

Hay Report

18 July 2025

DELIVERING
for DAIRY

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Summary

Driving Prices Up

- While prices appear to be stabilising for the first time in eight weeks, we need to see how the following 4 to 6 weeks pan out. Nothing can be ruled out at this stage.
- There is hope that as fodder starts making its way from WA to SA, and possibly into VIC, plus pasture growth returns given there has been rain, prices will edge back down. Let's wait and see...

Driving Prices Down

- Nothing is driving prices down, yet.

Local News

- **Chinese ownership of US farmland could positively affect Australia:**
 - Australia could be well placed to benefit from new restrictions on Chinese purchases of US farmland due to the recently revamped National Farm Security Action Plan, outlining steps to “expand the resilience and durability of the US food supply”.
 - Part of the plan involves restricting new purchases — and reviewing current holdings — of farmland from countries of concern, including China, North Korea, Russia and Iran, and “other foreign adversaries”.
- **Red Fire Ant Invasion continues to be an issue for QLD and NSW.**
 - NSW DPIRD biosecurity department published [Biosecurity \(Fire Ant\) Emergency Order \(No. 10\) 2025](#) on 16 July 2025. This supersedes Biosecurity (Fire Ant) Emergency Order (No. 9) 2025, published on 2 July 2025.
 - There are **changes to the boundaries of the *Queensland fire ant infested area***. There is increased coverage in Adare, Churchable, Lefthand Branch, Moogerah, Mount Edwards, Spring Creek, Thorton, Townson, Glenview, Ilkley, Lake Manchester, Landsborough, Tanawha, and Rathdowney.
 - An outlier fire ant infestation has been found at Moranbah, west of Mackay, 745 km north of the containment boundary in south-east Qld.
- Buyers are encouraged to **feed test and view fodder** before purchase to ensure the quality of feed.

Regional commentary

Atherton Tablelands

- A weak high in the Coral Sea extends a ridge and settled conditions over Queensland, remaining in place over northern Queensland for the next several days.
- Beautiful warm conditions is being experienced across the region, with daytime maximum temperatures around 30 degrees after some possible morning fog. Evening temperatures are sitting between 14-21 degrees.
- The Bega Group will wind down its operations in Kingaroy and Tolga over the next 18 months and close in December 2026. Peanuts have been part of the rotation for farmers on the Atherton Tablelands for more than 90 years, are known for putting nitrogen back into the soil, and peanuts are popular with sugarcane growers.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Pasture (Rhodes Grass) hay: +/-0 (\$450 to \$650/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

- Southeast Queensland has again shivered through freezing conditions as a brutal cold front continues to blast the region with subzero temperatures, made worse by chilling winds. The region could start to see cloud and showers developing through eastern and south-eastern Queensland on Friday afternoon, then more widespread on Saturday, just in time for the weekend.
- Large parts of Queensland can expect widespread frost to continue this week. The Bureau of Meteorology says the cold snap will see temperatures plummet below zero in some places, with another round of widespread frost from the south-east coast, Darling Downs, Maranoa and Warrego. By the end of week, the weather bureau warns winds will pick up, as well as the chance of showers.
- Westerly winds on the Southern Downs gave rise to unique 'mountain wave' cloud formation. The rare weather phenomenon known as lenticular clouds, was seen from the Southern Downs all the way to the Gold Coast on Monday.
- Daytime maximum temperatures are in the low to mid 20s, while the evenings are falling to between 3 and 6 degrees.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$510 to \$690/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$560 to \$700/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$280 to \$360/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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

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North Coast NSW

- A high-pressure ridge extends across the central areas and the far western inland. A trough looks set to brush the coast late Thursday through Friday. This system will briefly interact with a trough extending from Queensland as it reaches the far north coast on Friday before heading offshore.
- Overnight temperatures are falling to between 7 and 10 degrees with daytime temperatures reaching the low 20s.
- Most towns can expect showers from Friday and into next week, with Lismore expected to receive up to 10mm on Friday.
- Reports state that demand for hay is still around, but with limited supply the options are not great. People are offering round bales and silage, while protein hay is coming in from other regions.
- Pasture growth remains slow.
- Flood resilient bridges are planned for Deep Creek and Spring Gully as Broadwater Bridge reopens.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$350 to \$450/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$420 to \$500/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$170 to \$270/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$270 to \$330/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Central West NSW

- A high-pressure ridge extends across central areas and the western inland. Overnight temperatures are falling to around minus 1 with daytime temperatures reaching between 14 and 18 degrees. Morning fog can be expected prior to a lovely sunny day.
- Coonabarabran and Coonamble can expect some rainfall early to mid-next week, with temperatures dropping down to minus 4 degrees at night.
- While there are some people trying to sell hay for \$600 per tonne, there is no hay on the market to sell across the region.

