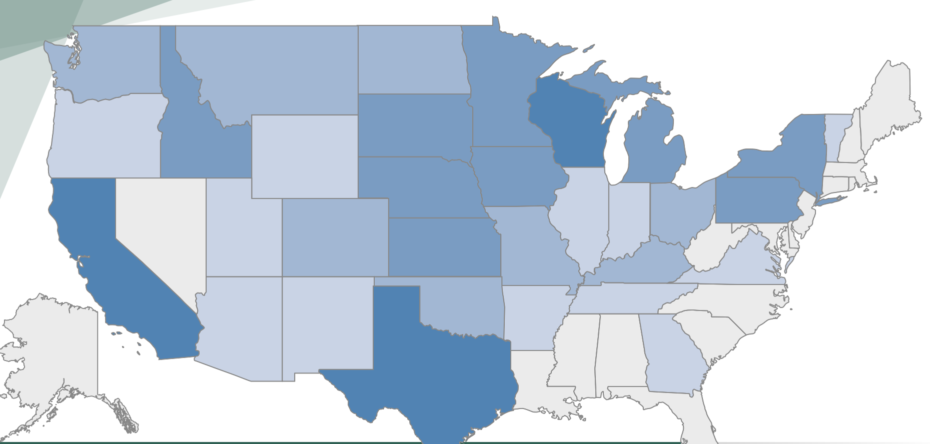
2025 U.S. forage statistics

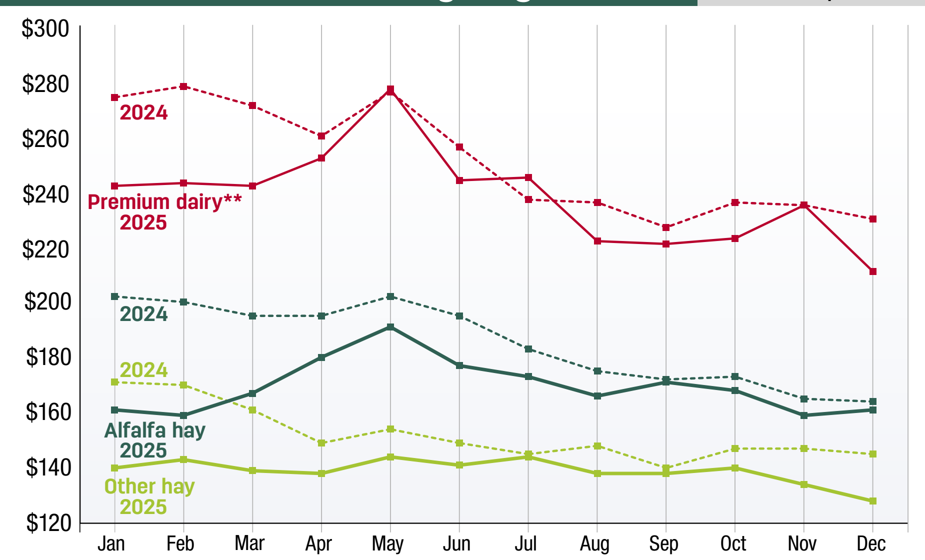


Total forage production

- More than 15,000 thousand tons
- 10,000 to 15,000 thousand tons
- 5,000 to 10,000 thousand tons
- 2,000 to 5,000 thousand tons
- 0 to 2,000 thousand tons

Total forage production is represented by the total of alfalfa, other hay, silage and greenchop production.

U.S. monthly average* prices, alfalfa, other and Premium dairy hay 2024-25 (dollars per ton)



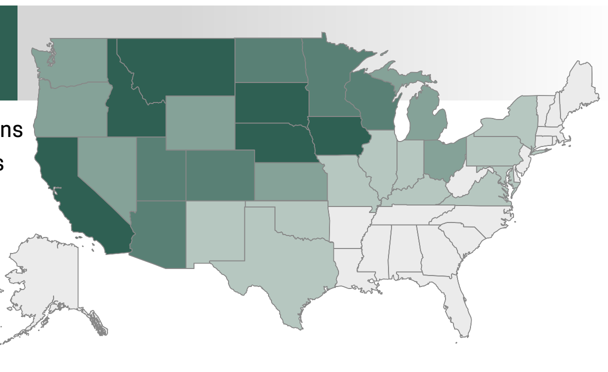
* Average prices paid in 27 major hay-producing states

**Weighted average price for Premium/Supreme alfalfa hay in the five largest milk-producing states: California, Idaho, New York, Texas and Wisconsin.

