

# Hay Report

27 June 2025

DELIVERING  
*for* DAIRY



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# Summary

## Driving Prices Up

- Hay continues to reach unprecedented prices across all hay types, at all-time highs, and with no signs of slowing. The freight costs of shifting hay interstate are now weighing heavily on /t pricing, and demand is outweighing supply, with some regions now looking further afield and thus increasing prices further due to distance.
- The Iran conflict is now affecting urea and fuel prices. While some contractors and producers have noticed an increase in costs over the past week, most are using a 'wait and see' approach and absorbing this until it is necessary to pass it on to buyers.
- Conditions remain cold, with frost interfering with the seed growth. 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 silage and supplementary grain feeding, with pellets now slowing due to a lack of key ingredients: straw and grain.

## Driving Prices Down

- Nothing is driving prices down.

## Local News

- Farmers in drought-hit parts of Victoria are calling for an exemption from paying council rates for 12 months, with an \$87 million case put to Premier Jacinta Allan.
- News Corp announces 2025 National Bush Summit, on 20 August to 1 September across Broome, Mount Gambier, Toowoomba, Wagga Wagga, Ballarat, and Darwin, focusing on key rural issues such as natural disasters, cost of living, infrastructure, and red tape reform, with national media coverage and high-level political engagement.
- SA Government appoints Drought Support Commissioner in response to farmer concerns. In June, Premier Peter Malinauskas announced the new role of fast-tracking drought funding and improving access to support. Newly appointed Commissioner Alex Zimmermann hit the ground running this week, visiting regional farms and pledging to be accessible and responsive to farmers' needs.
- 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

- Cloudy conditions and moderate easterly winds will persist across the Tablelands into early next week, with Mareeba and Atherton expecting daytime temperatures in the low to mid-20s and overnight lows around 14–17°C.
- Scattered light showers are likely from Friday through Sunday, particularly in the evenings, with low rainfall totals, generally under 5 mm, posing minimal disruption to farm operations.
- 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.
- Soil moisture has improved after autumn rainfall, but demand remains slow. Some buyers are shifting focus to feedlots and silage, with contract balers reporting limited movement.
- Prices remain fairly firm for the foreseeable future, with Rhodes grass selling at \$300–\$400/t depending on bale size and quality. Lower-grade, moisture-affected bales are struggling to sell, even at \$80/bale. Rising fuel and urea costs may pressure prices soon. Some growers are exploring a shift to regenerative systems to reduce input reliance, but acknowledge it will be a long-term investment.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Pasture (Rhodes Grass) hay: +20 (\$300 to \$400/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

- Cool, stable conditions will continue through the weekend, with morning frost expected in southern areas. Expect isolated showers from Sunday, with the heaviest falls expected Monday, particularly around Dalby, of up to 15 mm of rain.
- A damaging wind warning remains in place for the Darling Downs. The BOM has advised that strong winds may continue across the eastern slopes of the Main Range into Friday. Farmers are encouraged to secure loose items and check sheds, trees and fencing in exposed areas.
- The Darling Downs has a strong chance of above-average rainfall through winter. The latest outlook from BOM shows a 60–75% chance of exceeding median rainfall across Queensland from July to September. With a local median of around 76mm rainfall for the season, this is a timely boost for those planning spring cropping or managing winter feed gaps.
- News Corp announces 2025 National Bush Summit, with a stop in Toowoomba, set for 20 August to 1 September. The Summit will tackle issues that hit close to home for the region, like rising costs, infrastructure gaps, disaster response, and red tape.
- Favourable conditions in the Darling Downs drive strong winter crop potential, with Pilton Valley reporting the best outlook in over a decade. Recent rainfall (80% above average compared to

last year) has created ideal conditions for sowing wheat, chickpeas, and barley. This is welcome news for dairy farmers looking ahead to feed availability in the coming months.

- Fire ant zones have expanded southeast of the Downs. While the Darling Downs is not part of the restricted area, new detections in nearby Brisbane City and Scenic Rim (as of 16 June) bring the fire ant biosecurity zones closer. If you are moving soil, hay, mulch, or machinery from or through these areas, check if restrictions apply.
- Rhodes Grass is being sold in small bales on-farm for around \$220–260/t on online marketplaces. Pricing has settled over the past week due to supply issues.
- 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**

- Cool, cloudy conditions will persist across the region into early next week, with daytime temperatures reaching 17–20°C and overnight lows averaging around 8–13°C.
- A series of weak systems will maintain a continued risk of showers across the region from Friday through Tuesday, with Monday posing the highest rainfall potential, particularly around Lismore and Yamba, where isolated totals may exceed 20 mm of rain.
- While daily shower activity will be mostly light and patchy, the cumulative effect may lead to localised wet ground conditions, especially along the coastal fringe; inland areas such as Grafton are likely to remain comparatively drier.
- Fire ant movement controls remain active in Murwillumbah and Wardell. NSW Emergency Order No. 8 (24 June) has not changed zone boundaries, but anyone moving hay, soil, mulch, plants or machinery from these areas must still follow strict biosecurity rules. No changes, but the rules still apply.
- 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

