

Farm Market Report

Hay Market Reports

Compiled by USDA Market News Service • St. Joseph, Mo.-Portland

Hay prices are dollars per ton or dollars per bale when sold to retail outlets. Basis is current delivery FOB barn or stack, or delivered customer as indicated.

Grade guidelines used in this report have the following relationship to Relative Feed Value (RFV), Acid Detergent Fiber (ADF), TDN (Total Digestible Nutrients), or Crude Protein (CP) test numbers:

| Grade | RFV | ADF | TDN | CP |
|---------|---------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Supreme | 185+ | <27 | 55.9+ | 22+ |
| Premium | 170-185 | 27-29 | 54.5-55.9 | 20-22 |
| Good | 150-170 | 29-32 | 52.5-54.5 | 18-20 |
| Fair | 130-150 | 32-35 | 50.5-52.5 | 16-18 |
| Utility | <130 | 36+ | <50.5 | <16 |

WASHINGTON-OREGON HAY
(Columbia Basin)
(USDA Market News)
Moses Lake, Wash.

| March 27 | | |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <i>This week FOB</i> | <i>Last week</i> | <i>Last year</i> |
| 1,320 | 2,425 | 6,370 |

Compared to March 20: Supreme and Premium Export Alfalfa not tested this week. Fair/Good dry cow and feeder hay \$10 lower in a light test. Trade very slow for domestic and export markets. Most interests are waiting for new crop. Demand remains good for higher testing supplies of Alfalfa and wheat straw, light demand for dry cow and feeder supplies. Retail/Feedstore hay steady. Demand remains good.

| | | <i>Tons</i> | <i>Price</i> |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| Alfalfa Large Square | Fair/Good | 500 | \$155-160 |
| Alfalfa Small Square | Premium | 155 | \$250-260 |
| Timothy Grass Large Square | Fair/Good | 575 | \$120-130 |
| Timothy Grass Small Square | Good | 90 | \$200 |

OREGON AREA HAY
(USDA Market News)
Portland, Ore.

| March 27 | | |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <i>This week FOB</i> | <i>Last week</i> | <i>Last year</i> |
| 2,873 | 2,128 | 481 |

Compared to March 20: Prices trended generally steady compared to the same quality last week. Trade activity and demand increased this week. The continued good weather in several areas of Oregon has slowed down demand, as pasture grasses are growing causing end users to be able to turn animals out on pasture rather than purchase and feed additional hay. Few containers available at the shipping ports has slowed down the ability to export hay overseas. Several producers have sold all that they plan to sell for this season.

| | | <i>Tons</i> | <i>Price</i> |
|------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Alfalfa Large Square | Good | 1000 | \$150 |
| Triticale Large Square | Good | 56 | \$125 |
| KLAMATH BASIN | | | |
| Alfalfa Large Square | Premium | 180 | \$200 |

Grain Market Reports

Compiled by USDA Market News Service • Portland

Grains are stated in dollars per bushel or hundredweight (cwt.) except feed grains traded in dollars per ton. National grain report bids are for rail delivery unless truck indicated.

PORTLAND GRAIN
(USDA Market News)
Portland
March 27

PACIFIC NORTHWEST MARKET SUMMARY
Cash wheat bids for March delivery ended the reporting week on Thursday, March 26 lower, compared to March 19 noon bids for March delivery.

May wheat futures ended the reporting week on Thursday, March 26, lower follows compared to March 19 closes: Chicago May wheat futures 12.75 cents lower at \$4.9925, Kansas City 7.25 cents lower at \$5.43 and Minneapolis wheat futures trended 9.50 cents lower at \$5.6325. Chicago May corn futures trended 17.75 cents higher at \$3.9125 while May soybean futures closed 12.75 cents higher at \$9.7450.

Bids for U.S. 1 Soft White Wheat delivered to Portland in unit trains or barges during March for ordinary protein were 10 to 12.75 cents per bushel lower from \$6.15-6.3925, mostly \$6.2725 compared to March 19 noon bids for March delivery of \$6.25-6.52, mostly \$6.3850. White club wheat premiums for ordinary protein nearby delivery were \$2.40 for this week compared to \$2.40 last week.

One year ago bids for U.S. 1 Soft White Wheat any protein for March delivery by unit trains and barges to Portland were \$7.6175-7.85, mostly \$7.7350 and bids for White Club Wheat were \$8.1175-8.35, mostly \$8.2350.

