

North Coast

Supplementary Feed Options November 2023

Most **protein meals** remain limited in supply. For most in the far north coast the best option currently due to availability and price is Palm Kernel Meal, its available in bulk loads or through some retailers in bulk bags.

Bulk loads are far more cost effective, but bulk bags are working out very competitive vs other protein and energy supplement options for those who can't handle a full semi or B-double.

There is big variability in cost between suppliers of bulk bags of Palm Kernel Meal so shop around.

Molasses + Urea based protein supplements have hit an unfortunate hiccup in ongoing supply, there is reduced supply due to low molasses availability. High demand for these products and the role molasses has in other feed rations means suppliers are doing their best to ensure they can cover a full range of products, but as these products use proportionally more molasses the belt has tightened. Plan ahead, discuss with your supplier.

Urea Dry licks are still very competitive in comparison to protein meals price wise based on daily consumption rates per head, but they also have their limitations for high demand animals such as weaners and lactating cows that may have fallen into a low body condition score.

Basically, they are best for maintaining low demand animals (dry cows/ heifers) that are in reasonable to good condition and have plenty of paddock feed or hay/silage available.

Supply for these is also limited as far as there is delay in supply so plan ahead and discuss with your supplier.

New season hay be it Cereal, Vetch, Canola or Lucerne are beginning to flow into the market, which is pleasing to see, quality for these products is generally much better than last year but be aware there is still a huge range in quality being seen and there is still a significant amount of last year's product in the system, so request a feed test.

Local Land Services

Good seasonal conditions in the south of the state and in Victoria is seeing a replenishment of many products assisting in keeping prices more stable for now.

However, exporters are offering premiums for new season cereal hay and the ongoing dry conditions in northern NSW and parts of central and southern QLD will keep a floor in the hay market for the short term as demand for quality fodder is remaining high and there is limited local supply.

Freight remains the most significant factor to contributing to the cost of product landed to our region.

Cereal grains have all remained steady over the last month as harvest commences and southern crop prospects look generally good.

This list is intended only as a guide, it is not an exhaustive list, variation in pricing is likely and can depend on many factors, in particular quality and freight distance so be sure to contact your preferred feed supplier to determine actual price and availability relative to your circumstances.

For more information

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Contact your nearest Local Land Services office on 1300 795 299 or visit our website www.lls.nsw.gov.au

Local Land Services

Commodity	Availability	Price Range (ex GST)	Comments on Change from last update	General Comments Please read as comments for some products relate to freight impact on pricing
Cotton Seed Meal	Very Limited to none Small quantities around in 20kg/bags	20kg bags \$1220/t	No change	Demand is presently greater than supply for bulk, most consumed by large volume users such as feed mills/ feedlots etc Not likely to change short term for the remainder of 2023. In 20kg bags its working out too expensive compared to other options for beef cattle.
Whole White Cotton Seed	Very Limited to none	\$600 – 620+/ton	No Change Some spot loads but very few and far between	Really restricted to producers who can handle a bulk load. <u>Price includes freight to Casino.</u>
Canola Meal	Ok - Limited	\$635- \$650/ton	+/- \$15 while old crop meal is still available, depends on supplier. Some traders suggesting a rise of \$50/t for new crop canola meal from December if dry continues	<u>Price Includes freight in Bulk to Casino</u> , Bulk Bags dearer.
Soybean Meal	ok	\$930-960/ton	+\$10/t	<u>Price Includes freight in Bulk to Casino</u> , Very expensive for beef cattle, Protein level high often >47%CP. High rumen degradability meaning usually need to feed daily – seek advice.
Palm Kernel Meal (PKE)	Ok for time being	\$500- \$550/ton in bulk load \$600/T in bulk bags – shop around	No Change	<u>Price Includes Freight in Bulk to Casino</u> Good energy and protein source 11MJ/ME and 15%CP on average. Slightly unpalatable and can require mixing with a small amount of grain. High in oil and fiber. Avoid getting it wet as it can become rancid. Seek advice if you haven't used this before
Molasses	Limited	\$450/ton in 1 ton module	On going supply could be an issue	Smaller quantities may be available but check pricing.
Liquid supplements (Molasses + Protein)	Limited	\$ 0.68 to 0.85 kg or for products that sell by the liter \$1.20L	Supply becoming limited. molasses is the issue	Various trade names with different mixtures, contact supplier for exact pricing and freight costs. Check individual products 1L often weighs about 1.4kg
Loose Licks (Protein based)	Limited	\$1600/ton 25kg bags	Delays in supply so order ahead	Check urea content and remember that urea supplements are only of benefit if there is adequate fibre present as either paddock feed or provided as hay or silage

