

### WEATHER, LOW HAY SUPPLIES BRING STRONG HAY MARKET

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Continued low supplies of dairy-quality hay and a delayed growing season contributed to strong hay prices at the end of a cold, wet May in much of the Upper Midwest, according to the [May 28 Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest](#).

On average, prime (greater than 151 RFV/RFQ) alfalfa large squares sold for \$260/ton; large rounds, \$193/ton; small squares, \$291/ton. Grade 1 (125-150 RFV/RFQ) large squares averaged \$221/ton; large rounds, \$188/ton; and small squares, \$186/ton. Grade 2 (103-124 RFV/RFQ) alfalfa large squares averaged \$160/ton; large rounds, \$182/ton. Grade 3 (87-102 RFV/RFQ) large squares averaged \$195/ton; large rounds, \$134/ton.

#### Wisconsin

Strong hay prices were reported at the [May 29 Tim Slack Auction & Realty sale](#), with good-quality alfalfa large squares ranging from \$270/ton to \$390/ton; poor-quality large squares, \$175/ton. Good-quality large rounds sold for \$290-320/ton; fair-quality large rounds, \$195/ton. Good-quality small squares went for \$4.85-5/bale. Grass good-quality large rounds averaged \$235/ton.

Second-crop alfalfa large square prices ranged from \$240/ton on up, topping at \$385/ton at the [May 25 hay auction at Reynolds Livestock LLC](#), Dodgeville. Third-crop alfalfa large squares sold for \$260-325/ton; first-crop large squares, \$220-270/ton. Second-crop alfalfa large rounds averaged \$275/ton; third-crop, \$225/ton; and first-crop, \$220-270/ton.

Grass large rounds ranged from \$165 to \$215/ton; wrapped, new-crop grass large rounds went for \$195/ton, and first-crop wrapped large rounds sold for \$165-170/ton. Grass large squares ranged from \$220 to \$280/ton.

#### Minnesota

Supreme-quality alfalfa – four loads of large rounds – sold for \$225-275/ton at the May 28 Pipestone, MN, Hay and Straw Auction, according to [USDA's Ag Market News' May 28 report](#). Five loads of premium alfalfa large rounds priced at \$175-200/ton and two loads of good-quality large rounds sold for \$155-165/ton.

Two loads of premium alfalfa-grass large rounds ranged from \$205 to \$295/ton. Seven loads of grass premium large rounds ranged from \$200 to \$255/ton; 10 loads of good-quality large rounds sold for \$180-195/ton; and two loads of fair-quality grass large rounds went for \$155-165/ton.

#### Iowa

"The market was another \$50-to-mostly-\$70/ton higher; top was \$345/ton on second-crop big squares from Iowa," according to the [May 29 Dyersville Sales Company auction report](#). "Round (bales) topped at the highest price of the year at \$330/ton on third crop."

Supreme alfalfa large squares sold for \$315/ton while good-quality alfalfa large squares ranged from \$270 to \$345/ton and fair-quality, \$230 to \$265/ton. Good-quality large squares sold for \$305-330/ton; fair-quality, \$175-285/ton; and utility, \$160-200/ton.

Alfalfa-grass good-quality large squares priced at \$300-340/ton; good-quality large rounds, \$280-330/ton. Good-quality grass large squares averaged \$230/ton; good-quality large rounds, \$270-305/ton.

[Fort Atkinson Hay's May 29 auction report](#) expressed the continued need for dairy-quality hay. Second-crop alfalfa large squares sold for \$180-290/ton; large rounds, \$200-230/ton; small squares, \$220/ton. First-crop large squares sold for \$100-270/ton; first-crop large rounds, \$135-220/ton. Third-crop large rounds ranged from \$105 to \$220/ton. Grass large rounds sold for \$100-145/ton; new-seeding hay rounds, \$145/ton; new-seeding small squares, \$285/ton.



The lack of hay up for auction, and hay-crop growth hampered by cold, wet weather, were discussed in [USDA's May 24 Iowa Hay Summary](#). "In a normal year, producers would be getting ready for the first cutting, but as this year has been anything but normal, the hay crop is stunted. The possibility is out there, if the hay does get cut, the product could lay on wet ground and never dry, moving it to utility or grinding hay."

Supreme alfalfa small squares averaged \$320/ton; large squares, \$250-340/ton, and premium alfalfa large rounds, \$180/ton. Alfalfa-grass good-quality small squares ranged from \$210 to \$250/ton; large squares, \$240 to \$260/ton. Fair-quality mixed-hay small squares sold for \$170-200/ton. Grass premium large squares averaged \$310/ton; good-quality large rounds, \$210-245/ton; fair-quality large rounds, \$170-200/ton; and utility large rounds, \$60-160/ton.

### **South Dakota**

"Hay prices remained steady with few sales, according to the [USDA Ag Market News' May 24 South Dakota Weekly Hay Summary](#). "Cooler temperatures and several inches of rain did not improve ground conditions and transportation of hay." Hay demand was "very good," the report cited.

In the East River area, alfalfa premium large squares sold for \$200-210/ton; good-quality alfalfa large squares, \$180-190/ton. Fair-quality large squares sold for \$150-160/ton; large rounds, \$140-165/ton. Utility alfalfa large rounds priced at \$115-128/ton. Alfalfa-grass good-quality large rounds ranged from \$150/ton to \$175/ton; grass good-quality large rounds sold for \$140-150/ton.

No hay sales were reported in the West River area.