

Hay Report

4 July 2025

DELIVERING
for DAIRY

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Summary

Driving Prices Up

- Hay prices have significantly jumped again across the following regions: Central West NSW, Bega Valley, Goulburn/Murray Valley, Gippsland, South West VIC, and South East SA. Those who still have fodder to sell, regardless of quality, are securing very high prices from people who are in desperate need.
- Freight costs, increasing fuel prices, and Urea prices are still impacting the cost to move and grow fodder. While Urea prices have dipped since the ceasefire between Iran and Israel, Australian retail prices have failed to fall in line with the global market. Data shows that the east coast of Australia is experiencing greater fluctuations in Urea pricing than in WA.

Driving Prices Down

- Nothing is driving prices down, though the market is steady in QLD and Northern NSW.

Local News

– National weather summary and outlook

- Nationally, June rainfall was 42% below the 1961-1990 average. Rainfall was below average for each state and territory, except for Victoria, which was above average.
- Nationally, average June minimum temperature was 0.2 °C below the 1961-1990 average, with New South Wales recording its lowest June average minimum temperature since 2006
- 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.
- September and October forecasts are indicating some confidence of above median rainfall in Queensland and New South Wales.
- Since February 2024, rainfall has been in the lowest 5 and 10% of periods (since 1900) for most of southern South Australia, western and central Victoria, and south-west Western Australia. Recent rain will alleviate short-term impacts however recovery to full production will not be immediate.

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

- Queensland's fire ant biosecurity zones expanded on 16 June to include Brisbane City, Scenic Rim and Sunshine Coast regions.
 - Emergency Order No. 8 was issued in NSW on 24 June to update the biosecurity map and include a previously missed detection at North Arm, QLD. There are no changes to NSW's existing fire ant control zones (Murwillumbah and Wardell), but fire ant carrier movements must still comply with emergency control measures across affected regions.
- Buyers are encouraged to **feed test and view fodder** before purchase to ensure the quality of feed.

Regional commentary

Atherton Tablelands

- Primarily sunny conditions are to be expected across the region with Mareeba and Atherton reaching daytime temperatures in the low to mid-20s and overnight lows around 9–17°C.
- Not much hay is moving. Reports state that feedlots are using silage rather than hay, however that will change once quality fodder becomes available.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Pasture (Rhodes Grass) hay: +20 (\$300 to \$400/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

- Cloudy about the Granite Belt, with some areas receiving morning frost.
- Light to moderate southwest to southeasterly winds, west to southwesterly winds about the southern interior with a risk of damaging winds across the higher terrain around Main Range, Scenic Rim & the Granite Belt.
- Daytime temperatures are reaching into the high teens while the evenings are dropping down between 3-9 degrees.
- The current “bomb cyclone” along the east coast is likely to cause powerful winds, leading to potentially damaging gusts on the Darling Downs and pockets.
- High quality F1 Wagyu feeders have been in plentiful supply, mainly due to good seasons in Southern Queensland and Northern NSW, however demand has been sluggish as high-end products are being dropped in preference for mid-tier meat which are more affordable.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$510 to \$690/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$450 to \$550/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$280 to \$360/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$290 to \$340/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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North Coast NSW

- Sunny days with daytime temperatures sitting in the low 20s, however the nights are getting quite chilly, dropping to as low as 5 degrees in Lismore.
- A fire ant nest has been found at Tweed Heads, northern NSW. The nest was found by a pest controller and destroyed within 24 hours, however authorities have set up a five-kilometre biosecurity zone and will check the area for more nests.
- Reports state that while there is demand for low quality to high fodder, pricing remains steady.
- For some, selling across state lines into VIC is a first, as usually it heads in the opposite direction.
- Many growers have had to hold off on sowing their cereal crops due to the wet ground, but are hoping to have it in by the end of the month, assuming it dries out.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$300 to \$450/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$400 to \$490/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$170 to \$270/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$260 to \$320/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Central West NSW

