

Forage production and hay prices in 2026



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Reminder: Forage production and market trends are regional.

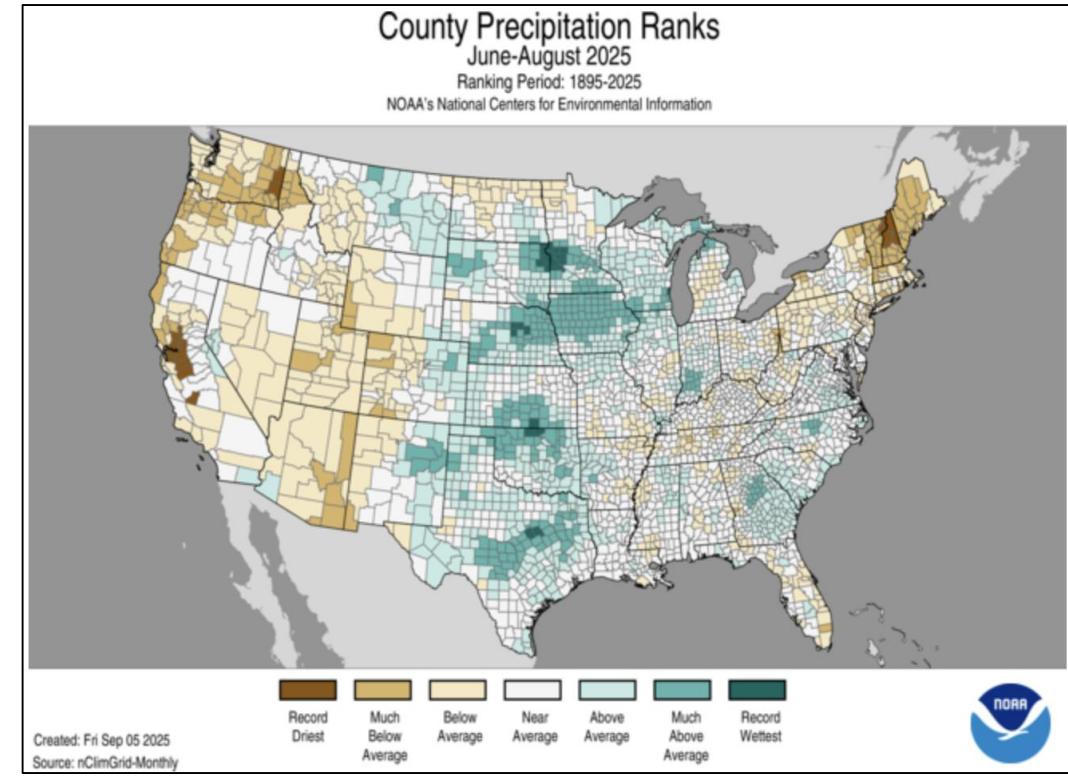
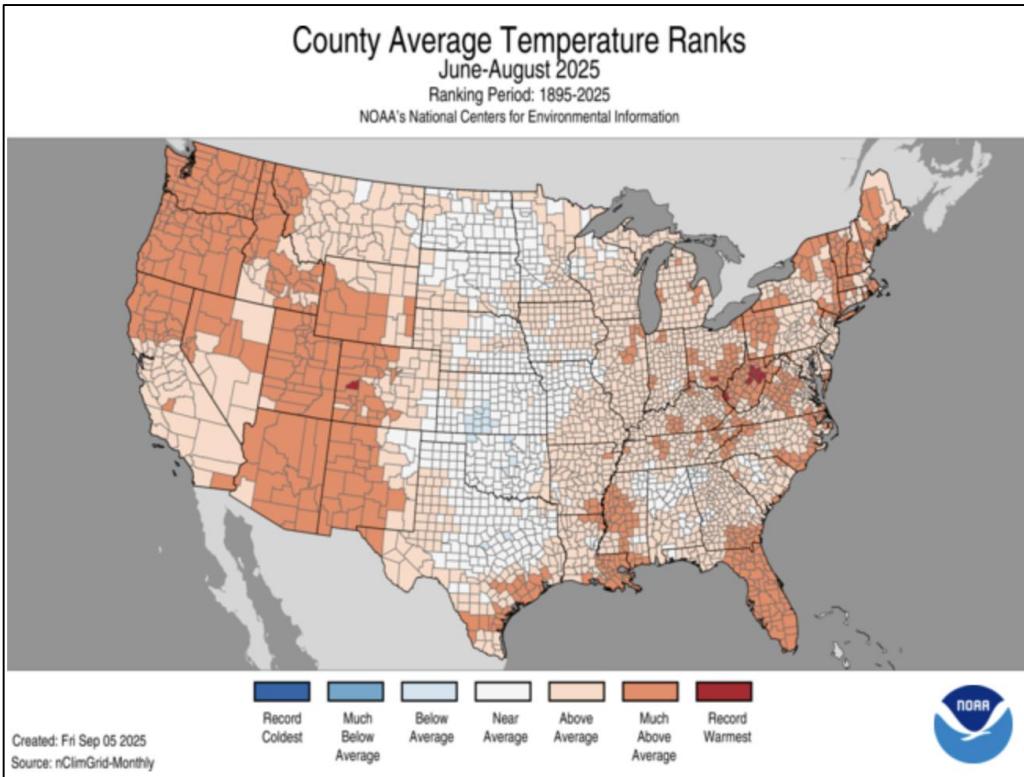