Source: *USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service*

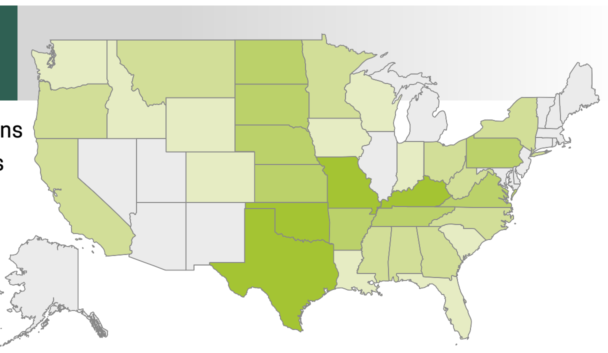
For market reports updated monthly, visit progressiveforage.com

Total alfalfa hay production



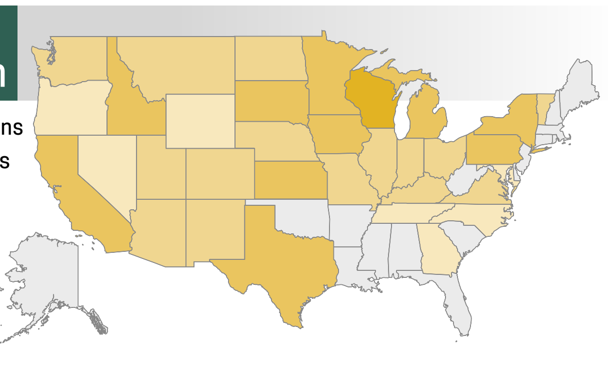
- More than 3,000 thousand tons
- 2,000 to 3,000 thousand tons
- 1,000 to 2,000 thousand tons
- 100 to 1,000 thousand tons
- 0 to 100 thousand tons

Total other hay production



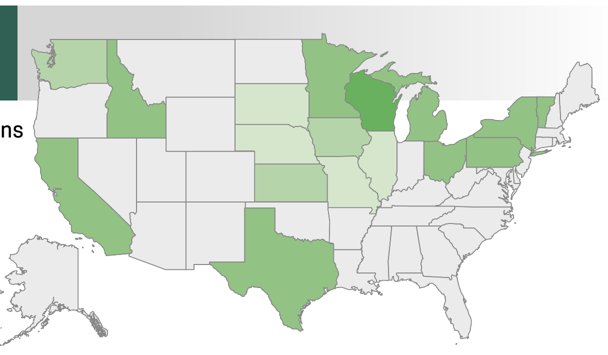
- More than 5,000 thousand tons
- 2,000 to 5,000 thousand tons
- 1,000 to 2,000 thousand tons
- 500 to 1,000 thousand tons
- 0 to 500 thousand tons

Total corn silage production



- More than 10,000 thousand tons
- 5,000 to 10,000 thousand tons
- 1,000 to 5,000 thousand tons
- 500 to 1,000 thousand tons
- 0 to 500 thousand tons

Total greenchop production



- More than 4,000 thousand tons
- 1,000 to 4,000 thousand tons
- 500 to 1,000 thousand tons
- 1 to 500 thousand tons
- 0 tons

2025 National forage review

High yields, lower feed demand and better weather combine to steady the nation's forage supply

Progressive Forage Managing Editor **Marian Viney**

Prices

Early 2025 opened on a firmer footing in hay markets, breaking the steady softening that defined most of 2024. Alfalfa prices in many regions started the year several dollars above December levels, supported by tighter winter supplies, higher fuel and freight costs, and renewed export interest.

In the West, premium and export quality alfalfa commonly traded in the low to mid $300s per ton, with top lots edging higher when export buyers stepped in. Midwest and Plains markets generally held between $220 and $280 depending on quality, buoyed by dry winter conditions and limited carryover. Grass and mixed hay showed similar strength, typically running $10 to $20 per ton above late 2024, with fair to good quality grass often bringing $180 to $240. Even lower quality hay moved steadily amid tight inventories, setting a firmer tone heading into spring.