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Commodity	Availability	Price Range (ex GST)	Comments on Change from last update	General Comments Please read as comments for some products relate to freight impact on pricing
Lick Blocks (Protein Blocks)	Limited	40kg - \$85 100kg - \$200	Delays in supply so order ahead	Smaller blocks more expensive per kg.
Feed Lot meal/pellets	Good	\$620 to 680+/ton	+\$20-\$50/t depends on the supplier, mainly reflecting increase in raw grains over recent months	Price is Bulk load minimum 2T. Higher in smaller quantities. Various rations around. Contact supplier.
Whole Barley	ok	\$470-\$485/ton	No Change	Price includes freight in Bulk load to <u>Lismore/Casino</u> . Freight distance will impact price.
Sorghum	Hard to get	\$465/ton	No Change	Price includes freight in Bulk load to <u>Lismore/Casino</u> . Freight distance will impact price. Most sorghum is at this stage going to export.
Wheat	ok	\$485-\$495/ton	No Change	Price includes freight in Bulk load to <u>Lismore/Casino</u> . Freight distance will impact price
Maize	Becoming limited	\$495/ton	No change	Price includes freight in Bulk load to <u>Lismore/Casino</u> . Freight distance will impact price.
Cereal Hay	ok	\$540-600/ton	+20/t Increasing demand lifting prices	Price includes freight via B-double to <u>Casino/Lismore</u> . Good quality is hard to find. Request feed test.
Canola Hay	ok	\$600/ton (600kg 8x4x3 bale = \$355)	+40/t	Price Includes Freight to <u>Casino/Grafton</u> . Quality is variable but average quality 8-9ME/kg DM, 12-17%CP & NDF 40-50% Introduce gradually and consider testing for nitrate levels. Seek Advice if you haven't used this before
Vetch Hay	ok	\$600-650/ton	Added this update, there is some cheaper vetch around possibly poor-quality weather damaged product from last season GET a feed test!	Price Includes Freight via B-double to <u>Casino/Lismore</u> . Freight distance to the north coast adds to price variability. Example of good quality 11ME/kg DM, 24%CP & NDF 40% Example of poor quality 4ME/kg DM, 16%CP & NDF 62%
Lucerne Hay	ok	\$590-640/ton	+\$20/t on some quotes Increasing demand lifting prices	Price Includes Freight via B-double to <u>Casino/Lismore</u> . Freight distance to the north coast adds to price variability.
Cereal Straw "Stubble"	ok	\$150 – 220+/ton	Some traders beginning to capitalize on increasing demand for fodder and prices lifting	Plus, freight costs to the north coast which adds to price variability. This is only a fibre source it will require additional energy and protein supplements thus adding to feed costs

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Commodity	Availability	Price Range (ex GST)	Comments on Change from last update	General Comments Please read as comments for some products relate to freight impact on pricing
Sorghum Hay	Very Limited	\$295 – 320/ton	No Change	Plus freight costs to the north coast which adds to price variability. Quality is the big variable factor. Ensure it isn't sorghum stubble being offered.
Tropical Pasture grass Hay	Declining	\$70- 150+/ 4x4 bale	Local supplies beginning to decline	Quality is the big variable factor; The cheaper it is chances are the quality will be lower therefore may need additional supplements
Silage various options	Good	\$100-250+/ 4x4 bale	Huge range in price being seen, mixture of silage worthy crops and failed crops	Quality is the point to consider and don't forget the dry matter issue, 4x4 round bales typically 45% dry matter which means 55% is water so a 500kg silage bale only has 225kg of feed in it, so calculate how much feed you're buying.
Rice Hay / Straw	Limited	\$158-180/ 8x4x3 large square \$70-90/ 4x4 round bale	No change	Quality is the big variable factor. Some contains grain as it failed to warrant harvest, other is just straw after grain harvest Range being seen this season 6 – 8ME/kg DM, 4-10%CP, NDF 55-70% The cheaper it is chances are the quality will be lower therefore may need additional supplements
Sugar Cane tops (Hay)	ok	\$60-90 / 4X4 bale	No change	Quality is the big variable factor; it is a fibre source and will require additional supplements for production. Range being seen this season 6-8ME/kg DM, 4 – 7%CP, NDF68%+