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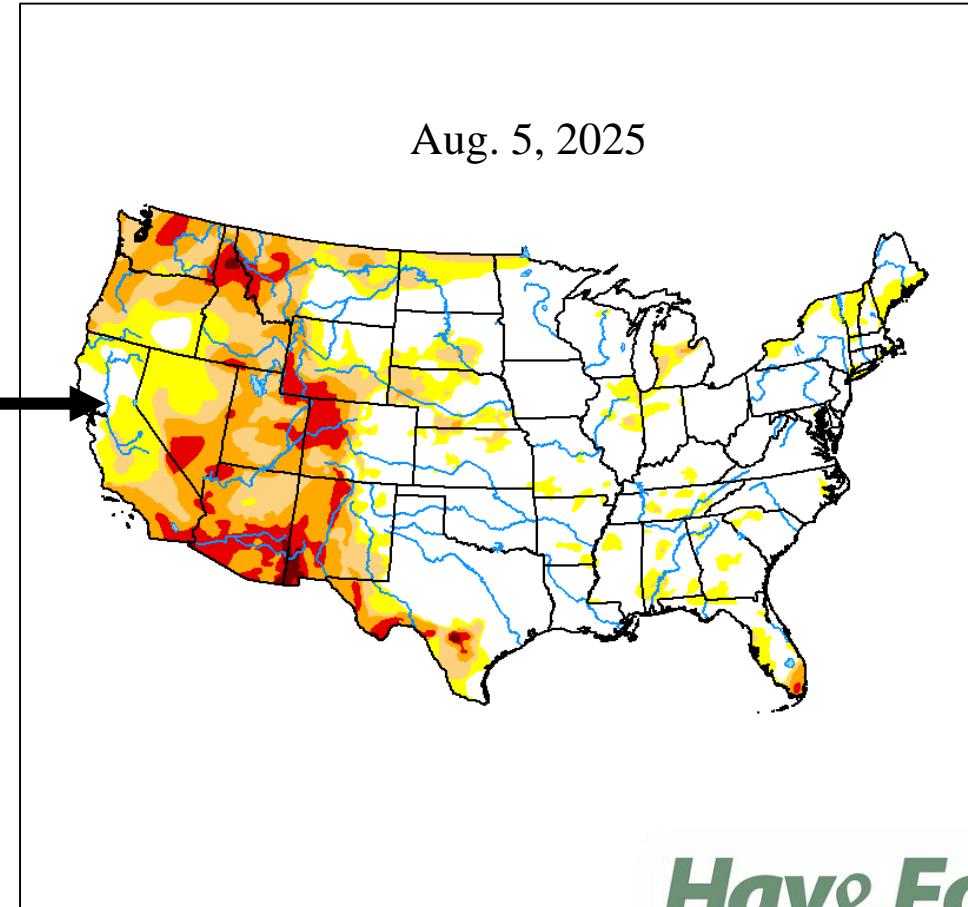
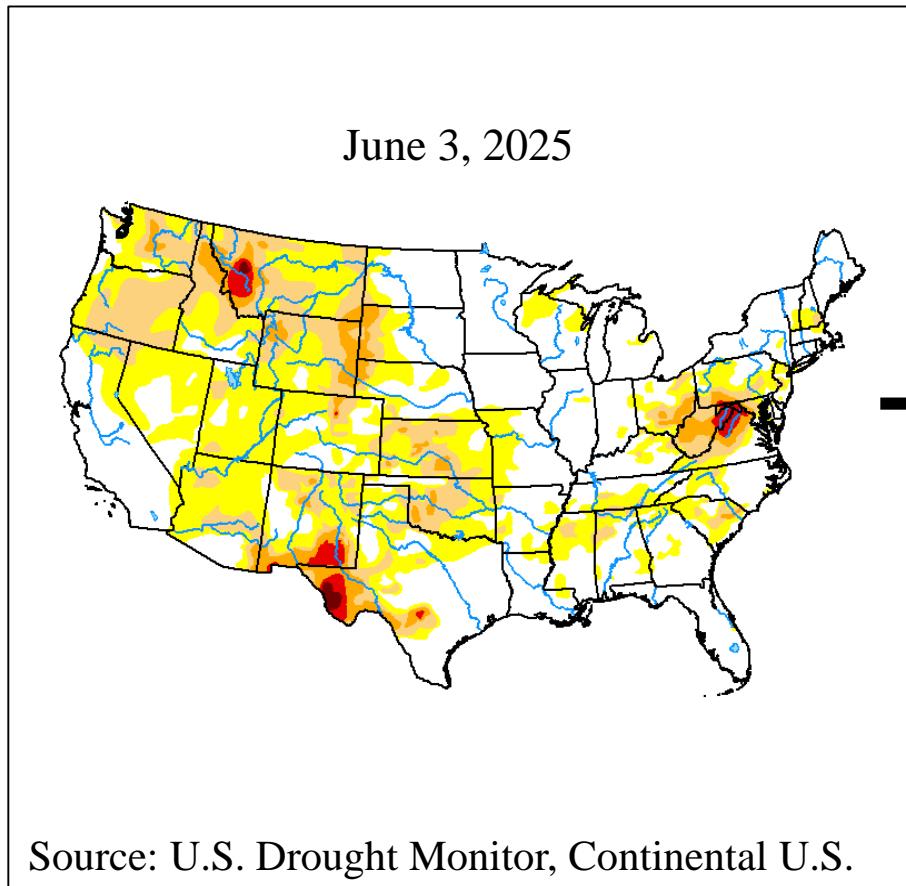
What have we been dealing with?

