

## Supplementary Feed Options Update 05-09-2019

The need for feed continues! A few fundamental changes in this update; Dried Distillers Grain (DDG) a valuable energy and protein source and White Cottonseed are available, both of which help in feeding low-quality hay or silage.

Cane tops and even whole sugarcane hay is becoming more common and is pricing reasonably in an expensive market, reflecting their quality. They are a good source of fibre however, they will need additional energy and protein supplements, especially for lactating cows, weaners and yearlings.

Some very good quality cereal hay is getting about from western areas which are keeping the local hay market a bit more realistic. Freight cost is still an issue, but with the freight rebate and the quality of the product, it's working out as a better purchase for many.

As the dry persists there are more and more unusual feed items being used across our region, if you haven't fed something before ensure you seek advice, don't just think because a neighbour is using it it's the right choice in your situation, differences in introductory times and feeding rates often need to be considered.

A reminder to anyone purchasing stock feed to request a commodity vendor declaration, this will give you peace of mind about any chemical residue risk.

This list is intended only as a guide, be sure to contact your preferred feed supplier to get actual prices and availability to match your circumstances.

Commodity	Availability	Price Range (ex GST)	Comments on Change from the last update	General Comments
Cotton Seed Meal	Very Limited, to Not Available	\$650-700/tonne	NO Change	Demand is presently higher than supply Not likely to change short term
Whole White Cotton Seed	Available	\$640-650/tonne	Back in supply and demand is high so consider quantity required and sure it up now	Add freight cost to the listed price. Suits producers who can handle a bulk load or split with neighbour. Some Bulk Bags are around but very limited and more expensive
Canola Meal	Available	\$555 - 650/tonne	NO Change	Price Includes freight to Casino from Newcastle, Bulk Bags dearer.
Soybean Meal	Available	\$620 – 700/tonne ex Brisbane	Add freight cost to listed price	Protein level high often >47%CP. High rumen degradability meaning usually needs to feed more frequently compared to cottonseed meal, - seek advice.

Palm Kernel Meal (PKE)	Limited to Not Available	\$380 - 450/tonne	Hope to see it come back in supply in October	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
Dried Distillers Grain (DDG)	Available	\$550/tonne ex Dalby	<u>Add freight cost to listed price</u>	Good energy and protein source, 11-12.5MJ/ME and 22%CP on average. Grain by-product as a result of the fermentation and distilling process. Low in calcium, so additional calcium often required, e.g. superfine lime.  Treat it like grain for introducing and feeding rates, and seek advice if you haven't fed it before
Molasses	Limited	\$250-270/t	Cane crush is underway locally, so local supply is back online. Check availability through your usual suppliers	Price is for Bulk loads ex GST. Smaller amounts may be available but check the price.
Liquid supplements (Molasses + Protein)	OK at present	\$0.65/kg for products that use kg rate or \$0.85/Liter	NO Change	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	\$800-1,200/tonne	NO Change	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)	Ok	\$120-140/100kg block	NO Change	Smaller blocks more expensive per kg.
Feed Lot meal/pellets	Good at Present	\$540-580/tonne	NO Change	Price is Bulk load. Higher in smaller quantities. Various rations around. Contact supplier.
Whole Barley	Ok but beginning to tighten	\$400-445/tonne	NO Change	Price includes freight in Bulk load to Lismore/Casino. Freight distance will impact price.
Sorghum	Ok	\$380-400/tonne	NO Change	Price includes freight in Bulk load to Lismore/Casino. Freight distance will impact price.
Wheat	Ok	\$400-445/tonne	NO Change	Price includes freight in Bulk load to Lismore/Casino. Freight distance will impact price.
Maize	Ok	\$550-600/tonne	NO Change	Price includes freight in Bulk load to Lismore/Casino. Freight distance will impact price.
Cereal Hay	Ok to good	\$150-190/ 4x4 bale  \$450+ / tonne	Quality is variable some very good cereal hay coming from out west, but pricing still high so confirm with your supplier Local supply variable.	Consider freight distance. Most want to sell by the semi or B-Double load if coming from out of the area.
Canola Hay	Increasing availability	\$480-530+/tonne	More becoming available as growers consider cutting for hay	Consider freight distance, 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 but you need to order	\$650-750/tonne	NO Change	Freight distance is the killer, and most want to sell by the semi or B-Double load
Cereal Straw "Stubble"	Good	\$350 +/-tonne	NO Change	This is only a fibre source it will require additional energy and protein supplements thus adding to feed costs
Sorghum Hay	Becoming very limited	\$150-170/ 4 x 4 bale or if sourcing from west \$450-480/tonne in big squares	Less available, but being replaced by winter cereal or canola hay	Watch for risk of Nitrate and Prussic acid poisoning risk from crops baled under drought-stressed conditions. These can be tested for via a feed sample, suggest testing before purchase if buying from out of the area
Tropical Pasture Grass Hay	Limited Locally	\$80- 150/ 4x4bale  8X4X3 bales \$200 +	Supplies & Quality of product hard to find A mixture of grass species within the product and being traded	Quality is the significant variable factor, cheaper it is chances are the quality will be lower, therefore, may need additional supplements
Silage various options	Limited Locally	\$100-180+/ 4x4bale	The cheaper product is likely to be tropical grass silage, e.g. Setaria.  The more expensive silage, most likely oaten, sorghum or soybean.  Check bale weights some bales >700kg which may justify the cost for some.	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 600kg silage bale only has 270kg of feed in it, so calculate how much feed your buying.
Soy Hull Pellets	Ok	\$415+/T	No Change	The by-product of soybean oil and meal production. This product consists mainly of the skin which covers the soybean. Soy hulls do not generally need any further processing to feed. It is not a product that can make up the full diet.
Rice Straw	declining	\$80- 150/ 4x4bale	Reducing local supply	High in fibre, average energy typically 6.7ME and 4%CP, but get feed test to know for sure. High in silica. Cattle often eat other hay/silage in preference, so don't use with other more palatable hay/silages. Requires additional energy & protein
Sugar cane tops (cane tops Hay)	OK	\$70-\$110/ 4x4bale	As cane harvest continues many seeking opportunities to bale cane tops	Often only a Fibre source. Energy range can be 3-9MJ/ME average 7ME, and 3-9%CP. Feed quality testing strongly suggested a need for additional energy and protein supplements in almost all cases.
Sugar cane hay (whole plant)	OK	\$70-\$110/ 4x4bale	Mainly being made from cane that frosted.	Quality just a variable as with the cane tops. Test results from one local sample, 7.4ME, 5.9%CP and 71%NDF (high in fibre)

Nathan Jennings Senior Land Services Officer (Agricultural Advice)

0437083147