

# National Hay Report Summary January 2020

National background comments: report for the week ending 10th January, 2020.

The next update will be on Friday 17th January, 2020. Direct links to reports on each dairy region immediately follow this national summary for hay.

Finishing last year, demand for hay was high across the country, moving forward into the new year, demand has grown even stronger. There is a lot of hay moving across large parts of the country. At the time of writing, demand is exceeding the availability of prompt transportation.

While areas in the southern regions experienced a cool change on Sunday, hot, dry, and windy conditions have prevailed for the most part of the new year. Fires in parts of northern NSW, southern NSW, Queensland, and east Gippsland have burnt some pasture and hay supplies. There is an increase in demand coming from these fire affected regions.

While these fire affected regions have increased demand, a significant ongoing proportion is coming from those in the prevailing drought. It is postulated that there is some panic buying in the market, driven by current sentiment.

There is a high demand for cereal hay, and we are beginning to see inquiry for straw increase. Straw is still being made in parts of Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. Reports suggest, some farmers who were going to leave their harvested crops have now decided to make straw.

Hay is moving quickly and there are a lot of trucks and trailers on the road. There are many farmers who have now sold out of hay. However, the uncertainty of next season and period until to the end of winter is prompting some farmers to hold onto supplies (at least until they have a clearer picture of what lies ahead).

Cereal hay prices have firmed this week in all regions of Australia. Straw price fluctuations have been noted in the Darling Downs, central west NSW, Bega, Goulburn Valley, southwest Victoria, and southwest Western Australia.

There is a lot of hay being transported around the country of varying quality. We caution buyers and recommend feed-testing and viewing fodder before purchasing to be sure of quality of the feed.

## Northern Australia - Summary

- There was little hay made this season and many crops failed. Supply of feed is limited with a lot of hay being carted into the region from the southern parts of the nation.
- Local hay supplies have moved fast and there are limited supplies left.
- Securing long term, reliable supplies of quality hay may well be an issue for the north as the year progresses with demand expected to be greater than supply.
- Fires have affected some pasture and feed supplies in the region. Getting fodder into parts of the region requires police escort.
- The Government continues to offer subsidies for transport of fodder, moving livestock and water infrastructure to support eligible farmers in NSW affected by drought. This can be backdated to 1st January 2018. For more information and to apply please visit <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub>

### **Southern Australia - Summary**

- Last seasons hay is limited in supply and there is little carryover from previous years.
- There were a lot of frost damaged crops cut for hay this season.
- There is a lot of hay from the south moving to the northern regions.
- There is hay that has been rained on in parts of southern Australia which has varying degrees of whether damage, this is on the market.
- Yields have been good for some in the south however, hay making conditions have been difficult this season.
- Hay supplies are moving fast and it has been reported that there is some panic buying coming from the southern regions.
- Fires have affected some pasture and feed supplies in the region. Getting fodder into some parts of the region requires a police escort.
- The Government continues to offer subsidies for transport of fodder, moving livestock and water infrastructure to support eligible farmers in NSW affected by drought. This can be backdated to 1st January 2018. For more information and to apply please visit <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub>

### **Western Australia - Summary**

- Cereal hay making is finished for the season and yields are low across Western Australia.
- New season straw is starting to be made in the region, yields are poor.
- With limited carryover from previous seasons and poor yields across the state, securing long-term, reliable sources of feed may be an issue.
- The export industry continues to dominate the WA market and is a solid indicator on pricing. Exporters continue to seek out quality hay and as a result, will set the price in the market for quality hay.

Price change in table below reflects moves since previous report (20th December, 2019)

10-January-2020		<b>Hay</b>							
		<b>Cereal</b>	<b>Lucerne</b>		<b>Straw</b>		<b>Pasture</b>		
<b>Atherton Tablelands</b>	Price Range	N/A		N/A		N/A		\$400	\$440
	Change							Steady	
<b>Darling Downs</b>	Price Range	\$475	\$525	\$700	\$750	\$320	\$380	\$440	\$460
	Change	\$45		\$75		\$25		Steady	
<b>North Coast NSW</b>	Price Range	\$450	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$270	\$330	\$440	\$450
	Change	\$10		Steady		Steady		\$25	
<b>Central West NSW</b>	Price Range	\$380	\$450	\$600	\$700	\$240	\$280	\$400	\$500
	Change	Steady		Steady		-\$40		Steady	
<b>Bega Valley</b>	Price Range	\$410	\$430	\$650	\$700	\$250	\$300	\$400	\$500
	Change	\$30		Steady		-\$50		Steady	
<b>Goulburn / Murray Valley</b>	Price Range	\$310	\$350	\$600	\$800	\$130	\$160	\$340	\$370
	Change	\$60		\$45		\$5		\$45	
<b>Gippsland</b>	Price Range	\$350	\$400	\$550	\$650	\$190	\$230	\$250	\$350
	Change	\$50		Steady		Steady		\$15	
<b>South West Victoria</b>	Price Range	\$270	\$300	\$480	\$550	\$160	\$170	\$240	\$270
	Change	\$25		\$30		\$30		\$20	
<b>South East South Australia</b>	Price Range	\$270	\$300	\$430	\$530	\$140	\$170	\$300	\$400
	Change	\$40		\$25		Steady		Steady	
<b>Central Districts SA</b>	Price Range	\$300	\$330	\$570	\$650	\$140	\$170	N/A	N/A
	Change	\$45		Steady		Steady		N/A	
<b>South West WA</b>	Price Range	\$300	\$380	\$450	\$490	\$120	\$150	\$240	\$280
	Change	\$10		Steady		\$5		Steady	
<b>North West Tasmania</b>	Price Range	\$300	\$330	\$370	\$400	\$80	\$130	\$270	\$290
	Change	\$75		Steady		Steady		\$80	