Nearby bids for U.S. 1 Soft White wheat ordinary protein started the reporting week on March 20 at mostly \$6.4750, then moved higher to mostly \$6.4950 on March 23 before dropping lower on March 24 to mostly \$6.4425 and continuing lower to March 25 to mostly \$6.42. March 26, bids moved lower to mostly \$6.2725.

Several exporters are not issuing bids for nearby delivery. Forward month bids for soft white wheat ordinary protein were as follows: April and May \$6.15-6.3925, June not available and August New Crop \$6.0425-6.30. One year ago, forward month bids for soft white wheat for any protein were as follows: April \$7.5175-7.85, May \$7.4675-7.85, June \$7.5125-7.6125 and August New Crop \$7.3375-7.5375.

Bids for U.S. 1 Soft White Wheat guaranteed maximum 10.5 percent protein during March trended 12 to 22.75 cents per bushel lower from \$6.8925-7.25, mostly \$7.0625 per bushel compared to last week ranging from \$7.12-7.37, mostly \$7.2825. The white club wheat premiums for guaranteed 10.5 percent protein this week were \$2 to \$2.40, mostly \$2.24 compared to the previous week's from \$2 to \$2.40, mostly \$2.24.

Nearby bids for U.S. 1 Soft White Wheat guaranteed 10.5 percent

| | | |
|------|----|-------|
| Good | 25 | \$180 |
| Good | 26 | \$210 |

Small Square
Alfalfa/Orchard Mix
Small Square
LAKE COUNTY
Alfalfa Large Square

| | | |
|-----------|-----|-----------|
| Supreme | 472 | \$250-270 |
| Premium | 635 | \$235 |
| Good | 74 | \$170-175 |
| Supreme | 54 | \$250 |
| Premium | 65 | \$200-220 |
| | 30 | \$220 |
| Fair/Good | 30 | \$150 |
| Premium | 30 | \$150 |
| Premium | 121 | \$140-150 |

Alfalfa/Oat Mix Large Square
Triticale Large Square
Forage Mix-Three Way Large Square
Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Wasco Counties: No new sales confirmed.

HARNEY COUNTY: No sales confirmed.

IDAHO HAY
(USDA Market News)
Moses Lake, Wash.

| March 27 | | |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <i>This week FOB</i> | <i>Last week</i> | <i>Last year</i> |
| 10,250 | 3,900 | 6,000 |

Compared to March 20: Premium/Supreme Alfalfa sharply higher this week on improved demand. Fair/Good Feeder quality Alfalfa steady. Trade moderate to active this week. Demand turned good for higher testing supplies. Due to drought conditions in Nevada, more Idaho hay is being shipped there. Exporters reporting they are being able to ship more hay overseas now. Retail/feed store/horse not tested this week.

| | | <i>Tons</i> | <i>Price</i> |
|----------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Alfalfa Large Square | Prem./Sup. | 8300 | \$195-200 |
| | Fair/Good | 500 | \$120 |
| | Utility | 1200 | \$80 |
| Oat Large Square | Fair/Good | 250 | \$85 |

CALIFORNIA HAY
(USDA Market News)
Moses Lake, Wash.

| March 20 | | |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <i>This week FOB</i> | <i>Last week</i> | <i>Last year</i> |
| 8,820 | 5,943 | 11,925 |

Compared to March 20: All classes traded weak on light demand and on light tests. Milk prices remained in the mid-teens, which affected the demand from dairies for test hay. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the overall trend toward drought persistence or intensification prevailed, with relief confined to a few scattered locales in the Four Corners Region and southeastern California. The West continues to cope with much-above-normal temperatures, further depleting already-dire snowpacks and reducing spring runoff prospects over much of the region.

REGION 1: North Inter-Mountain
Includes the counties of Siskiyou, Modoc, Shasta, Lassen and Plumas.

| | | <i>Tons</i> | <i>Price</i> |
|---------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Alfalfa | Premium | 100 | \$220 |
| | Good | 75 | \$305 |
| | | 100 | \$185 |
| | Premium | 60 | \$300 |
| | Premium | 125 | \$240 |

Prairie Grass
Forage Mix-Three Way
REGION 2: Sacramento Valley
Includes the counties of Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, Yolo, El Dorado, Solano, Sacramento.

| | | <i>Tons</i> | <i>Price</i> |
|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|
| Alfalfa Cubes | Good | 50 | \$280 |

REGION 3: Northern San Joaquin Valley
Includes the counties of San Joaquin, Calaveras, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Mono, Merced and Mariposa.

| | | <i>Tons</i> | <i>Price</i> |
|---------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Alfalfa | Supreme | 50 | \$290 |

