



New Mexico State University

Extension Plant Sciences

Alfalfa Market News

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Hay Prices for New Mexico

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County	Contact	Premium+ Hay (\$/ton)	Top Quality Hay (\$/ton)	Other Hay (\$/ton)	Condition/ Market Activity/Cut Complete
Chaves	Sandra Barraza, County Agent	\$185-200 all cuts del; \$265 or \$8 ea. small in barn		Not much hay left in barns	1 st cuts 30%; market moderate; warm days/nights, mostly dry; heavy alf weevil early, some aphid
Dona Ana	Teresa Dean, County Agent	\$150-175 large; \$8-9/bale small		N/A	1 st cuts 75%, 30% Hatch area; market fair; good weather
Lea	Wayne Cox, County Agent	\$165-170		N/A	1 st cuts 50%
Rio Arriba	Don Martinez, County Agent	\$7.00 small bales in the barn, 2016 crop		\$3.75 small stacked outside, rained on, 2016 crop	1 st cuts pending; market slow, demand for premium horse hay is better, most coming from San Luis Valley; good weather/recent snow
Valencia / Bernalillo	Various Contacts	\$6.50-8.00 small per bale barn stored		\$6.00-8.00 grass; 3.00-4.00 cow hay; some wheat hay coming off	1 st cuts pending; market moderate; heavy alf weevils early

Prices are a compilation of Agent information and other area estimates.
N/A = prices and/or supplies not available at this time

Chlorpyrifos Gets a Stay of Execution

In late 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency released its findings on a long-term study into the health risks of the widely used insecticide, chlorpyrifos. This insecticide is one of the more important products (e.g., Lorsban) used in many agricultural crops, including alfalfa, wheat and other forages, fruits, and nuts throughout the U.S. As a result of its findings, the EPA's decision was to revoke usage (complete withdrawal of 'tolerances') of chlorpyrifos on March 31, 2017. This followed a public comment period. But in the eleventh hour, it was determined that EPA would not proceed with a revocation of chlorpyrifos, pending updated human health risk assessments. It is uncertain when these assessments will take place as formal re-evaluation of chlorpyrifos isn't required until 2022.

A summary of the recent developments can be found in an article published by Progressive Forage Grower at:

http://www.progressiveforage.com/news/industry-news/key-alfalfa-insecticide-retained-chlorpyrifos-ban-averted-at-last-minute?utm_source=E-newsletters&utm_campaign=913867d6b3-041817_PF_Extra&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_ce73e33a7d-913867d6b3-87085567

In addition, it should be noted that EPA developed and opened for public comment Draft Environmental and Human Health Risk Assessments for a long list of pyrethroid insecticides. These include insecticides such as beta-cyfluthrin (Baythroid), gamma- and lambda-cyhalothrin (Warrior, Besiege), cypermethrin, zeta-cypermethrin (Mustang Maxx), and permethrin (Pounce).

Like chlorpyrifos, pyrethroids are also commonly used in New Mexico for control of several insect pests in alfalfa and other forage crops. They are used for pests such as alfalfa weevil, aphids, cutworms, grasshoppers, etc.

The public comment period ended March 31st, and university researchers and specialists, crop consultants, and industry have provided information on usage and importance of the various pyrethroids in crops in New Mexico. It is uncertain at this time if the regulatory status of this class of insecticides will change with the final registration decision at the end of 2018.

An important component of a sustainable Integrated Pest Management program is the rotation of different modes of action (MOA) when using chemical control. Maintaining diversity of these MOAs is critical to their continued effectiveness and prevention of insect resistance. Losing any particular (or multiple) MOA may negatively impact the farmer's ability to implement such rotation practices. It is important for producers to stay informed of any current pesticide issues that potentially will affect their operations.


Contact your local county agent for questions regarding your farming operation and current agricultural issues. A listing of all county agents can be accessed at: <http://aces.nmsu.edu/county/>

For more information on hay (and other) forage production in New Mexico, including publication and human resources available to you, visit: <http://forages.nmsu.edu/>

******* Mark Your Calendars *******

- The date has been set for the 2018 Southwest Hay & Forage Conference (January 18-19, 2018). As usual, the event will take place at the Ruidoso Convention Center, Ruidoso, NM. For more information, please contact Cassie Sterrett at 575-626-1688 or visit <http://www.nmhay.com/>.
- Western Alfalfa & Forage Symposium, Grand Sierra Resort, Reno NV, November 28-30, 2017.

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