

# Crop scientists warn Idaho spud growers to expect bad weed year

By JOHN O'CONNELL  
Capital Press

ABERDEEN, Idaho — Crop scientists expect severe weed pressure in Idaho this season, especially in potato fields, following a prolonged wet period throughout the state's southern and eastern regions.

"All of the rain we've had may have compromised some of our pre-emergence herbicides. That's the main thing I've noticed so far," said Jeff Miller, a crop scientist with Rupert, Idaho-based Miller Research.

Miller said he's also seen commercial fields with signs of herbicide damage in spud plants.

Miller explained heavy moisture has carried some herbicides, such as Matrix, Metribuzin and Outlook, deep into the soil — below germinating weed seeds but in contact with spud roots.

University of Idaho Extension weed specialist Pam Hutchinson expects weeds will begin to emerge in the coming days. She also considers it likely that growers will encounter signs of herbicide damage — both from herbicides leaching into potato root zones or soil laden with the pre-emergence herbicide Chateau splashing onto potato stems.

However, Hutchinson said growers shouldn't worry about herbicide damage, as a turn to warmer weather should enable plants to easily metabolize the chemicals without hurting yields. She said post-emergence applications of Matrix under cloudy conditions could also contribute to temporary mottled yellowing of leaves due to slowed metabolism.

Hutchinson has received several recent phone calls from growers seeking advice on how to respond to various weed scenarios.



John O'Connell/Capital Press

University of Idaho Extension weed specialist Pam Hutchinson holds a scoop of dirt with hairy nightshade plants within an experimental field at the Aberdeen Research and Extension Center. Hutchinson believes recent storms will contribute to a bad season for weeds in her state.

'All of the rain we've had may have compromised some of our pre-emergence herbicides. That's the main thing I've noticed so far.'

— Jeff Miller  
Crop Scientist, Rupert

In fields in which both spuds and weeds have already emerged, including fields in which the recent storms may have rendered prior herbicide applications ineffective, Hutchinson advises growers to spray Matrix or Metribuzin, which are post-emergence foliar herbicides.

American Falls grower Kevin Ramsey, for example, had already applied herbicide with irrigation on more than half of his acres prior to the storms and is concerned weeds may still emerge. If that happens, he'll spray Matrix post-emergence.

Hutchinson said growers shouldn't irrigate for a few days after applying Matrix

or Metribuzin, which are effective against emerged weeds including hairy nightshade, and warned additional rainfall could wash them off plants. Hutchinson said some specialty and white-skinned, short-season potato varieties, such as Shepody, are known to be sensitive to Metribuzin.

In fields in which potatoes have emerged but weeds haven't, she said additional herbicides that work in the soil to prevent new weeds from germinating, including Prowl, Eptam and Dual Magnum, are also an option.

Prior to row closure of potatoes, she said the products Poast Plus and Select are effective against grasses.

According to Hutchinson's research, a single hairy nightshade plant per meter in a commercial Russet Norkotah field can reduce spud yields by 20 percent.

Many growers have been delayed from spraying fields and now must deal with emerged weeds because of the rains. American Falls grower Kamren Koopin sprayed Matrix for post-emergence weeds during a break between storms.

American Falls grower Kasey Poulson said he's more concerned about the rains rotting seed potatoes than weed pressure, though he doubts rot will cause extensive damage.

## 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.

| This week FOB | Last week | Last year |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| 4,900         | 12,200    | 9,475     |

Compared to May 22: New crop Premium/Supreme Alfalfa steady. Trade slow on new crop. Thunderstorms this week caused a lot of rain damage to new crop supplies in the windrows. Demand good for new crop high testing Alfalfa light to moderate on other grades. Retail/Feedstore steady in a light test. Demand remains good.

|                            | Tons       | Price     |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Alfalfa Large Square       | Supreme    | \$230     |
|                            | Fair/Good  | 1000      |
|                            | 1400       | \$150-170 |
| Alfalfa Mid Square         | Good/Prem. | 900       |
|                            | Good       | 1000      |
| Orchard Grass Small Square | Premium    | 200       |
|                            | \$185      |           |

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

| This week FOB | Last week | Last year |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| 999           | 1,862     | 524       |

Compared to May 22: Prices trended generally steady compared to the same quality last week. Trade activity and demand was slow this week. Most producers are sold out for the season.