REGION 4: Central San Joaquin Valley

| | | <i>Tons</i> | <i>Price</i> |
|---------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Alfalfa | Premium | 100 | \$275 Del |
| Grass | Premium | 100 | \$250 |

REGION 5: Southern California
Includes the counties of Kern, Northeast Los Angeles, and Western San Bernardino.

| | | <i>Tons</i> | <i>Price</i> |
|----------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Alfalfa | Premium | 1050 | \$232.50-240 |
| Forage Mix-Three Way | Premium | 75 | \$240 |

REGION 6: Southeast California

| | | <i>Tons</i> | <i>Price</i> |
|---------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Alfalfa | Supreme | 54 | \$218 |
| | | 150 | \$235-240 |
| | Prem./Sup. | 90 | \$215 |
| | | 90 | \$215 |
| | Premium | 500 | \$210 |
| | | 291 | \$210-220 |
| | | 628 | \$205-214 |
| | | 400 | \$190 |
| | | 437 | \$210-230 |
| | Good/Prem. | 2100 | \$196-200 |
| | | 300 | \$160 |
| | | 50 | \$210-220 |
| | | 100 | \$180 |
| | Good | 50 | \$165 |
| | | 70 | \$145 |
| | Utility | 175 | \$110 |
| | Utility/Fair | 1200 | \$130 |
| | Premium | 75 | \$200 |
| | Good/Prem. | 75 | \$210 |
| | Good | 25 | \$180 |
| | Premium | 75 | \$220 |

Bermuda Grass

| | | |
|-------------|--|--|
| Teff | | |
|-------------|--|--|

Stockton-Modesto-Oakdale-Turlock
Kings-Tulare-Fresno Counties
Madera County
Kern County
Glenn County
Colusa County
Solano County

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| CORN - U.S. No. 2 Yellow | |
| FOB Turlock | \$9.22 |
| FOB Tulare | \$9.22 |

Rail
Single Car Units via BNSF
Chino Valley-Los Angeles
Petaluma-Santa Rosa
Stockton-Modesto-Oakdale-Turlock
Los Angeles-Chino Valley
Kings-Tulare-Fresno Counties

| | |
|--|---------|
| SORGHUM - U.S. No. 2 Yellow | |
| Los Angeles-Chino Valley via BNSF Single | \$11.27 |
| Modesto-Oakdale-Turlock | NA |

OATS - U.S. No. 1 White
FOB Turlock
Los Angeles-Chino Valley

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| OATS - U.S. No. 2 White | |
| Petaluma | NA |
| Petaluma | NA |

WHEAT - U.S. No. 2 or better - Hard Red Winter (Domestic Values for Flour Milling)

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Los Angeles 12 percent Protein | \$13.02 |
| Los Angeles 13 percent Protein | \$13.22 |
| Los Angeles 14 percent Protein | \$13.42 |

Los Angeles 11-12 percent Protein
Los Angeles 12 percent Protein
Los Angeles 13 percent Protein
Los Angeles 14 percent Protein

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| WHEAT - U.S. Durum Wheat | |
| Imperial County | NA |
| Kings-Tulare-Fresno Counties | NA |

WHEAT - Any Class for Feed
FOB Tulare

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Los Angeles-Chino Valley | NA |
| Petaluma-Santa Rosa | NA |
| Stockton-Modesto-Oakdale-Turlock | NA |
| King-Tulare-Fresno Counties | NA |
| Merced County | NA |
| Colusa County | NA |
| Kern County | NA |

Prices paid to California farmers, seven-day reporting period ending March 26: No confirmed sales.

Potato Market Reports

Compiled by North American Potato Market News and USDA Agricultural Market Service

Prices are weekly averages of daily prices. All prices are in dollars per hundredweight (cwt.). FWA is a weighted average of shipping point prices or common packs in each area. Weights differ by area. GRI is the Grower Returns Index for each individual area.

FRESH RUSSET POTATO MARKET REPORT
(North American Potato Market News)
(USDA Market News)
March 28

Market Commentary: Russet consumer bag prices remain under pressure, while prices for 40-70 count cartons are moving up.

| SHIPPING AREA | | | | | | | |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| <i>FWA</i> | <i>Chg</i> | <i>GRI</i> | <i>Chg</i> | <i>70 ct</i> | <i>Chg</i> | <i>10 lb. Film</i> | <i>Chg</i> |
| IDAHO BURBANKS | \$12.23 | \$0.06 | \$5.25 | \$0.04 | \$27 | \$1.50 | \$5.50 |
| IDAHO NORKOTAH | \$11.98 | -\$0.18 | \$5.24 | -\$0.13 | \$25.50 | \$0 | \$5.50 |
| COLUMBIA BASIN | \$13.50 | \$0.03 | \$5.87 | \$0.02 | \$23 | \$1 | \$6.50 |
| KLAMATH BASIN | \$14.47 | \$0 | \$6.19 | \$0 | \$23.50 | \$0 | \$8 |
| | | | | | | | \$0 |

Sheep/Wool Market Reports

Compiled by USDA Market News Service • Greeley, Colo.-San Angelo, Texas

Wool prices in cents per pound and foreign currency per kilogram, sheep prices in dollars per hundredweight (cwt.) except some replacement animals on per head basis as indicated.

