected along the coast. Bega will only see light winds, with possible showers next week and some lovely sunny periods. Daytime temperatures are sitting in the mid to high teens while the evenings are cold and are between 2 – 5 degrees.
- Recent rainfall across the region saw 75mm drop in 24 hours, and although some paddocks became waterlogged it has been a great boost with winter pasture growth.
- Despite the recent rainfall, prices have jumped again this week, with Cereal, Lucerne and Pasture hay all increasing by another \$40 per tonne.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +40 (\$640 to \$760/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +40 (\$650 to \$790/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +10 (\$330 to \$380/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +40 (\$630 to \$750/t). Prices increase this week.

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Goulburn/Murray Valley

- A cold front just west of Victoria is forecast to cross the State on Friday before a high pressure system crosses NSW and extends a ridge over Victoria on Saturday. North-westerly winds will freshen on Sunday.
- While movement of fodder is still strong across the region, reports from growers expect it to slow down in the next 4-5 weeks. There should be enough pasture growth to stop buying in hay.

- One grower is only selling to regulars and refuses to inflate prices by offering Cereal hay, they are only selling pasture grasses and straw. Many growers have reputations to maintain and do not want to be associated with the price gouging happening across the country.
- Contractors are also buying in grain from northern and central QLD instead of hay to service local customers and farmers in SA, Broken Hill and Wentworth. This is being mixed with rice stubble and molasses.
- Remnants from summer cropping such as rice hulls, corn stover, pellets, grain and pulses are being used on farms that are equipped with mixer wagons and can assemble a mixed ration of feed.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +30 (\$600 to \$720/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +30 (\$610 to \$770/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +10 (\$230 to \$330/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +30 (\$550 to \$730/t). Prices increase this week.

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Gippsland

- Weather across the region shows more rainfall predicted in the west and south over the coming week, and milder weather in the east.
- The recent edition of the Fast Break noted that little has changed in the climate's behaviour, but stated the east coast low has increased soil moisture throughout Gippsland.
- Recent rainfall across the region saw Balook registering 172mm, Cann River 165mm, Combienbar, 140mm, Walkerville 90mm, Traralgon 65mm and Bairnsdale 62mm.
- Remnants from summer cropping such as rice hulls, corn stover, pellets, grain and pulses are being used on farms that are equipped with mixer wagons and can assemble a mixed ration of feed.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +30 (\$630 to \$780). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +30 (\$690 to \$800/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +10 (\$270 to \$380/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +30 (\$600 to \$760/t). Prices increase this week.

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Southwest Victoria

- Showers are expected to fall across the region until early next week with westerly winds of 20 to 30 km/h. While daytime temperatures are only just creeping into the teens, the evenings are only dropping to between 4 – 9 degrees.
- The region has had a wetter-than-usual June, and while the rain is welcome, the cold weather means fodder is not likely to grow any time soon. Farmers are also dealing with limited sub-soil moisture despite above-average June rainfall.
- Climatologists say the rainfall outlook for the next three months is below average for some parts of south-west Victoria. The colder temperatures and reduced sunlight means it will take time for fodder to grow in a paddock.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +30 (\$610 to \$770/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +30 (\$620 to \$780). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +10 (\$260 to \$350/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +30 (\$590 to \$700/t). Prices increase this week.

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Southeast South Australia

- A ridge of high pressure is approaching from the west and moving across the north of the state. The high will be centred over the eastern states on Saturday but will maintain the ridge over SA. From Sunday and Monday, a series of cold fronts will move across the state.
- Showers are expected across the region with daytime temperatures in the low to mid teens. The nights are cool but not enough to expect frost.
- Recent rainfall has seen the germination of some crops, however growth is patchy and off to a late start. The lack of sub-soil moisture is also impacting growth, and many livestock producers are still relying on feed to get them through the winter.
- Many hope the rain continues throughout the month to support continued growth for both pastures and crops.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +30 (\$610 to \$760/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +40 (\$630 to \$770/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +10 (\$270 to \$340/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +35 (\$620 to \$730/t). Prices increase this week.

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quality of feed. We recommend testing and viewing fodder before purchase to ensure the quality of feed.

Central South Australia

- A ridge of high pressure is approaching from the west and moving across the north of the state. The high will be centred over the eastern states on Saturday but will maintain the ridge over SA. A series of cold fronts will move across the State during Sunday and Monday then another high will move across the north mid next week. A cold front will move across from the west next Thursday.
- Possible showers are expected across the region, however up to 8mm is expected on Monday in Jamestown and Clare.
- Due to farmers in South Australia being forced to sell sheep as feed is scarce, numbers are declining, increasing demand at the saleyards and prompting record lamb prices.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$420 to \$550/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$430 to \$500/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$200 to \$280/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Southwest Western Australia

- An approaching high pressure system extends a ridge over the mid west, moving into central Australia. A cold front is expected to cross the southwest of the State on Saturday, followed by another cold front slipping south of the State on Sunday.
- Northam is expecting some frosty mornings and rainfall of up to 9mm on Saturday before clearing up. Lake Grace can also expect morning frost and fog with up to 7mm of rainfall on Saturday. However, in the south west, Bunbury is expected to receive up to 20mm of rain on Saturday.
- Reports state that the SA Govt has bought hay from an Exporter in the region to support drought-stricken farmers.
- Farmers Across Borders and Need for Feed also have product heading into SA.
- Demand from the east has caused a small spike in pricing.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +15 (\$250 to \$350/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$400 to \$500/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +10 (\$130 to \$190/t). Prices increase this week.

- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$300 to \$350/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Northwest Tasmania

- Tasmania sits in a westerly flow with an embedded cold front approaching, forecast to brush the west and south of the state on Friday. A high pressure system over mainland Australia is expected to extend a ridge over Tasmania early Saturday morning. A north-westerly stream is forecast to develop on Saturday afternoon, ahead of a stronger cold front to cross the state Sunday afternoon and evening. A weak ridge is forecast to move over the state on Monday.
- Showers are predicted across the region all through next week with daytime temperatures barely reaching the mid teens and the evenings are sitting between 1-5 degrees.
- Pasture growth is providing hope there will be some feed for livestock and assist with crop germination.
- Pricing remains steady in Tasmania as there is still nothing available on the market.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$325 to \$415/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$460 to \$540/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$130 to \$190/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$305 to \$375/t) Prices remain steady this week.

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