|   | Tons      | Price |
|---|-----------|-------|
| CROOK, DESCHUTES, JEFFERSON, WASCO COUNTIES |           |       |
| Orchard Grass Small Square                  | Premium   | 25    |
|   | \$250-260 |       |

|                      | Premium    | 10    | \$290 |
|----------------------|------------|-------|-------|
| Alfalfa Large Square | Good       | 400   | \$190 |
| Alfalfa Large Square | Good/Prem. | 200   | \$195 |
| Alfalfa Small Square | Premium    | 130   | \$220 |
|                      | 70         | \$220 |       |
| Alfalfa Large Square | Supreme    | 35    | \$250 |
|                      | Good/Prem. | 65    | \$200 |
|                      | Fair       | 34    | \$168 |
| Small Square         | Premium    | 30    | \$240 |

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

| This week FOB | Last week | Last year |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| 3,600         | 4,700     | 3,000     |

Compared to May 22: New crop Premium high moisture Alfalfa steady, other grades steady. Trade slow this week as heavy thunderstorms the last two weeks halted trading on new crop supplies. Demand moderate to good. Retail/feed store/horse not tested this week.

|                      | Tons      | Price |
|----------------------|-----------|-------|
| Alfalfa Large Square | Premium   | 1300  |
|                      | Fair/Good | 2000  |
|                      | Fair/Good | 300   |
| Oat Large Square     |           | \$80  |

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

| This week FOB | Last week | Last year |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| 7,430         | 15,722    | 26,300    |

Compared to May 22: All classes traded active on good demand. Milk prices in the mid-teens are shifting the demand from dairies to the export market. Quality is dropping off in Region 6 and Sudan is being knocked down this week and a lot of rain damaged hay is stacked and waiting for a buyer. Orchard grass in region 1 is in high demand with growers receiving calls before it's cut.

REGION 1: Northern Intermountain  
Includes the counties of Siskiyou, Modoc, Shasta, Lassen and Plumas.

No new sales confirmed.  
REGION 2: Sacramento Valley  
Includes the counties of Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, Yolo, El Dorado, Solano, Sacramento.

|               | Tons      | Price |
|---------------|-----------|-------|
| Alfalfa       | Good      | 150   |
|               | Fair/Good | 150   |
|               | Fair      | 25    |
| Orchard Grass | Premium   | 25    |
| Brome Grass   | Good      | 55    |
| Rye Grass     | Good      | 50    |
| Oat           | Good      | 150   |
|               | \$125     |       |

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

|         | Tons       | Price |
|---------|------------|-------|
| Alfalfa | Supreme    | 600   |
|         | Premium    | 200   |
|         | Good/Prem. | 500   |
|         | Good       | 300   |
| Oat     |            | 200   |
|         |            | \$196 |
| Wheat   | Good       | 700   |
|         |            | \$110 |

REGION 4: Central San Joaquin Valley  
Includes the counties of Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Inyo.

|         | Tons | Price |
|---------|------|-------|
| Alfalfa | Good | 500   |
| Oat     | Good | 1200  |
|         |      | \$165 |

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

|         | Tons    | Price |
|---------|---------|-------|
| Alfalfa | Supreme | 300   |
|         | Fair    | 100   |
|         |         | \$135 |

REGION 6: Southeast California  
Includes the counties of Eastern San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial.

|               | Tons       | Price     |
|---------------|------------|-----------|
| Alfalfa       | Premium    | 75        |
|               | Good/Prem. | 1200      |
|               |            | 200       |
|               |            | \$125     |
|               |            | 175       |
|               |            | \$190     |
|               |            | 50        |
|               |            | \$190     |
|               |            | 325       |
|               |            | \$208.46  |
| Bermuda Grass | Premium    | 200       |
|               |            | \$255-210 |

Future Delivery FOB Price: 550-600 lbs. \$235 for October-November Idaho; 700-750 lbs. \$202 for September-October Oregon.

**NORTHWEST DIRECT CATTLE**  
(USDA Market News)  
Moses Lake, Wash.

| This week | Last week | Last year |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2,100     | 2,500     | 3,550     |

Compared to May 22: Feeder cattle steady in a light test. Trade slow this Holiday shortened week. Demand light to moderate. The feeder supply included 62 percent steers and 38 percent heifers. Near 52 percent of the supply weighed over 600 lbs. Prices are FOB weighing point with a 1-4 percent shrink or equivalent and with a 5-10 cent slide on calves and a 3-cent slide on yearlings. Current sales are up to 14 days delivery.