- Clear and cold mornings will continue across the region into early next week, with widespread frost expected through Sunday, particularly in low-lying areas such as Condobolin and Coonabarabran.
- Daytime temperatures will gradually warm to the mid-to-high teens under mostly sunny skies through the weekend, with a slight chance of showers developing from Sunday, particularly over the southern slopes.
- Shower activity is forecast to increase early next week, most likely on Tuesday. However, totals are expected to remain low (less than 5 mm of rain), with persisting light winds and largely stable conditions.
- Most 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 remains an option for farmers struggling to locate additional fodder, with untested bales appearing online for the equivalent of \$200/t on-farm.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$440 to \$560/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +55 (\$505 to \$655/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +10 (\$220 to \$280/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +30 (\$470 to \$530/t). Prices increase this week.

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## Bega Valley

- Showers are likely to increase starting Monday, especially near the coast. Rainfall totals for early next week are currently forecast between 0 and 2 mm of rain on Monday, rising on Tuesday.
- A moderate fire danger risk for the Illawarra/Shoalhaven area remains in place.
- Sheep graziers' warning remains in place for the Bega Valley. Cold temperatures, showers and westerly winds are creating tough conditions for farmers. There is an increased risk of exposure, so check shelter, paddocks and vulnerable stock closely.
- A hazardous surf warning is also in place along the southern coast of NSW, with damaging winds also forecast for the region. Gusts up to 110 km/h are possible, especially in exposed coastal and elevated areas. Secure loose items and check sheds, trees and fencing ahead of strong gusts expected through Wednesday.
- 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: +/-0 (\$510 to \$670/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +55 (\$585 to \$715/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +10 (\$310 to \$380/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +30 (\$565 to \$635/t). Prices increase this week.

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## **Goulburn/Murray Valley**

- Dry and stable through the weekend, with overnight temperatures falling to –1°C in some parts, resulting in widespread morning frost and fog. Daytime highs will hit between 12°C and 14°C, with little to no rainfall expected.
- A weak change may bring light showers Sunday into Monday, particularly around Echuca. The expected totals are under 1 mm of rain, so there is no significant effect on grazing conditions or pasture growth.
- Sheep graziers' warning is still current. Cold winds and patchy showers may increase the risk of exposure for vulnerable livestock over the coming days.
- Crop growers in Elmore report that crops are showing promise after a slow start to the winter cropping season, thanks to small daily rainfalls over the past week and into the weekend. The morning frosts have not caused any damage, raising hope for grains and oats sown for hay in the region.
- The trend of steady increases continues, with rises more pronounced than last week. All hay types are at record highs and continue to climb. Demand remains firm across the region, with supply low.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +35 (\$515 to \$645/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +40 (\$565 to \$695/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +20 (\$230 to \$310/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +35 (\$490 to \$640/t). Prices increase this week.

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## **Gippsland**

- West and South Gippsland remain cool and mostly dry through the weekend, with only a slight (10–30%) chance of isolated showers near Wilsons Promontory on Friday and Sunday. Overnight temperatures will fall between –1°C and 4°C, with widespread frost and patchy morning fog, particularly about the ranges.

- East Gippsland will experience morning frost, with overnight lows falling to –3°C in some inland areas, especially around Bairnsdale. Daytime temperatures will reach between 9°C and 15°C, with mostly sunny skies and negligible rainfall forecast.
- Strong winds continue to affect coastal areas. A gale warning remains for the East Gippsland Coast, and strong wind warnings continue along the Central Gippsland Coast. Marine conditions may remain hazardous.
- A sheep graziers' warning is also in place across the region. Cold, wet, and windy weather is persisting. Lambing paddocks in East and South Gippsland remain at risk, and extra care and shelter are advised.
- The trend of steady hay price increases continues, just as pronounced as last week. All hay types are at record highs, with no signs of slowing yet. Demand remains firm, and supply low.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +55 (\$525 to \$725/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +40 (\$620 to \$750/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

- Conditions remain cold, wet, and windy. A sheep grazer's alert is still in place for the South West. There is an increased risk of sheep losses from exposure, particularly for lambing flocks and vulnerable stock. Continue sheltering and monitoring animals where possible.
- Sunday brings an increase in showers, with a medium chance of light rainfall across the region, particularly from late morning. Temperatures will be slightly cooler, with daytime highs around 12°C, and overnight lows of 2°C to 6°C.
- The Western District reports a reprieve from the dry season with rainfalls of between 30mm and 100 mm over the past week, and producers are hoping for more over the weekend. While crops are greening up, the moisture has soaked in, and more is needed to keep the momentum.
- Farmers in Moyne have looked to roadside grazing amid drought and poor pasture growth. Over 30 farmers have applied for special access permits but have been blocked due to native vegetation concerns.
- The trend of steady price increases continues, with rises as pronounced as last week. All hay types are at all-time highs. Demand remains firm across the region, and supply is low.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +55 (\$525 to \$725/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +40 (\$620 to \$750). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +20 (\$250 to \$380/t). Prices increase this week.