- Cloudy days, frost and sunshine will be experienced over the next week across the region. Temperatures overnight will be dropping below zero in some areas, while daytime temperatures are sitting between 12 – 21 degrees.
- These conditions are proving to be problematic for both growers and livestock producers. With frosts preventing growth, and the need for a balanced mix of carbohydrates and fibre for livestock becoming harder to purchase, prices are surging in the region once again.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +70 (\$510 to \$630/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +30 (\$540 to \$680/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$220 to \$280/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +50 (\$500 to \$600/t). Prices increase this week.

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Bega Valley

- A complex low pressure system off the northern NSW coast is bringing wet and windy conditions to the eastern areas of the state, as well as large powerful waves along the coast.
- With a mix of sunshine and showers over the coming week, cropping conditions should improve and increase sub-soil moisture levels.
- Demand remains firm across the region, with pricing soaring this week as farmers struggle to find the feed necessary to feed their cattle.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +70 (\$590 to \$730/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +30 (\$600 to \$760/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$310 to \$380/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +50 (\$590 to \$710/t). Prices increase this week.

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Goulburn/Murray Valley

- A complex low pressure system off the NSW coast will started to move eastwards across the Tasman Sea on Wednesday. A high pressure ridge over South Australia was moving eastwards across Victoria from Wednesday to Friday. A low pressure trough will cross Victoria during Sunday.
- Soil moisture levels are still low despite some handy falls in the past week to 10 days, according to the latest Soil Moisture Monitoring project by Agriculture Victoria, which uses underground probes to indicate the soil water data across the state.
- Sites across cropping regions, including Birchip, Ouyen, Kerang and Hamilton, recorded soil moisture of 30cm to 1m, and show just how much water is on hand for winter crops.
- Limits will be lifted for a few hours this week to allow 139,000 megalitres of water to be traded out of Goulburn and Upper Murray valleys, where it is worth about \$175/ML, into the lower Murray River where it can be sold for more than \$300/ML. Brokers and irrigators have a seven-hour window this Wednesday to lodge trade applications, with successful applicants then randomly selected to share in a \$17m premium on the downstream trading of water into the Lower Murray market.
- Reports state that hay prices are still ridiculous and it is hard to get the fibre needed for dairy and beef cattle. Rice straw is at the worst possible state right now, however when mixed with grains provides just enough nutrients to keep cows alive until new grass grows.
- Destocking cattle has been ongoing for the past three months, and farmers are continually reassessing how much feed is available for their remaining herds.
- If growers keep getting rain, there will be a hay season, however prices are still rising with clear increases again this week.
- Significant change to pricing this week.

- Cereal hay: +50 (\$580 to \$680/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +30 (\$590 to \$730/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$230 to \$310/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +45 (\$530 to \$690/t). Prices increase this week.

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Gippsland

- A high pressure system over inland eastern Australia extends a ridge south over Victoria. This ridge will slowly track eastwards during Friday and Saturday, before a low pressure trough crosses Victoria during Sunday. Another ridge of high pressure will extend over the State again on Monday.
- The “bomb cyclone” that affected the east coast of the country this week eased to showers before continuing across Gippsland.
- Daytime temperatures are sitting between 12-17 degrees, however the evenings are experiencing temperatures below zero, with possible snow falling in areas above 1400m.
- Demand remains firm and supply is low. There has been another price hike across the region as the green drought continues to impact growers and livestock producers.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +50 (\$600 to \$750). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +30 (\$650 to \$780/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$230 to \$360/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +45 (\$580 to \$720/t). Prices increase this week.

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Southwest Victoria

- Dry and cold conditions are expected across the region for the rest of this week, with the chance of rain expected to fall early next week.
- Daytime temperatures are only getting as high as 15 degrees with frost expected and evenings dropping between 2-6 degrees.
- The green drought affecting the region does not provide enough grass for livestock producers to stop feeding. To add to the pain, crops are also up later than they should be. There will be little growth until temperatures start warming up again at the end of winter.