- Reports states that they are starting to get pasture growth, so the situation is turning a corner. However, farmers will need to tighten their belts for the next 4-6 weeks when the longer days of sunshine should see some good growth.
- One grower who sold out of their hay over two months ago has been able to sell a bit of silage, and mentioned that the good stock prices at present, is proving to be profitable for those selling and a source of income given the lack of fodder.
- After eight weeks of continued increases, prices are finally holding steady. We have seen the following increases over this period: Cereal hay - \$315p/tn; Lucerne - \$215p/tn; Straw - \$115p/tn; Pasture hay - \$295p/tn.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$570 to \$650/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$580 to \$720/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$220 to \$300/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$540 to \$640/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Bega Valley

- Mostly sunny with areas of morning frost inland. Slight chance of a shower near the Victorian border, near zero chance elsewhere.
- Light winds can be expected, and overnight temperatures are falling to between zero and 5 degrees with daytime temperatures reaching between 12 and 17 degrees.
- After eight weeks of continued increases, prices are finally holding steady. We have seen the following increases over this period: Cereal hay - \$315p/tn; Lucerne - \$205p/tn; Straw - \$105p/tn; Pasture hay - \$295p/tn.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$640 to \$760/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$650 to \$790/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$330 to \$380/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$630 to \$750/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Goulburn/Murray Valley

- A westerly flow persists over Victoria, with a cold front crossing the State. A high-pressure system will extend a ridge over Victoria on Friday, before a stronger cold front crosses the State on Saturday. The westerly flow returns on Sunday with a high centred over northern Victoria.
- Some light sprinkles, morning fog and possible frost can be expected across the region. Winds will be north to northeasterly 15 to 25 km/h tending north to north-westerly 20 to 30 km/h, then becoming light during the evenings. Overnight temperatures falling to around 1 degree with daytime temperatures reaching around 14 degrees.
- After eight weeks of continued increases, prices are finally holding steady. We have seen the following increases over this period: Cereal hay - \$280p/tn; Lucerne - \$220p/tn; Straw - \$95p/tn; Pasture hay - \$295p/tn.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$600 to \$720/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$610 to \$770/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$230 to \$330/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$550 to \$730/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Gippsland

- In the East, overnight temperatures are falling to between minus 3 degrees and 3 degrees above zero with daytime temperatures reaching between 7 and 16 degrees. Frost and fog will clear to reveal sunny days, but there is a slight chance of a shower on Sunday.
- Over in the West and South there will be sporadic rainfall between 1mm – 5mm, though to mid next week. Expect frost and fog in the mornings too.
- Fodder from East Gippsland is making its way over to the region to help those struggling to feed livestock. This very generous 'pay-it-forward' support comes off the back of farmers who know what it means to lose homes and sheds in fires and were grateful when help came their way.
- After eight weeks of continued increases, prices are finally holding steady. We have seen the following increases over this period: Cereal hay - \$280p/tn; Lucerne - \$220p/tn; Straw - \$95p/tn; Pasture hay - \$335p/tn.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$630 to \$780). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$690 to \$800/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$270 to \$380/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$600 to \$760/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Southwest Victoria

- Cloudy, partly cloudy skies with a high chance of showers in the west, medium chance elsewhere. Winds are northerly at 25 to 40 km/h, turning north-westerly during the day then decreasing to 20 to 30 km/h during the afternoon. Overnight temperatures are falling to between 3 and 6 degrees with daytime temperatures reaching around 12 degrees.
- Fodder from growers in East Gippsland is making its way over to the region to help those struggling to feed livestock. This very generous 'pay-it-forward' support comes off the back of farmers who know what it means to lose homes and sheds in fires and were grateful when help came their way.
- A convoy of 36 huge B-double trucks with 50 trailers, carrying more than half a million dollars' worth of free hay, arrived at Camperdown Saleyards to help farmers feed their stock. The run was organised by charity Need for Feed, and the team will head out to farms on Sunday, delivering the feed.
- After eight weeks of continued increases, prices are finally holding steady. We have seen the following increases over this period: Cereal hay - \$270p/tn; Lucerne - \$220p/tn; Straw - \$95p/tn; Pasture hay - \$295p/tn.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$610 to \$770/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$620 to \$780). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$260 to \$350/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$590 to \$700/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Southeast South Australia