- Pasture hay: +35 (\$535 to \$675/t). Prices increase this week.

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## **Southeast South Australia**

- Frost and fog are expected early across Keith, Bordertown, and Meningie, with Saturday morning temps dropping to around 2°C.
- Naracoorte, Coonawarra, and Mt Gambier will see slightly higher rainfall chances over the weekend, with up to 3mm of rain forecast for Sunday. This could give emerging pasture a small boost, but showers are unlikely to shift dry subsoil conditions.
- 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.
- Hay supply remains tight. Dairy farms are relying on lucerne hay, silage and lupins to maintain milk production during winter calving. With local supplies nearly gone, road trains are hauling in hay from WA under a biosecurity permit. Landed prices for premium fodder are upwards of \$600/t.
- Support is helping to ease the pressure, but demand is still high. While the SA Government has backed broader drought support, there are no direct freight subsidies for producers. Charities like Rapid Relief Team and Need for Feed are delivering feed to affected regions, including the South East and Murray-Mallee. Charity BlazeAid is also moving hay from Bundaberg in QLD into the area.
- Prices continue climbing to all-time highs, with no signs of stopping. Demand remains firm across the region, and supply is critically low.
- Significant change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +35 (\$550 to \$650/t). Prices increase this week.
- Lucerne hay: +40 (\$590 to \$650/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$250 to \$340/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +35 (\$550 to \$620/t). Prices increase this week.

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## **Central South Australia**

- Cold mornings and widespread frost continue through the region, with temps dipping to 0–2°C in towns like Clare, Jamestown, and Roseworthy. These conditions will slow pasture and hay growth. Farmers should plan for slow drying conditions through the weekend.

- Rainfall remains minimal with only a slight chance (0–1mm) of showers on Sunday and Monday. While Roseworthy stays a touch warmer (6–15°C Friday), the lack of meaningful rain and consistent chill will challenge crop viability.
- Feed and fodder remain critically short across Central SA. Hay is moving in from WA, NSW and even the Northern Territory, with prices holding firm. Local supply is minimal, and other protein sources (pellets and silage) hard to come by.
- 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.
- A contractor in Freeling reports that rainfall this month is close to average, which is encouraging, but subsoil moisture is still lacking; soil is dry down to 20cm. Crops are up and green, but growth relies heavily on continued rainfall. There are concerns around grazing paddocks too early, as there's no moisture reserve to fall back on.
- Increased hay plantings indicate that some growers aim to build a surplus, preparing for future shortages. Others have been seeking seed, suggesting more standing crops may enter the supply chain later. Demand for hay and straw is still high, but local demand could dip as livestock numbers drop. Some beef producers are feeding almond husks to keep stock going.
- No 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: +/-0 (\$200 to \$280/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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## Southwest Western Australia

- Dry weather will hold across most of the region through Saturday, supporting ongoing hay operations, before light showers develop late weekend into early next week, mainly near Augusta, Margaret River, Bunbury and Busselton.
- Rainfall totals are expected to remain low, with no widespread soaking forecast; however, sporadic light showers from Sunday to Tuesday may briefly disrupt pasture and hay activity along the coastal fringe.
- 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.
- Recent rainfall has been solid (up to 70mm of rain in some parts), but areas like York have only had about 7mm of rain. Growth is slow, and planting is down to half of last year's levels after a favourable yield.
- The small bale market remains strong. Export-grade shedded oaten hay is moving at \$280–\$300/t + GST and freight, with many growers still absorbing freight costs. Fuel and fertiliser

prices are being watched closely, with Middle East tensions likely to influence future freight pricing.

- No 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: +/-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 cold southwesterly airstream flows over Tasmania, and winds are forecast to slowly ease through Thursday as a ridge builds over the state from a high over Victoria. The ridge is forecast to be very slow-moving and remain in place over Tasmania until at least the end of the week.
- Medium to high chance of showers across the region over the weekend and into next week, before clearing. Expect patchy inland frost each morning, with overnight temperatures falling to 0 °C in some parts.
- A strong wind warning for the northwest has been in place all week. Take care with lambing flocks and vulnerable animals in exposed zones.
- Hay remains extremely tight across the northwest, with little movement despite rising demand. Lucerne is priced at \$500+/t, but it is in short supply. Grass hay sits at \$160–180/bale but is not selling, with most farmers holding off until absolutely necessary.
- Ongoing frosts and limited rainfall are compounding already tough conditions. While fertilised paddocks and kale crops are holding on, many are watching soil temps closely. No cereal straw is available, adding extra pressure on feed supplies.
- Silage is available, trading around \$140/bale. It is helping fill the gap for now, but if frosts continue and rain does not arrive soon, supply outlooks beyond August remain uncertain.
- Some change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$325 to \$415/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +55 (\$460 to \$540/t) Prices increase 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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