

December 1 hay stocks were released last week and painted a bleak outlook for hay buyers. Nationally, hay stocks were 6% down according to the USDA NASS report, but severe declines were seen throughout most of the West and Southeast. The Northern Plains was hit particularly hard with Montana, South Dakota, and North Dakota all seeing 40% or more drops from last year. California, Oregon, Utah, Arizona and Wyoming were also all deep in the red.

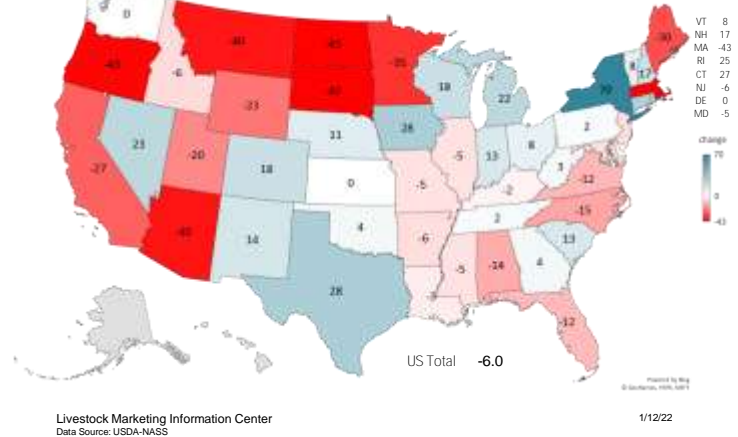
December 1 is an important indicator of available hay supplies heading into the Winter quarter. A tough winter tends to lead to more hay fed out during those months. May 1 Hay stocks, and the beginning of the new marketing year will follow December's lead, but could be significantly worse than December, if hay is used at a higher than normal rate.

As bleak as the stocks report was, more bad news for livestock producers that need hay came in the form of the new seedings report, which identifies how many additional alfalfa acres were planted. New seedings were pegged new seeding to be down 25%, and the lowest level on record at just 1.6 million acres. This is also the first year new seedings have dropped below 2.2 million acres. Fourteen states reported new seeding rates 30% or more below last year. Out of the 41 states reported, 23 states had seedings lower than a year ago.

Hay prices have been high since the marketing year started in May 2021, with the national average price for alfalfa over \$200 per ton most of this year and the price for other hay between \$140 and \$150 per ton.

December 1 hay stocks are the 3rd lowest on record. Following the previous two lower stock years, alfalfa and other hay prices remained elevated in the next marketing year. The drought monitor is increased

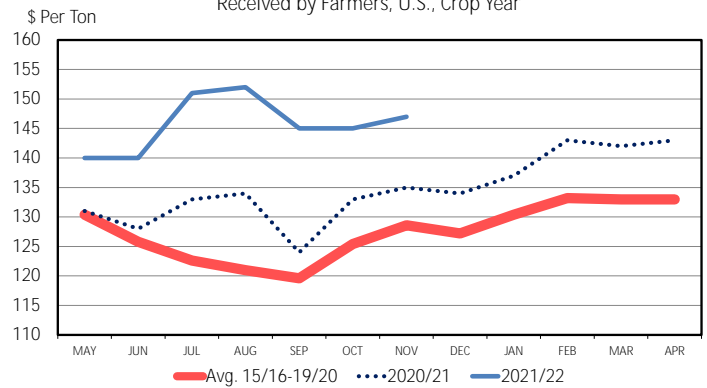
**PERCENT CHANGE DECEMBER 1 HAY STOCKS**  
(2020-2021)



Livestock Marketing Information Center  
Data Source: USDA-NASS

1/12/22

**OTHER HAY – MONTHLY AVERAGE PRICE**  
Received by Farmers, U.S., Crop Year



Data Source: USDA-NASS

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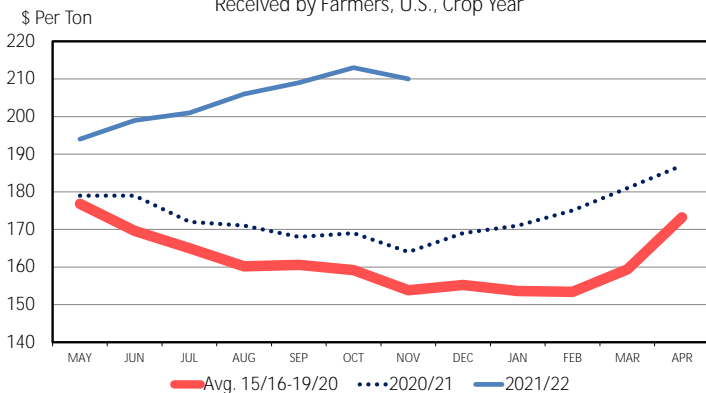
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cause for concern in many hay markets. For example, Texas, the largest total hay state in the U.S., is becoming more dry.

Lower stocks, and severe drought in key hay producing states could set hay prices up for a record breaking year in 2022/2023. The highest weighted average hay price season was 2013/2014 at \$191 per ton across all hay types.

**ALFALFA HAY – MONTHLY AVERAGE PRICE**

Received by Farmers, U.S., Crop Year

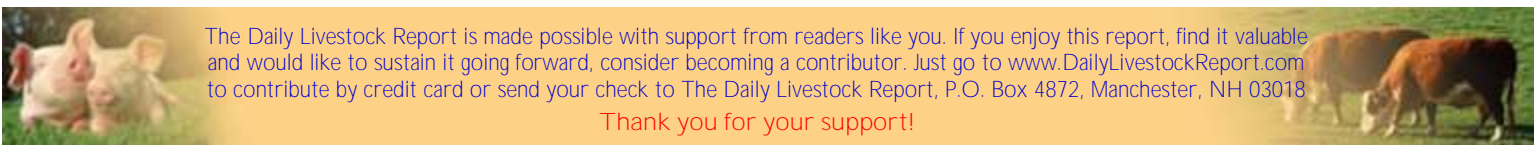


Data Source: USDA-NASS

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