

ALFALFA HAY

2006

Year-to-date cumulative

California

MARKET SUMMARY

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Hay Quality Guidelines for Nationwide Market News Reporting

Livestock and Grain Market News branch has revised the hay quality guidelines for use in the nationwide Market News reporting program. These revised guidelines establish specific objective measurements of value attributes for each quality category of Alfalfa hay. The revised guidelines include all parameters commonly used to measure hay quality and also have all parameters in proper relationship to each other.

Nationwide uniformity of price information is the goal of revising these guidelines for quality designations. It is important for hay buyers in any part of the United States to be able to read any of USDA's hay reports and know the hay prices quoted are consistent from area to area for quality. So that producers and buyers from different areas, can be talking about hay in the report and feel confident they are talking about the same quality.

Market News reporters from several states formed the task force that collected information and input from hay and forage industry representatives, that information was used to form the revised quality designations and parameters numbers associated with each of the quality designations. USDA and State Departments of Agriculture market news reporters will be using the revised guidelines in market reporting across the country.

The following are the revised national hay guidelines on Alfalfa. Guidelines are also included for Grass Hay. Reporters will be using test parameter(s) prominent in their trade area, **visual characteristics**, as well as the **intent of sale (usage)** to determine hay quality.

Table 1: Alfalfa guidelines (for domestic livestock use and not more than 10% grass)

Quality	ADF	NDF	*RFV	**TDN-100%	**TDN-90%	CP
Supreme	<27	<34	>185	>62	>55.9	>22
Premium	27-29	34-36	170-185	60.5-62	54.5-55.9	20-22
Good	29-32	36-40	150-170	58-60	52.5-54.5	18-20
Fair	32-35	40-44	130-150	56-58	50.5-52.5	16-18
Utility	>35	>44	<130	<56	<50.5	<16

*RFV calculated using the Wis/Minn formula. **TDN calculated using the western formula. Quantitative factors are approximate, and many factors can affect feeding value. Values based on 100 % dry matter (TDN showing both 100% & 90%). Guidelines are to be used with visual appearance and intent of sale (usage).

Table 2: Grass Hay guidelines

Quality	Crude Protein Percent
Premium	Over 13
Good	9-13
Fair	5-9
Utility	Under 5

Quantitative factors are approximate, and many factors can affect feeding value. Values based on 100% dry matter.

End usage may influence hay price or value more than testing results.

Hay Quality Designation's physical descriptions:

Supreme: Very early maturity, pre bloom, soft fine stemmed, extra leafy. Factors indicative of very high nutritive content. Hay is excellent color and free of damage.

Premium: Early maturity, i.e., pre-bloom in legumes and pre head in grass hays, extra leafy and fine stemmed-factors indicative of a high nutritive content. Hay is green and free of damage.

Good: Early to average maturity, i.e., early to mid-bloom in legumes and early head in grass hays, leafy, fine to medium stemmed, free of damage other than slight discoloration.

Fair: Late maturity, i.e., mid to late-bloom in legumes, head-in grass hays, moderate or below leaf content, and generally coarse stemmed. Hay may show light damage.

Utility: Hay in very late maturity, such as mature seed pods in legumes or mature head in grass hays, coarse stemmed. This category could include hay discounted due to excessive damage and heavy weed content or mold. Defects will be identified in market reports when using this category.

CALIFORNIA – Inbound Hay and Cubes by County and State - January – December 2006

Nevada BALES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Alameda	6	8											14
Butte	183	25	25										233
Chino													0
Colusa				21									21
Contra Costa													0
Del Norte			25	25									50
El Dorado		26	38										64
Fresno	507	274	387	226	103								1,497
Glenn	77	52											129
Imperial	49	18	25										92
Inyo	76	25	25	25									151
Kern	2,593	1,088	1,010	358	578								5,627
Kings	1,564	772	449	381	320								3,486
Lassen	68	46	21	94	36								265
Los Angeles	286	77	65	24	197								649
Madera	280	97	256	400	97								1,130
Marin	101	53		76	76								306
Mariposa		24		142									166
Mendocino													0
Merced	5,264	4,192	4,246	4,381	2,796								20,879
Modoc			13										13
Modesto													0
Mono													0
Monterey	239	80	50	27									396
Napa													0
Nevada	12	172	53	125	150								512
Orange			26										26
Placer	366	317	332	501	583								2,099
Plumes	19	115	41	2	36								213
Riverside	191	147	47		236								621

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CALIFORNIA – Inbound Hay and Cubes by County and State - January – December 2006

Oregon BALES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS
Alameda				25									25
Butte	315	328	182	387	289								1,501
Calaveras		25		103									128
Contra Costa													0
Del Norte	181		25	52	73								331
El Dorado	25	27											52
Fresno	288	104	104	178	155								829
Glenn	973	786		828	363								2,950
Humboldt	786	364		482	100								1,732
Inyo													0
Kern	25	52		52									129
Kings	79	74		154	128								435
Lake					26								26
Lassen		25		25									50
Los Angeles					51								51
Madera	50												50
Marin	205	182		181	52								620
Mendocino				54									54
Merced	541	379		131	154								1,205
Modesto	26												26
Modoc		24		10									34

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EXPORTS OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE BY COMMODITY (S Tons = Short Tons)

2006

ALFALFA & OTHER HAY

From California Ports

From Oregon-Washington Ports

	Japan	S Tons	Other Countries	S Tons	Japan	S Tons	Other Countries	S Tons	TOTAL
January	62,819	69,245	19,718	21,735	109,874	121,114	36,425	40,151	252,246
February	49,790	54,884	20,074	22,128	113,466	125,074	42,491	46,838	248,922
March	56,084	61,821	16,953	18,687	120,048	132,329	55,026	60,655	273,493
April	48,038	52,952	11,076	12,209	114,769	126,510	46,129	50,848	242,519
May		0		0		0		0	0
June		0		0		0		0	0
July		0		0		0		0	0
August		0		0		0		0	0
September		0		0		0		0	0
October		0		0		0		0	0
November		0		0		0		0	0
December		0		0		0		0	0
Cumulative	216,731	238,903	67,821	74,759	458,157	505,026	180,071	198,492	1,017,180

Source: United States Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Census Note: Cummulative totals may not be exact due to rounding.

2006 year-to-date Exports – Quantities in Short Tons			
ALFALFA & OTHER HAY			
From California Ports			
	JAPAN	OTHER COUNTRIES	TOTAL
JAN	69,245	21,735	90,981
FEB	54,884	22,128	77,011
MAR	61,821	18,687	80,509
APR	52,952	12,209	65,161
MAY	0	0	0
JUN	0	0	0
JUL	0	0	0
AUG	0	0	0
SEP	0	0	0
OCT	0	0	0
NOV	0	0	0
DEC	0	0	0
From Washington & Oregon Ports			
JAN	121,114	40,151	161,265
FEB	125,074	46,838	171,911
MAR	132,329	60,655	192,984
APR	126,510	50,848	177,358
MAY	0	0	0
JUN	0	0	0
JUL	0	0	0
AUG	0	0	0
SEP	0	0	0
OCT	0	0	0
NOV	0	0	0
DEC	0	0	0
CUMULATIVE	743,929	273,251	1,017,180
US Dept. of Commerce; Cumulative totals may not be exact due to rounding.			

Combined Hay & Cubes Cummulative (Short Tons)	
January	252,246
February	248,922
March	273,493
April	242,519
May	0
June	0
July	0
August	0
September	0
October	0
November	0
December	0
Annual Total	1,017,180

Check sum
1,017,180