Steers: Medium and Large 1-2: Current FOB Price: 850-900 lbs. \$194 Washington. Future Delivery FOB Price: 550-600 lbs. \$245-247 for October-November Idaho; 750-800 lbs. \$250 for September-October Oregon; 900 lbs. \$210 for July Oregon.

Holstein Steers: Large 2-3: Current FOB Price: 350 lbs. \$268-269 Washington.

Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2: Future Delivery FOB Price: 550-600 lbs. \$235 for October-November Idaho; 700-750 lbs. \$202 for September-October Oregon.

Replacement Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2: Current FOB Price: 800-850 lbs. \$197 Washington.

## No-spray buffer requirement added to pesticide bill

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

Lawmakers are adding a no-spray buffer requirement to Oregon pesticide legislation that also increases enforcement funding, doubles fines for violations and creates new requirements for applicators.

Controversy over Oregon's pesticide laws was ignited by an off-target application of herbicides that affected residents in Curry County in 2013, prompting a multitude of proposals during this year's legislative session.

Those concepts were distilled into a single piece of legislation — House Bill 3549 — that initially focused on better training for applicators and a greater capacity for state regulators to investigate complaints and enforce existing laws.

During a May 21 work session on the bill, the House Rules Committee adopted an amendment that will require 60-foot no-spray buffers around homes and schools for aerial pesticide applications in forestry.

Farm and forestry groups will continue to support the legislation despite the buffer amendment, said Scott Dahlman, policy director of the Oregonians for Food and Shelter agribusiness group.

"In the legislative process, there is compromise along the way," he said.

Eric Geyer, manager of business development for Roseburg Forest Products, said the industry isn't thrilled with the no-spray buffer amendment but the change isn't enough to sink its support of the overall package.

Earlier bill proposals that died in committee would have imposed greater restrictions on pesticides, including an outright ban on aerial spraying and certain classes of chemicals.

The amendment adopted by the committee does not include stricter notification and reporting requirements for pesticide appli-

cations, which the timber industry has opposed as impractical.

"Real time" notification of sprays is challenging time-wise due to changes in the weather, particularly if a company must alert numerous people, said Jake Gibbs, director of external affairs at Lone Rock Timber.

The timber industry is also concerned about the potential for sabotage by eco-terrorists if specific sites and dates are announced for spray applications, said Rep. Brad Witt, D-Clatskanie.

Proponents of more stringent notification requirements claim it's necessary in case aerial applicators violate rules against off-target spraying.

Advance notification would allow neighbors to prepare for pesticide sprays by staying indoors or leaving the area, said Rep. Ann Linger, D-Lake Oswego.

"There are real people getting hurt and they need our help," she said.

Kathryn Rickard, a Curry County resident affected by the 2013 incident, said it took state regulators six months to notify her which chemicals were found on her property, which hindered adequate medical treatment.

The situation would be different with advance notice and better reporting, she said. "Our physicians would have known how to treat us in a timely manner."

While the no-spray buffer amendment to HB 3549 was adopted, the overall bill has not moved out of committee for a vote on the House floor, which means it's still subject to further hearings.

Apart from the no-spray buffers, the bill would increase registration fees on pesticide distributors to raise up to \$2.4 million for enhanced pesticide enforcement, complaint response and investigation.

Aerial applicators would be required to undergo 50 hours of special training a year and obtain a specific license.

### 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  
May 29

Benchmark prices are steady. Asking prices for next week are 33 cents higher for Jumbo, 39 cents higher for Extra Large, 37 cents higher for Large and 35 cents higher for Medium and Small. The under-tone is steady to higher. Offerings are light to moderate, mostly light. Retail demand continues light to moderate with food service movement usually moderate. Supplies are light to moderate. Market activity is moderate to active. Small benchmark price \$2.28.

| Size  | Range | Size        | Range |
|-------|-------|-------------|-------|
| Jumbo | 304   | Extra large | 285   |
| Large | 277   | Medium      | 248   |

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

| Size  | Range   | Size        | Range   |
|-------|---------|-------------|---------|
| Jumbo | 296-308 | Extra large | 266-278 |
| Large | 262-271 | Medium      | 228-237 |

### Livestock Auctions

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

**California**  
SHASTA  
(Shasta Livestock Auction)  
Cottonwood, Calif.

| This week    | Last week |
|--------------|-----------|
| Current week | Last week |
| 898          | 2,389     |

Compared to May 22: Slaughter cows and bulls generally steady. No large numbers of feeders in any one weight class. Market softer than last week's special sale. Off lots and singles \$30-\$70 below top offerings.