NATIONAL WOOL REVIEW
(USDA Market News)
Greeley, Colo.

March 27

Domestic wool trading on a clean basis was at a standstill this week and there were no confirmed trades. Shearing has become widespread, especially across the Western states. Storms in the early part of the month caused a lot of shearing to be put on hold while they passed through. The recent warmer weather has now allowed shearing to begin again. Shearing will continue to be heavy over the next several weeks, but a majority of the producers say they are at least a week to two weeks behind their normal schedule. Domestic wool trading on a greasy basis was at a standstill this week and there were no confirmed trades.

Domestic wool tags
No. 1 \$60.-70
No. 2 \$50.-60
No. 3 \$40.-50

NATIONAL SHEEP SUMMARY
(USDA Market News)
San Angelo, Texas
March 5

Compared to March 20: Light slaughter lambs were \$10-50 lower; heavy slaughter lambs were steady to \$5 lower. Slaughter ewes were uneven, mostly steady to \$5 lower. Feeder lambs were \$5-20 lower. At San Angelo, Texas, 2,546 head sold in a weather shortened sale. Equity Electronic Auction sold 375 slaughter lambs in Oregon. In direct trading slaughter ewes and feeder lambs were not tested. 5,100 head of negotiated sales of slaughter lambs were steady to \$3 lower. 11,600 head of formula sales under 65 lbs. were not well tested; 65-75 lbs. were \$10 to \$12 lower; 75-85

lbs. were \$5 to \$8 higher; 85-95 lbs. were steady to \$1 lower; over 95 lbs. were \$5 to \$7 lower. 6,711 lamb carcasses sold with 45 lbs. and down \$28.32 lower; 45-65 lbs. \$3.61 to \$4.85 higher; 65-75 lbs. \$2.33 higher; and 75 lbs. and heavier \$2.33 to \$6.3 lower.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS Choice and Prime 2-3: San Angelo: shorn and woolled 110-145 lbs. \$130-139; 150-185 lbs. \$122-129.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS Choice and Prime 1: San Angelo: 30-40 lbs. \$220-232; 40-60 lbs. \$216-226; 60-70 lbs. \$200-214; 70-80 lbs. \$195-206; 80-90 lbs. \$190-200; 90-105 lbs. \$160-190. DIRECT TRADING (Lambs with 3-4 percent shrink or equivalent):

5100: Slaughter Lambs shorn and woolled 128-166 lbs. \$127.39-163.10 (wild avg \$141.99).

SLAUGHTER EWES: San Angelo: Good 2-3 (fleshy) 83-85; Utility and Good 1-3 (medium flesh) \$88-100, few \$106-110; Utility 1-2 (thin) \$80-87; Cull and Utility 1-2 (very thin) \$70-72; Cull 1 (extremely thin) no test.

FEEDER LAMBS Medium and Large 1-2: San Angelo: new crop 45-65 lbs. \$191-202; 70-80 lbs. \$184-193; 80-85 lbs. \$174-180; 93 lbs. \$175. old crop 79 lbs. \$170; 88 lbs. \$161.

REPLACEMENT EWES Medium and Large 1-2: San Angelo: no test.

NATIONAL WEEKLY LAMB CARCASS Choice and Prime 1-4:

| <i>Weight</i> | <i>Wtd. avg.</i> |
|----------------|------------------|
| 45 lbs. down | \$200.77 |
| 45-55 lbs. | \$408.83 |
| 55-65 lbs. | \$348.97 |
| 65-75 lbs. | \$323.04 |
| 75-85 lbs. | \$308.41 |
| 85 lbs. and up | \$295.11 |

Sheep and lamb slaughter under federal inspection for the week to date totaled 46,000 compared with 42,000 last week and 43,000 last year.

California Egg Reports

Compiled by USDA Market News Service • Des Moines

Shell egg marketer's benchmark price for negotiated egg sales of USDA Grade AA and Grade AA in cartons, cents per dozen. This price does not reflect discounts or other contract terms.