- A lot of early season rainfall (sometimes in excess)
- Dry late summer and fall
- Low commodity feed prices
- Beef prices remain high, herd numbers are low
- More dairy cows, lower milk prices
- Total forage production, hay stocks to be announced

Temperature and precipitation

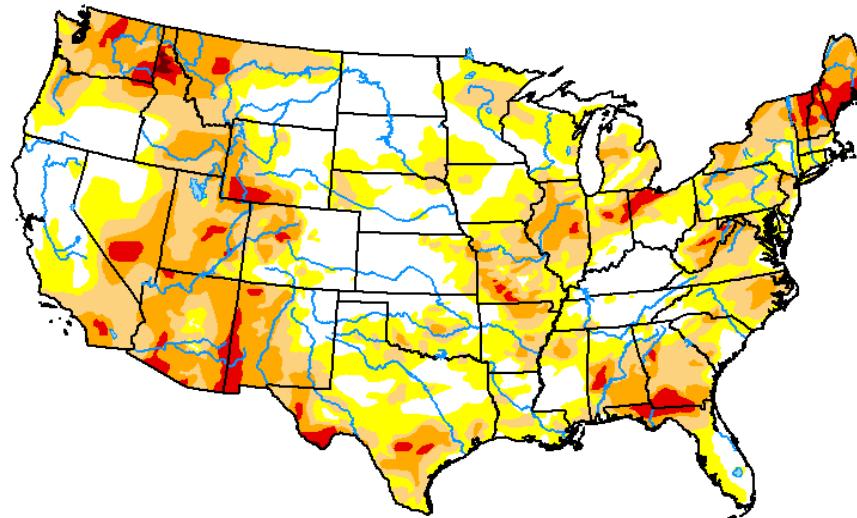


Drought impacts



Drought impacts

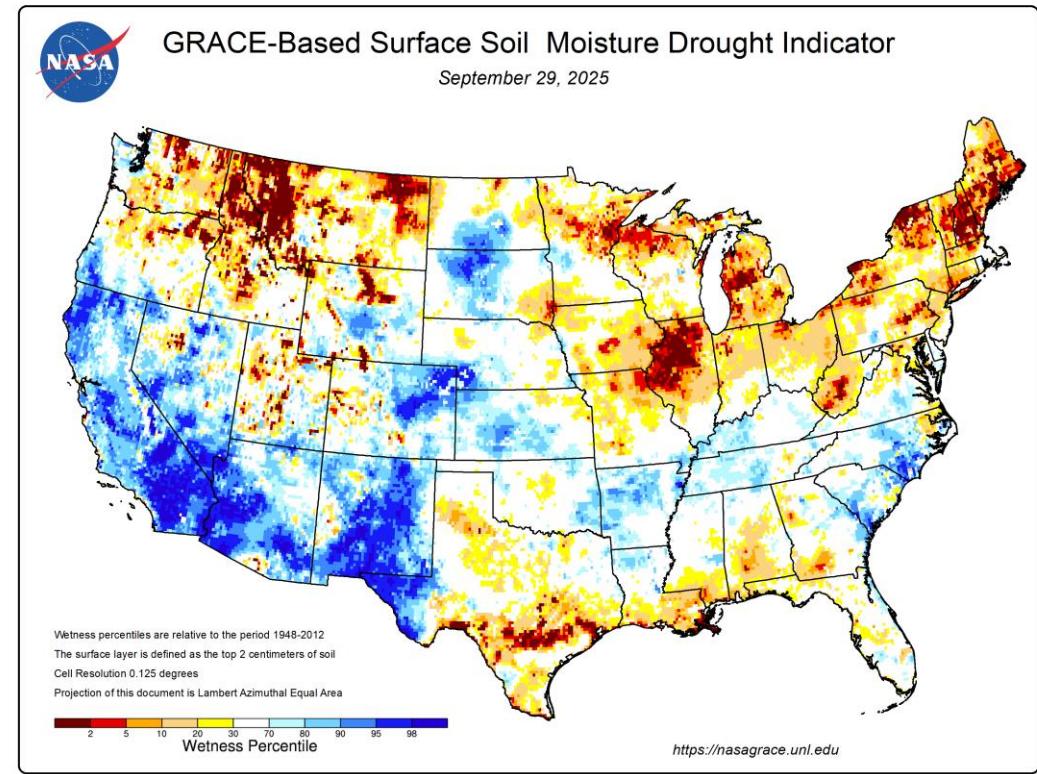
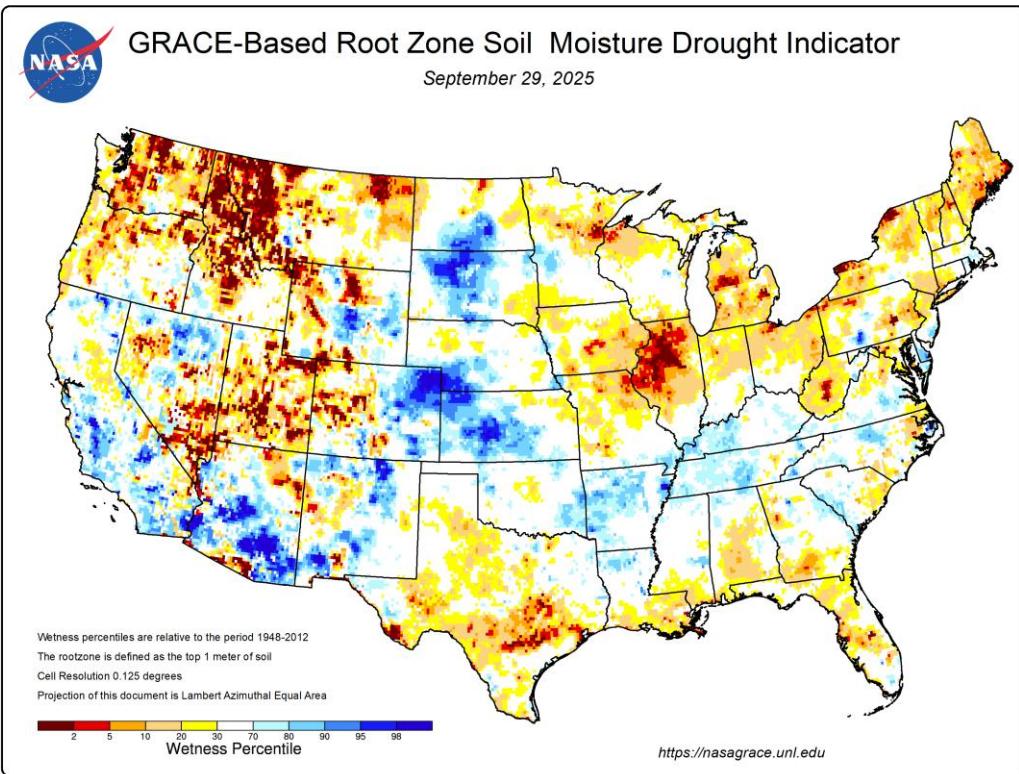
October 30, 2025



Source: U.S. Drought Monitor, Continental U.S.

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Soil moisture conditions



Corn planting conditions

State	Week ending			2020-2024 Average
	May 11, 2024	May 4, 2025	May 11, 2025	
Colorado	30	37	53	38
Illinois	41	32	54	60
Indiana	34	26	45	42
Iowa	56	49	76	69
Kansas	60	50	61	57
Kentucky	56	40	52	63
Michigan	25	23	42	31
Minnesota	54	44	75	61
Missouri	71	54	68	71
Nebraska	52	50	73	65
North Carolina	94	73	86	92
North Dakota	20	17	41	16
Ohio	35	22	25	27
Pennsylvania	28	15	32	25
South Dakota	30	39	69	43
Tennessee	72	61	76	75
Texas	79	78	84	81
Wisconsin	37	16	44	40
18 States	47	40	62	56