- Price increases are as pronounced as last week and people are buying whatever they can get their hands on – no matter the cost.
- While livestock sales have been consistent for months, many are wondering how they will feed the remaining stock over the next 6-8 weeks.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +50 (\$570 to \$750/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +30 (\$590 to \$750). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$240 to \$350/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +45 (\$560 to \$670/t). Prices increase this week.

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Southeast South Australia

- A low pressure system south of WA will move east to be south of the Bight on Friday and will continue to move to the south of SA over the weekend. Associated cold fronts and troughs will move across coastal waters with the first trough on Friday and continuing over the weekend. There is a medium to high chance of rainfall over the weekend.
- Winds up to 30 knots can be expected along the coast causing 1.5m – 2m swells.
- According to PIRSA, South Australia is forecast to produce a winter crop of 8.18 million tonnes. However, while a preliminary estimation of cropped area is higher than the 2024-25 season, the final estimate is based on the assumption that less crop will be cut for hay in 2025-26.
- The green drought impacting the region will have an ongoing effect on how crops and livestock are managed, even once the weather starts to warm up. Many farmers have had to source fodder from other states – something many have never had to worry about in the past.
- Once again we are seeing significant price increases across the region, following the trend everywhere else that is suffering from drought.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +55 (\$590 to \$720/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +40 (\$590 to \$730/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$250 to \$340/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +55 (\$590 to \$690/t). Prices increase this week.

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Central South Australia

- A high pressure system centred near the northeastern border will slowly move east, to be in the Tasman Sea over the weekend. A low pressure system south of WA will move east to be south of the Bight on Friday and will continue to move to the south of SA over the weekend. Associated cold fronts and troughs will move across SA with the first trough on Friday and continuing over the weekend.
- Daytime temperatures are about to change, with a high chance of rainfall over the weekend and a drop in temperature down into the mid teens. The strong winds, however, will persist.
- Prices have risen this week as demand is high and supply is limited. Charitable organisations are hoping to make use of the drought funding available by bringing fodder over from WA. It might be too little too late, but even if there is enough to support livestock producers for the next 6-8 weeks, it will help.
- Fodder contractors in WA are wanting to help out, but the rules on the PIRSA website are not clear and easy to follow.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +35 (\$420 to \$550/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +25 (\$430 to \$500/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$200 to \$280/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Southwest Western Australia

- A cold front continues moving eastwards over the south of the state. A new high pressure system will drift over the south of the state throughout Friday and Saturday, followed by a sequence of cold fronts on Sunday and Monday.
- Rainfall and strong winds are expected as the cold front comes through across the region.
- There is a slight increase this week for Cereal Hay as demand in the domestic market is starting to impact pricing in WA. The export market remains steady.
- With demand for fodder from SA and VIC, the price of cereal hay has increased to meet these needs and support the freight costs associated.
- Support from WA contractors to bring fodder across state lines is somewhat hampered by biosecurity laws, particularly in SA, but contractors based in WA and VIC are determined to work with charitable organisations to help move the fodder to those who need it most.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +25 (\$240 to \$330/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

- A high pressure system centred over mainland Australia extends a ridge southwards over Tasmania. The ridge is expected to move to the east of the state during Friday. A light northerly airstream builds over Tasmania during Saturday, as a broad low pressure trough to the west of the state is forecast to move over the southern mainland during the weekend.
- Daytime temperatures are barely reaching the mid teens and the evenings are sitting around 1 degree.
- With a high chance of rainfall expected on Tuesday next week, there is hope for many of new pasture growth to feed livestock and assist with crop germination.
- Pricing remains steady in Tasmania as there is nothing available on the market. Fodder is being sourced and brought over from Victoria at ridiculous prices to help growers and livestock producers who are battling with the cold and frosts.
- 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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