

26 June 2023

Supplementary Feed Options Update July 2023

A dryer than normal autumn across the far north coast with some very patchy rainfall means there is considerable variability across our region and producers plans for feed supply through winter are incredibly different.

Some lucky enough to have caught follow-up rainfall since planting winter forages are now grazing them, others that missed the rain have winter forages at variable slow growth stages reflecting moisture stress. Most of the region are still grazing reasonable summer grasses with many beginning to increase the use of protein supplements to help cattle maintain intakes as pasture quality declines. Some parts of our region are already introducing hay or silage as they are short on paddock feed. The point here is just because you hear someone is feeding something, doesn't mean it will be the most cost-effective decision for your business.

Most protein sources are in limited supply, the right protein supplement for your situation will reflect your ability to handle bulk quantities or not. Pricing reflecting availability and quantity. White cottonseed prices are holding reflecting a lag in the cotton harvest and processing, Cottonseed meal is still seemingly hard to get.

Wheat and Barley have all firmed in price recently as dry conditions in the northwest continue and the winter sowing window begins to close. There is still hope of some barley being planted in coming weeks if rain arrives. Sorghum is being harvested presently in central QLD and it will finish soon, but export demand is consuming a lot of it and lifting prices.

Hay growers and suppliers are doing their best to find quality product following a very ordinary hay making season last year across NSW due to wet conditions. There is a lot of medium to low quality hay and silage on the 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 and this adds cost. Large square bales are the most cost effective to freight over distance.

Commodity	Availability	Price Range (ex GST)	Comments on Change from last update	General Comments
Cotton Seed Meal	Very Limited to none Small quantities around in 20kg/bags	20kg bags \$1220/t		<p>Please read as comments for some products relate to freight impact on pricing</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In 20kg bags its working out too expensive compared to other options for beef cattle.</p>
Whole White Cotton Seed	Limited at present expect more from July	\$510-\$570/ton		Really restricted to producers who can handle a bulk load. <u>Price includes freight to Casino.</u>

Canola Meal	Ok - Limited	\$635/ton		Price Includes freight in Bulk to Casino, Bulk Bags dearer.
Soybean Meal	ok	\$930-950/ton		Price Includes freight in Bulk to Casino, 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)	Limited to none at present ship due in Brisbane early August.	\$485/ton		Price Includes Freight in Bulk to Casino 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	ok	\$450/ton in 1 ton module		Smaller quantities may be available but check pricing.
Liquid supplements (Molasses + Protein)	Good	\$ 0.68 to 0.85 kg or for products that sell by the liter \$1.20L		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)	Good	\$1600/ton 25kg bags		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)	Good	40kg - \$85 100kg - \$200		Smaller blocks more expensive per kg.
Feed Lot meal/pellets	Good	\$550 to 590/ton		Price is Bulk load minimum 2T. Higher in smaller quantities. Various rations around. Contact supplier.
Whole Barley	ok	\$470/ton		Price includes freight in Bulk load to <u>Lismore/Casino</u> . Freight distance will impact price.
Sorghum	Hard to get	\$460/ton		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/ton		Price includes freight in Bulk load to <u>Lismore/Casino</u> . Freight distance will impact price
Maize	ok	\$495/ton		Price includes freight in Bulk load to <u>Lismore/Casino</u> . Freight distance will impact price.
Cereal Hay	ok	\$420 to 568/ton		Price includes freight via B-double to Casino/Lismore. Good quality is hard to find. Request feed test.
Canola Hay	ok	\$568/ton (600kg 8x4x3 bale = \$355)		Price Includes Freight to Casino/Grafton. 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
Lucerne Hay	ok	\$570-600+/ton		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		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

Sorghum Hay	Limited	\$295 - 320/ton		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	Good	\$70- 125/ 4x4 bale		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	\$100-150+/ 4x4 bale		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.
Rice Hay / Straw	Good	\$158-180/ 8x4x3 large square \$70-90/ 4x4 round bale		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

Nathan Jennings Senior Land Services Officer Livestock

0437083147

© State of New South Wales through Regional NSW 2023. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing July 2023. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Regional NSW or the user's independent adviser.