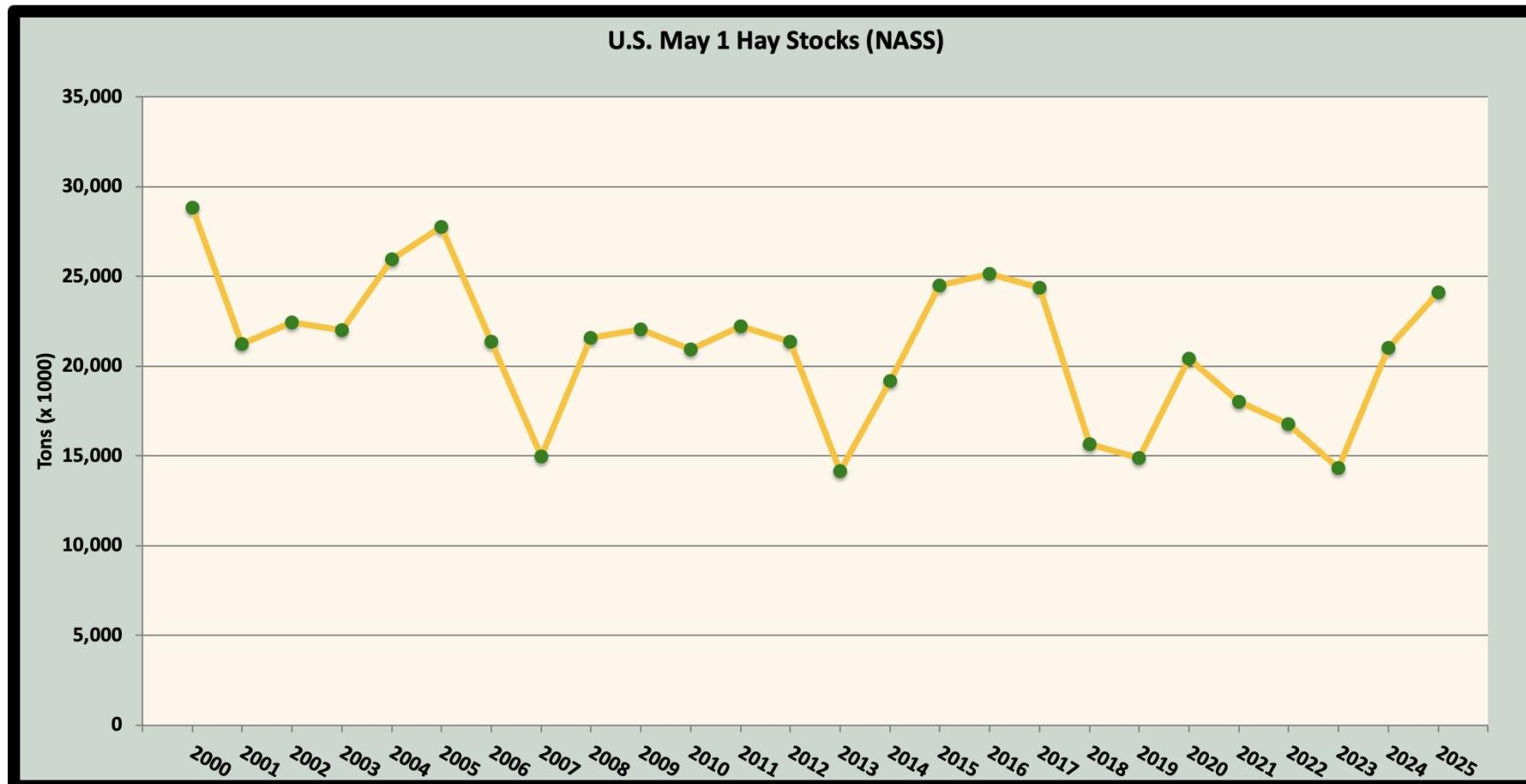
Source: USDA-NASS Crop Progress Report, May 12, 2025

Corn silage harvest