- A powerful burst of winter weather is sweeping southern Australia, bringing gale-force winds, rough seas, and icy temperatures that have triggered alerts for sheep graziers and bushwalkers across several states.
- A high-pressure ridge will persist across the north of SA through to the weekend. A cold front will move across on Saturday morning. A more vigorous cold front is expected to move across the state early next week.
- After eight weeks of continued increases, prices are finally holding steady. We have seen the following increases over this period: Cereal hay - \$270p/tn; Lucerne - \$230p/tn; Straw - \$110p/tn; Pasture hay - \$325p/tn.
- No change to pricing this week.

- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$610 to \$760/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$630 to \$770/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$270 to \$340/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$620 to \$730/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Central South Australia

- A high-pressure ridge will persist across the north of SA through to the weekend. A cold front will move across on Saturday morning. A more vigorous cold front is expected to move across the state early next week.
- Partly cloudy across the region with a slight chance of a shower in the south and near zero chance elsewhere. Light winds becoming north-westerly at 15 to 20 km/h during the morning, then turning north to northeasterly during the afternoon. Overnight temperatures are falling to between 2 and 5 degrees with daytime temperatures reaching between 14 and 17 degrees.
- hay and cover freight costs has required a coordinated effort to make this possible.
- With the scarcity of hay available, some people still taking advantage of those in need by pricing any fodder available at ridiculous prices.
- Reports from one grower, who ran out of hay 6 weeks ago, said he carted hay over to VIC before the prices jumped too high. He is now seeing Wheaten hay being advertised at \$500 p/tn.
- While there has been some good rainfall recently, there is still no subsoil moisture. Everything was sowed dry in May which is only starting to come up now.
- 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

- A new high-pressure ridge is strengthening over southern WA. The ridge will give way on Friday as a weak cold front heads through the southern part of the state. Another ridge will move through southern WA during Friday night and Saturday. A stronger cold front will reach the west coast on Sunday.

- Overnight temperatures are falling to between 1 and 4 degrees with daytime temperatures sitting in the high teens to low 20s.
- Recent rainfall has been well received by farmers and growers to support the growth of winter crops. While the average of rain is below normal expectations, follow up rain is predicted to support a good growing season and build up soil moisture reserves.
- Some areas are experiencing warm days but with cold nights. There has been some good rain – consistent but not too frequent with approximately 4-5mm falling each time.
- Barley growers throughout Western Australia should assess their integrated disease management strategies following detection of net form net blotch isolates with resistance to all three fungicide groups currently registered for control of this fungal pathogen. Uncontrolled infections of net form net blotch can dramatically reduce barley yields and grain quality. Fungicide groups 3, 7 and 11 are the only groups currently registered for managing this disease in barley.
- Grass is a bit short still, despite recent rainfall. Hay can be seen moving everywhere, with primarily oaten hay heading to the dairy farmers.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: -30 (\$230 to \$310/t). Prices decrease this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$400 to \$500/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$130 to \$190/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$300 to \$350/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Northwest Tasmania

- Tasmania will sit in a westerly airstream this week, with a series of embedded cold fronts forecast to cross the state. A stronger cold front is expected Saturday afternoon.
- On Friday, there will be winds reaching up to 30 knots south of King Island in the evening.
- Showers are expected over the next week with daytime temperatures sitting between 13-15 degrees, while the nights are dropping down to 3 degrees.
- Reports state that they are experiencing early spring-style weather, despite the chill, with wattles starting to blossom. Recent rainfall has been great; however, it is only surface water - no creeks are flowing and there is still no subsoil moisture.
- Calving has commenced so the silage market might lift in demand over the coming weeks but not in price.
- People are quoting \$160 per bale for silage on gumtree but no one is paying that price now as it can be sourced for a cheaper price. That said, there is varying quality on the market.
- A bit of grass and clover hay is on the market, and reports state that a grower has Lucerne available for sale, but it will only fetch \$400p/tn. Straw of any kind is hard to find.

- Hay and silage pricing is holding to easing. People are choosing cheaper and rougher silage rather than paying for premium product. Grass has been growing despite some frosts.
- Significant 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: -40 (\$270 to \$330/t) Prices decrease this week.

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