

**Supplementary Feed Options Update 24-05-2019**

Variability across our region means that feeding programs will be different. Some producers are grazing winter forages; others still grazing reasonable summer grasses, some are beginning to supplement what remains of summer grasses, and some parts of our region are already commencing a full feeding program, requiring a fibre source such as hay or silage to account for low pasture availability. Knowing these differences shows that just because you hear someone is feeding something, doesn't mean it will be the most cost-effective decision for your business.

Some protein sources are back in supply, BUT, prices are being quoted on a daily basis. With suppliers being hesitant to quote ahead, we can assume that supply could change quickly and prices rise during winter. If you feel a protein source is needed in winter, check your budget and consider getting it on farm sooner rather than later.

The price of Wheat, Barley and Sorghum have all declined since February. With the supply of barley getting tighter and now costing the same as wheat, wheat is the more cost-effective option.

Hay growers and suppliers are doing their best to find a product in a depleted market. If you are considering purchasing large quantities, request a feed quality test. This is the only reliable way to be sure the product is going to be cost-effective. Low-quality hay or silage will require additional energy and protein to ensure cattle rumen function and intakes remain adequate. This adds cost.

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>

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 greater than supply Not likely to change short term

Whole White Cotton Seed	Limited	\$625-650/tonne	-\$25/t since February. But consider a likely rise when winter hits and more demand returns	Really restricted to producers who can handle a bulk load. Price includes freight to Casino. Some Bulk Bags are around but very limited and more expensive
Canola Meal	Available for now	\$555 - 600/tonne	Down about \$50/t from February but keep in mind its likely to rise as we move into winter	Price Includes freight Casino, Bulk Bags dealer.
Soybean Meal	Available	\$880 – 950/tonne	Available	Very expensive for beef cattle, 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)	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	\$550-650/t	Imported molasses is about all you will find hence the price	Smaller quantities may be available but check pricing.
Liquid supplements (Molasses + Protein)	OK at present	\$0.65/kg for products that use kg rate or \$0.85/Litre	Holding but the price is reflecting the molasses availability	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	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)	Ok	\$120-140/100kg block	Lack of adequate protein meal supplies is still 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 but beginning to tighten	\$370-415/tonne	Most are coming from out of the region	Price includes freight in Bulk load to Lismore/Casino. Freight distance will impact price.
Sorghum	Ok	\$380-400/tonne	Seasonal conditions will guide price as the harvest continues in southern regions	Price includes freight in Bulk load to Lismore/Casino. Freight distance will impact price.
Wheat	Ok	\$370-415/tonne	Most are coming from out of the region. Reducing price makes wheat more attractive than barley for now	Price includes freight in Bulk load to Lismore/Casino. Freight distance will impact price.
Maize	Ok	\$550-600/tonne	Most are coming from out of region and pricing will continue to reflect harvest conditions	Price includes freight in Bulk load to Lismore/Casino. Freight distance will impact price.

Cereal Hay	Variable	\$500+/ tonne	Quality is variable, but pricing still high so confirm with your supplier local supply variable some early oat crops that have been cut mostly are going into silage	Freight distance is the killer.
Canola Hay	Becoming limited	\$480-530+/tonne	The majority is coming from southern NSW, VIC or SA. Made from failed crops. The majority is in Large square bales, drought effected western NSW is taking most of the product	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 but you need to order	\$650-750/tonne	The 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	The majority is coming from southern NSW, VIC or SA. 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	\$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 baled 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	\$80- 125/ 4x4bale	Supplies & Quality of product hard to find A mixture of grass species within the 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	The cheaper product is likely to be tropical grass silage e.g. Setaria. The more expensive silage, most likely oaten 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 500kg silage bale only has 225kg of feed in it, so calculate how much feed your buying.
Soy Hull Pellets	Ok	\$415+/T	Only added this update	This is the by-product of soybean oil and meal production. This product consists largely 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.

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