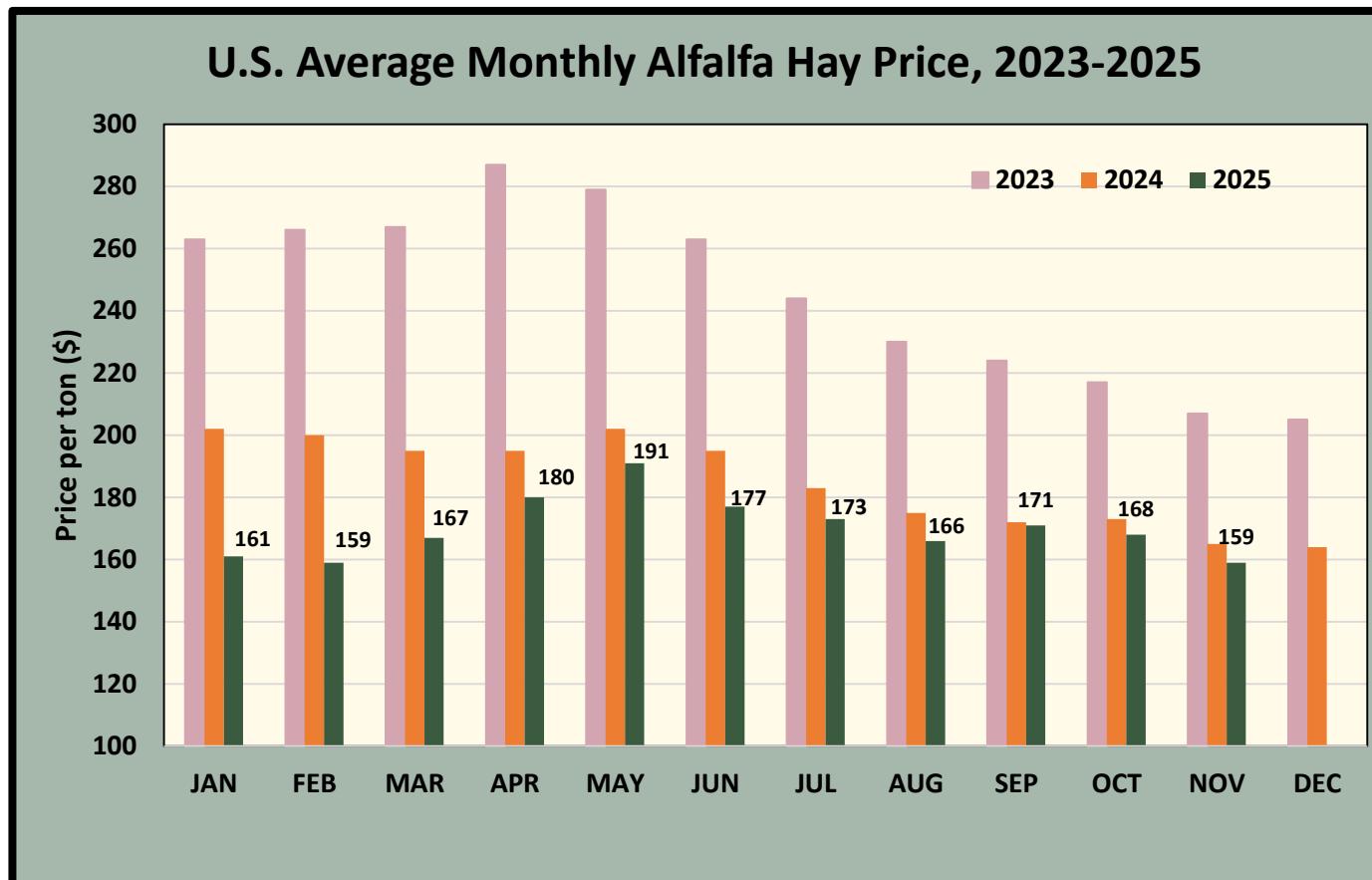
- Dry harvest conditions
- Drought and heat stress
- High disease pressure