DAILY CALIFORNIA SHELL EGGS
(USDA Market News)
Des Moines, Iowa
March 27

Benchmark prices are steady. Asking prices for next week are 5 cents higher for Large and unchanged on all other sizes. The undertone is steady. Offerings and supplies are light to mostly moderate. Demand is usually moderate. Market activity is slow. Small benchmark price \$1.63.

| <i>Size</i> | <i>Range</i> | <i>Size</i> | <i>Range</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Jumbo | 242 | Extra large | 233 |
| Large | 227 | Medium | 183 |

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Prices to retailers, sales to volume buyers, USDA Grade AA and Grade AA, white eggs in cartons, delivered store door.

| <i>Size</i> | <i>Range</i> | <i>Size</i> | <i>Range</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Jumbo | 234-246 | Extra large | 214-226 |
| Large | 212-221 | Medium | 163-172 |

Amid bird flu outbreak, Minn. turkey farmers increase security

By STEVE KARNOWSKI
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Poultry producers in the nation's top turkey state are taking extra steps to protect their flocks after a devastating strain of bird flu was confirmed at two Minnesota farms in as many days last week, a disease that had already slammed the doors shut on some key export markets.

Most producers in the state's \$750 million industry were already strict about day-to-day biosecurity to try to ensure that no bird flu enters or leaves their barns, but they're redoubling their efforts. The confirmation Saturday of the highly pathogenic H5N2 strain of avian influenza at a turkey farm in Stearns County, the third outbreak at a Minnesota farm this month, raised the stakes because it's one of the top poultry producing counties in the state. The first two farms were relatively isolated.

Poultry farms are now scrubbing down truck tires with disinfectant on their way on and off farms, and some operators are using dedicated employees and equipment for each individual barn on their property to cut the chances of spreading the flu from building to building, said Steve Olson, executive director of both the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association and the Chicken and Egg Association of Minnesota. If a barn needs

service such as electrical work, he said, owners may wait until things settle down.

"Pins and needles," is how Olson described farmers' moods Monday. Saturday's announcement followed Friday's confirmation at a farm in Lac qui Parle County near the western border. The three outbreaks together killed tens of thousands of turkeys directly, and forced the farm owners to kill tens of thousands more to prevent any spread.

Nobody has figured out yet how the virus got into any of the affected barns, said Dr. Carol Cardona, a bird flu expert at the University of Minnesota.

Most U.S. turkeys and chickens spend their entire lives indoors to keep them away from waterfowl and other wild birds that could introduce diseases. Migratory ducks and geese don't normally become sick from bird flu, but they're a natural reservoir and can spread the viruses via their droppings. That's why commercial farms typically require everyone entering barns to don protective coveralls and even make them shower on their way in and out.

Cardona said biosecurity doesn't always work because it depends on everyone doing everything right all the time.

"Biosecurity is very dependent on human behavior. It's not a perfect science," Cardona said.

Cattle Market Reports

Compiled by USDA Market News Service • Oklahoma City-Des Moines-St. Joseph, Mo.-Moses Lake, Wash.

Cattle prices in dollars per hundredweight (cwt.) except some replacement animals per pair or head as indicated.

NATIONAL SLAUGHTER CATTLE
(Federal-State Market News)
Oklahoma City-Des Moines
March 27

Compared to March 20: No direct cattle traded at time of report. Boxed beef prices March 27 noon averaged \$248.53 that is \$4.63 higher than March 20. The Choice/Select spread is \$3.81. Slaughter cattle on a national basis for negotiated cash trades through March 27 at noon totaled about 1,100 head. The previous week's total head count was 79,631 head.

Slaughter Cows and Bulls (Average Yielding Prices): Slaughter cows and bulls sold mostly steady to \$1 higher. USDA's Culler cow carcass cut-out value March 27 at noon was \$231.81 up \$7.70 from March 20.

NATIONAL FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE
(Federal-State Market News)
St. Joseph, Mo.

| March 27 | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <i>This week</i> | <i>Last week</i> | <i>Last year</i> |
| 270,800 | 323,400 | 330,100 |

Compared to March 20: Yearling feeder cattle traded firm to \$5 higher with instances \$6-8 higher. Direct sales were active this week and posted the full advance on feeder cattle. Steer and heifer calves sold mostly steady to \$5 higher. Buyers flexed their muscle in pursuing all classes of feeder cattle this week. The Southern Plains received rain and warm weather to

help improve wheat crop conditions, and boost summer grazing interest on very good buyer demand. With "grass fever" in