Slaughter cows: Breakers \$103-109, \$110-120 high dress; Boning \$95-102.

Bulls 1 and 2: \$110-135; \$135-145 high dress. Feeder steers: 450-500 lbs. \$87.50; 550-600 lbs. \$230.00-250.00; 600-650 lbs. \$217.00-237.00; 650-700 lbs. \$215.00-237.00; 700-750 lbs. \$210.00-225.50; 750-800 lbs. \$200.00-225.00; 800-900 lbs. \$193.00-203.00.

Feeder heifers: 450-500 lbs. \$235.00-250.00; 500-550 lbs. \$255.00; 550-600 lbs. \$200.00-223.00; 650-700 lbs. \$195.00-212.00; 700-750 lbs. \$185.00-201.00; 750-800 lbs. \$180.00-189.50; 800-900 lbs. \$182.00-185.75.

Calvy cows: Full-mouth \$1900-2200; Broken-mouth butcher price \$1650.

**Washington**  
TOPPENISH  
(Toppenish Livestock Auction)  
(USDA Market News)  
Moses Lake, Wash.

| This week | Last week | Last year |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1,250     | 1,300     | 1,360     |

Compared to May 22 at the same market. Not enough stocker or feeder cattle this holiday shortened week for accurate trends. Trade active with very good demand. Slaughter cows steady to 3% lower. Slaughter bulls \$5-6 higher. Trade active with good demand. Slaughter cows 21 percent, Slaughter bulls 5 percent, and feeders 24 percent of the supply. The feeder supply included 34 percent steers and 66 percent heifers. Near 63 percent of the run weighed over 600 lbs. Replacement Cows: Pre-feeder for pregnancy, and age.

Feeder Steers: Medium and Large 1-2: 300-400 lbs. \$317.50; 500-600 lbs. \$252.50; 800-900 lbs. \$195.50; Medium and Large 2-3: 600-700 lbs. \$183; Small and Medium 1-2: 400-500 lbs. \$250; 600-700 lbs. \$215-233; Small and Medium 4: 600-700 lbs. \$180.

Feeder Holstein Steers: Large 2-3: 600-700 lbs. \$200; 900-1000 lbs. \$169.

Feeder Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2: 400-500

**Oregon**  
VALE  
(Producers Livestock Market)  
May 27

Total receipts: 542 head.

Comments: Butcher cow and bull market steady to strong.

Steer calves: 300-400 lbs. \$257-284; 400-500 lbs. \$264-297; 500-600 lbs. \$245-273.

Heifer calves: 300-400 lbs. \$237-258; 400-500 lbs. \$232-247; 500-600 lbs. \$228-247.

Yearling steers: 600-700 lbs. \$226-240; 700-800 lbs. \$207-221.

Yearling heifers: 600-700 lbs. \$210-224.

Butcher cows: \$96-110.

Thin shelly cows: \$84-94.

Younger heiferettes: \$122-139.

Butcher bulls: \$126-141.

**EUGENE**  
(Eugene Livestock Auction)  
Junction City, Ore.

May 30

Total head count: 518.

Market conditions compared to last week: Cows and bulls steady; feeders steady.

Cows: Top cows high dressers: \$109-118.50, low dressers: \$90-108.50; 100 to \$112.55.

Top bulls high dressers \$120-146. Feeder Bulls: 300-500 lbs. \$151-155; 500-700 lbs. \$125-195; 700-900 lbs. \$127.50-166.

Choice steers: medium to large frame No. 1 and No. 2: 300-400 lbs. \$260-293; 400-500 lbs. \$200-259; 500-600 lbs. \$200-251; 600-700 lbs. \$200-226; 700-800 lbs. \$200-225; 800-900 lbs. \$180-192.50.

### Cattle Market Reports

Compiled by USDA Market News Service • Oklahoma City-