May 1, 2025, hay stocks were up 15%



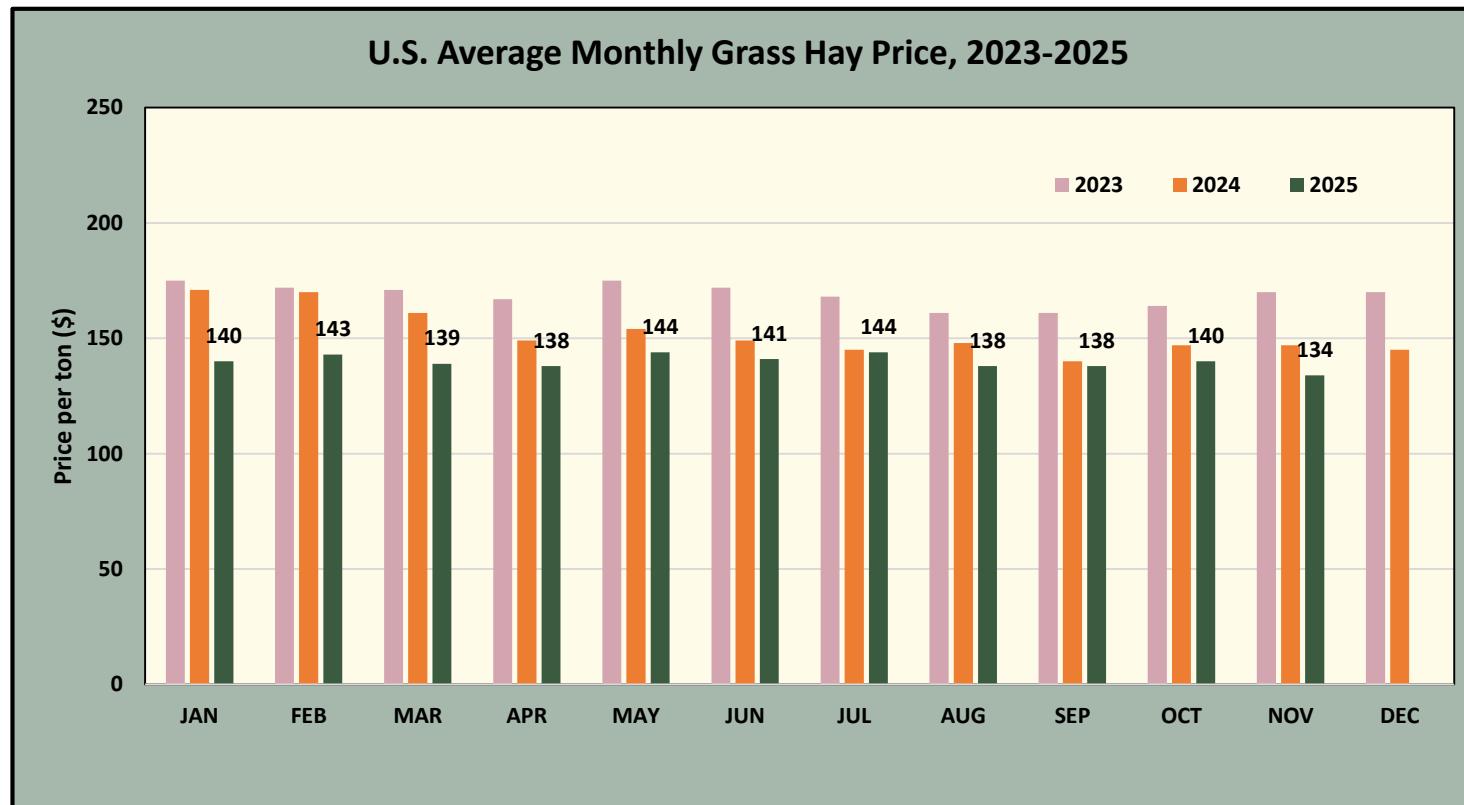
Monthly alfalfa hay prices



Mean of all quality types, weighted by volume

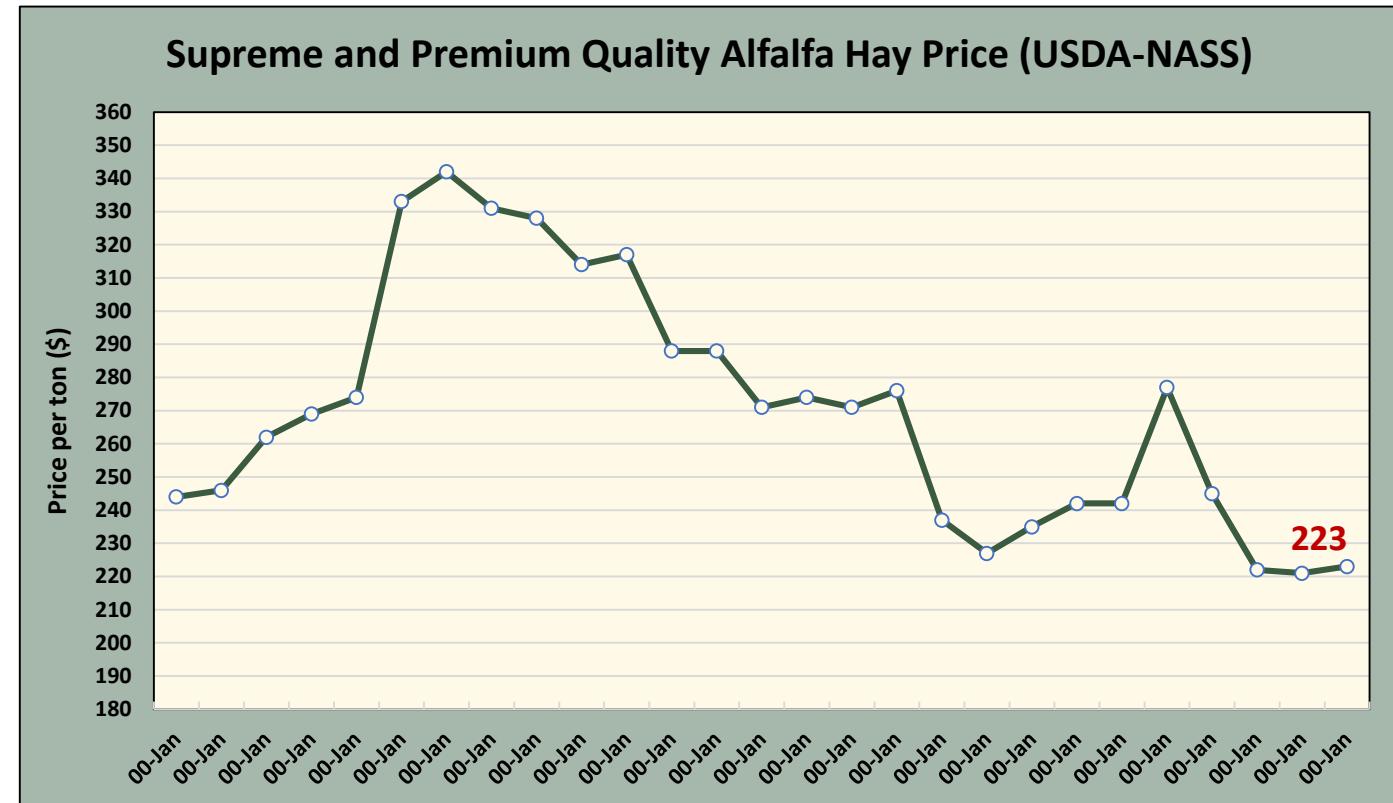
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Monthly grass hay prices



Supreme and Premium quality alfalfa hay prices

- Major price decline flatlined
- Price used for Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program
- Average of top five dairy states (California, Idaho, New York, Texas, Wisconsin)
- Disclaimer: This average price may not reflect your local price



