

Supplementary Feed Options Update 27-02-2019

Many beef producers are now beginning to shift from supplementary feeding to a more full feeding program therefore requiring a fibre source such as hay or silage, to account for decreased pasture availability.

Hay and Silage can still be sourced. How far and wide do you want to look and most importantly freight it, is the question to ask yourself? Prices listed below for hay as much as possible have accounted for freight via semi or B-double loads from southern states to Casino district. Variations in pricing will occur with freight and due to product quality.

Freight rebates for fodder are still available via the NSW Rural Assistance Authority for eligible primary producers follow the link below for more information

<https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/grants/transport-subsidy-emergency-drought-relief>

Hay growers and suppliers are doing their best to find product in a depleted market. If considering purchasing large quantities request a feed quality test as this is the only informed way you can be sure if the product is going to be cost effective or not within your business. Low quality hay or silage is often going to require additional energy and protein to ensure cattle rumen function and intakes remain adequate.

As in the last update speak with your Livestock Agent to determine current value of cattle and potential market options to ensure supplementary feed is being used as efficiently as possible.

Below is the updated list with a current trading price range and availability.

This list is intended only as a guide, so be sure to contact your preferred feed supplier to determine actual price and availability relative to your circumstances.

Commodity	Availability	Price Range (ex GST)	Comments on Change from last update	General Comments
Cotton Seed Meal	Very Limited, to Not Available	\$650-700/tonne	NO Change	Demand is presently greater than supply Not likely to change until the cotton harvest kicks off later in the year
Whole White Cotton Seed	Very Limited to Not Available	\$650-750/tonne	+\$10 per tonne if you can find it	Really restricted to producers who can handle a bulk load. Price includes freight to Casino. Some Bulk Bags are around but very limited

Canola Meal	Limited	\$600 - 640/tonne	+\$40/t limited still as a lot of canola crops were frosted in the south and didn't make grain	Price Includes freight Casino, Bulk Bags dearer.
Soybean Meal	Available	\$880 – 950/tonne	Available	Very expensive for beef cattle, Protein level high often >47%CP. High rumen degradability meaning usually need to feed more frequently compared to cottonseed meal, - seek advice.
Palm Kernel Meal (PKE)	Available	\$380 - 450/tonne	Price cheaper if you can handle bulk loads, becomes dearer if purchasing in 1000kg bags	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 fibre. Avoid getting it wet as it can become rancid. Seek advice if you haven't used this before
Molasses	Very Limited to Not Available		Removed Pricing in this update due to huge variations in price between suppliers because Imported molasses is beginning to be used in some places to fill contracts	Smaller quantities may be available but check pricing.
Liquid supplements (Molasses + Protein)	OK at present	\$0.65 – 0.90/Litre	Holding but + \$0.05/kg this is reflecting the decline in molasses availability	Various trade names with different mixtures, contact supplier for exact pricing and freight costs
Loose Licks (protein based)	Limited	\$800- 1,200/tonne	Most have adjusted mixes and have included more urea to compensate for less protein meal	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
Lick Blocks (Protein Blocks)	Becoming Limited	\$120-140/ 100kg block	Lack of adequate protein meal supplies is now impacting supply	Smaller blocks more expensive per kg.
Feed Lot meal/pellets	Good at Present	\$520-560/tonne	Holding	Price is Bulk load. Higher in smaller quantities. Various rations around. Contact supplier.
Whole Barley	Ok	\$415-440/tonne	Local supplies could be cheaper due to reduced freight but most is coming from out of region	Price includes freight in Bulk load to Lismore/Casino. Freight distance will impact price.
Sorghum	Ok	\$360-400/tonne	Seasonal conditions will guide price as the harvest commences	Price includes freight in Bulk load to Lismore/Casino. Freight distance will impact price.
Wheat	Ok likely to begin to decrease	\$415 - 440/tonne	Local supplies could be cheaper due to reduced freight but most is coming from out of region	Price includes freight in Bulk load to Lismore/Casino. Freight distance will impact price.
Maize	Becoming Limited	\$590-605/tonne	Limited and not likely to see much change until harvest kicks off but lower than usual planting and high grain demand likely to hold price up	Price includes freight in Bulk load to Lismore/Casino. Freight distance will impact price. Not much left locally.
Cereal Hay	Variable	\$480-530/ tonne	Good quality in Large square bales, but price is	Freight distance is the killer for the best quality in big squares from down south.

			rising so confirm with your supplier local supply more or less gone	
Canola Hay	Variable to good if you put in orders	\$480-530/tonne	Majority is coming from southern NSW, VIC or SA. Made from failed crops. Majority is in Large square bales	Freight distance is the killer and most want to sell by the semi or B-Double load. Quality is variable but average quality 8-9ME/kg DM, 12-14%CP & NDF 40-50% so in the current season good nutritionally. Introduce gradually and consider testing for nitrate levels. Seek Advice if you haven't used this before
Lucerne Hay	Variable to good if you put in orders	\$650-750/tonne	Majority is coming from southern NSW, VIC or SA and is in large square bales. Smaller Square bales still around not very practical for large herds	Freight distance is the killer and most want to sell by the semi or B-Double load
Cereal Straw "Stubble"	Good	\$350 +/-tonne	Majority is coming from southern NSW, VIC or SA. Made from failed crops. Majority is in Large square bales	This is only a fibre source it will require additional energy and protein supplements thus adding to feed costs
Sorghum Hay	Variable to good if you put in orders	\$150-170/ 4 x 4 bale or if sourcing form west \$450-480/tonne in big squares	Consider freight distance with most coming from western areas.	Watch for risk of Nitrate and/or Prussic acid poisoning risk from crops bales under drought stressed conditions. These can be tested for via a feed sample, suggest testing prior to purchase if buying from out of the area
Tropical Pasture grass Hay	Limited Locally	\$90 x145/ 4x4bale	Supplies & Quality of product declining. Mixture of grass species within product and being traded	Quality is the big variable factor, cheaper it is chances are the quality will be lower therefore may need additional supplements
Silage various options	Limited Locally	\$100-150/ 4x4bale	Supplies & Quality of product declining. Mixture of grass species within product and being traded	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 your buying.
Sugar Cane Billets	Variable -Ok	\$55/T	Only added this update	These are stalks of cane about 30cm long. Protein typically low and high in fibre for grazing cattle. Consider the physical limitation of cattle having to chew such stalks. Really require further on farm processing to increase intakes.

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