Supreme and Premium quality alfalfa hay — IOWA

- **Dyersville Hay Auction (12/17)**

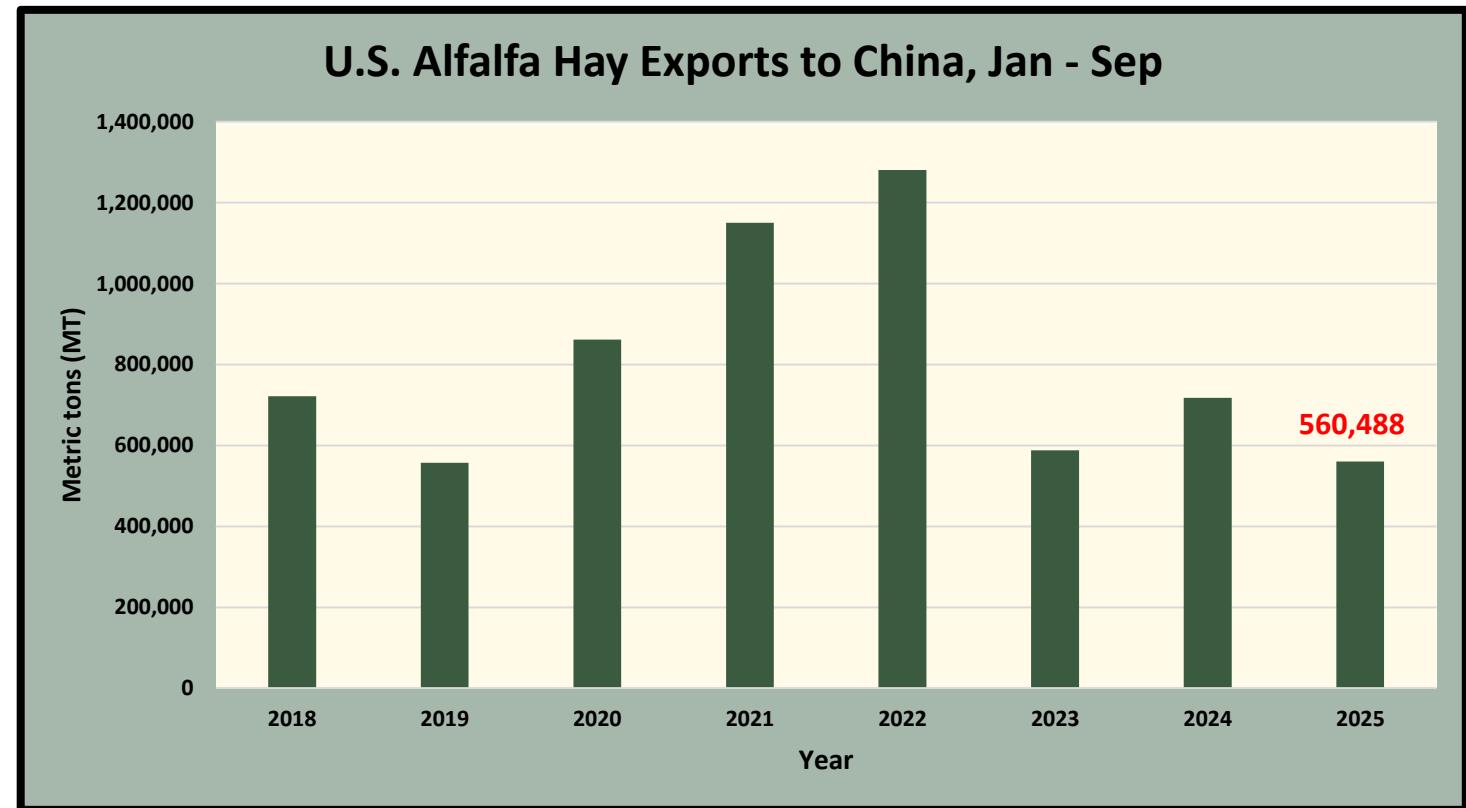
DYERSVILLE HAY & STRAW AUCTION	32315 Little Rd • Dyersville • IA 52040 563-543-0230 dyersvillehay@gmail.com dyersvillehayandstrawauktion.net
Auction report for 12/17/2025 - Receipts 1323 tons	
- Bale Count - 2225	
<u>Quality</u>	<u>Large Squares</u>
Dairy Quality	\$215 / ton
	n/a

- **Rock Valley Hay Auction (12/19)**

Hay (Conventional)					
Alfalfa - Premium (Per Ton)					
	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Price Range</u>	<u>Avg Price</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Crop Age</u>
Large Round	46.00	147.50-160.00	150.43		3rd Cut

Alfalfa hay exports down dramatically

- Export demand has a big influence on Western hay prices
- Most U.S. alfalfa hay historically shipped to China
- Down 22% January through September year-over-year



Source: USDA-Foreign Agriculture Service

What direction are hay prices heading?



- No sign of hay prices improving
- Commodity prices will likely stay low
- Hay stocks could influence hay prices
- Beef and dairy markets unsupportive
- Hay prices can't get much lower than production costs
- Weather will be, and always is, a critical factor

Forage seed supplies outlook for 2026

Average supply	Tight supply	Extremely tight supply
Annual ryegrass	Alfalfa	Alsike clover
Red clover (C)	Bromegrass	Ladino clover
Festulolium	Meadow bromegrass	Red clover (I)
Forage sorghum	Smooth bromegrass	Reed canarygrass
Meadow fescue	Berseem clover	Timothy (I)
Hay millets	Ladino clover (C)	Trefoil
Forage peas	White clover	
Perennial ryegrass (tetraploid)	Yellow blossom clover	
Italian ryegrass	Pearl millet	
Sorghum-sudangrass	Orchardgrass (early)	
Sudangrass	Orchardgrass (mid)	
Tall fescue	Orchardgrass (late)	
Tall fescue (novel endophyte)	Perennial ryegrass (diploid)	
Teffgrass	Timothy	

C: Common varieties

I: Improved varieties

Source: Patrick Reed, DLF Seeds

To sum it all up . . .

- Another year of weather extremes
- Hay prices are weak, and will continue to be
- Take inventory of your forage/feed supplies now
- The only way to know forage quality is to test it

Thank you!

- Questions: amberf@hayandforage.com
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