Production

Steady moisture across much of the country and strong 2024 carryover supported another year of stable forage production in 2025. National totals showed modest gains, with yield improvements offsetting acreage shifts.

• *All dry hay*: Production reached 123.03 million tons, up 0.5% from 2024. Harvested area held nearly steady at 49.56 million acres. Kansas posted the largest increase at 57%, followed by North Dakota (31%) and Ohio (27%). Texas saw the sharpest decline at 20%, with additional 10% to 20% decreases in Louisiana, Maryland, Montana, New Mexico, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

• *Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures*: Production totaled 50.21 million tons, up just under 1%. South Dakota (3.576 million tons) and Idaho (3.567 million tons) remained the top producers, followed by Nebraska, California and Montana. North Dakota recorded the largest year-over-year gain at 34%. Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan and Kansas also increased. Declines occurred in Idaho (-7%), Nebraska, New Mexico, Wisconsin and Oklahoma due to heat stress, irrigation limits or stand losses.

Production of all other hay held steady to slightly higher, with gains in the central and northern Plains offsetting reductions in the South.

• *All other hay*: Production was just more than 73 million tons, slightly above 2024. Harvested area remained near 34.9 million acres, and average yield stayed just above 2.09 tons per acre. Gains were concentrated in the northern Plains and upper Midwest. Declines were most common in the South and Southwest – Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico – and parts of the Pacific Northwest.

• *Total forage*: The USDA's 17-state forage program estimated total forage at just more than 82 million tons, slightly above 2024. Alfalfa and mixtures accounted for about 40 million tons. Haylage and greenchop were harvested from 3.72 million acres, producing about 28.8 million tons. Consistent moisture in Wisconsin, Idaho, South Dakota and Minnesota supported reliable cutting schedules.

• *Corn silage*: Production was about 124 million tons, slightly above 2024. Harvested area remained near 6.1 million acres, with average yield around 20.3 tons per acre. Late-season heat trimmed yields in Kansas, Nebraska and parts of the southern Corn Belt, but national supplies remained adequate.

• *Sorghum silage*: Production reached about 4.15 million tons, slightly above 2024. Harvested area increased to roughly 318,000 acres as drought-prone regions leaned on sorghum's heat and moisture tolerance. Average yield was about 13.1 tons per acre, with wide regional variation.

• *New alfalfa seedings*: New seedings rose for the fourth straight year to about 1.89 million acres, up roughly 2% from 2024. Major dairy regions accounted for about 1.48 million acres (78% of total), with most gains in the northern dairy belt.

• *Hay stocks*: May 1 hay stocks totaled about 22 million tons, supported by the large 2024 crop and a mild winter. Dec. 1, 2025, stocks were just less than 83 million tons – the highest since 2020.

Forage disappearance from May 1 to Dec. 1 was about 62.5 million tons, slightly above 2024. December inventories in major dairy states were up about 12%, with continued strength in the Southwest and tighter supplies in parts of the eastern Corn Belt.

Exports

Through November 2025, alfalfa hay exports totaled just under 1.95 million metric tons, slightly below the previous year. China accounted for about 45% of shipments, though demand softened late in the year.

Exports of other hay totaled more than 960,000 metric tons through November, modestly above 2024. Japan led with about 55% of shipments, followed by South Korea at 27%. Full-year totals were published once December data became available, which occurred after our press deadline.

Weather and drought

Drought remained entrenched across much of the West and northern Plains entering 2025. Early April maps showed about 39% of hay acreage and 48% of alfalfa acreage under moderate or more severe drought. The most significant early-season dryness persisted in Arizona, South Dakota, Nebraska and New Mexico, with pockets of severe to extreme drought in California and the central Plains.

As the year progressed, drought shifted but remained widespread. Much of the West began and ended 2025 in drought, with persistent dryness across the Mountain West, Southwest and northern Rockies. Drought expanded at times in the Upper Missouri River Basin, Northeast, Midwest, Southeast and the southern Plains. By late summer, conditions eased in parts of the East but reemerged in the Northeast and expanded across the central U.S.

Note: Monthly average prices calculated by the USDA are across all hay qualities. Among major hay-producing states, the range of monthly prices can vary by $100 per ton or more.

2025 U.S. forage statistics

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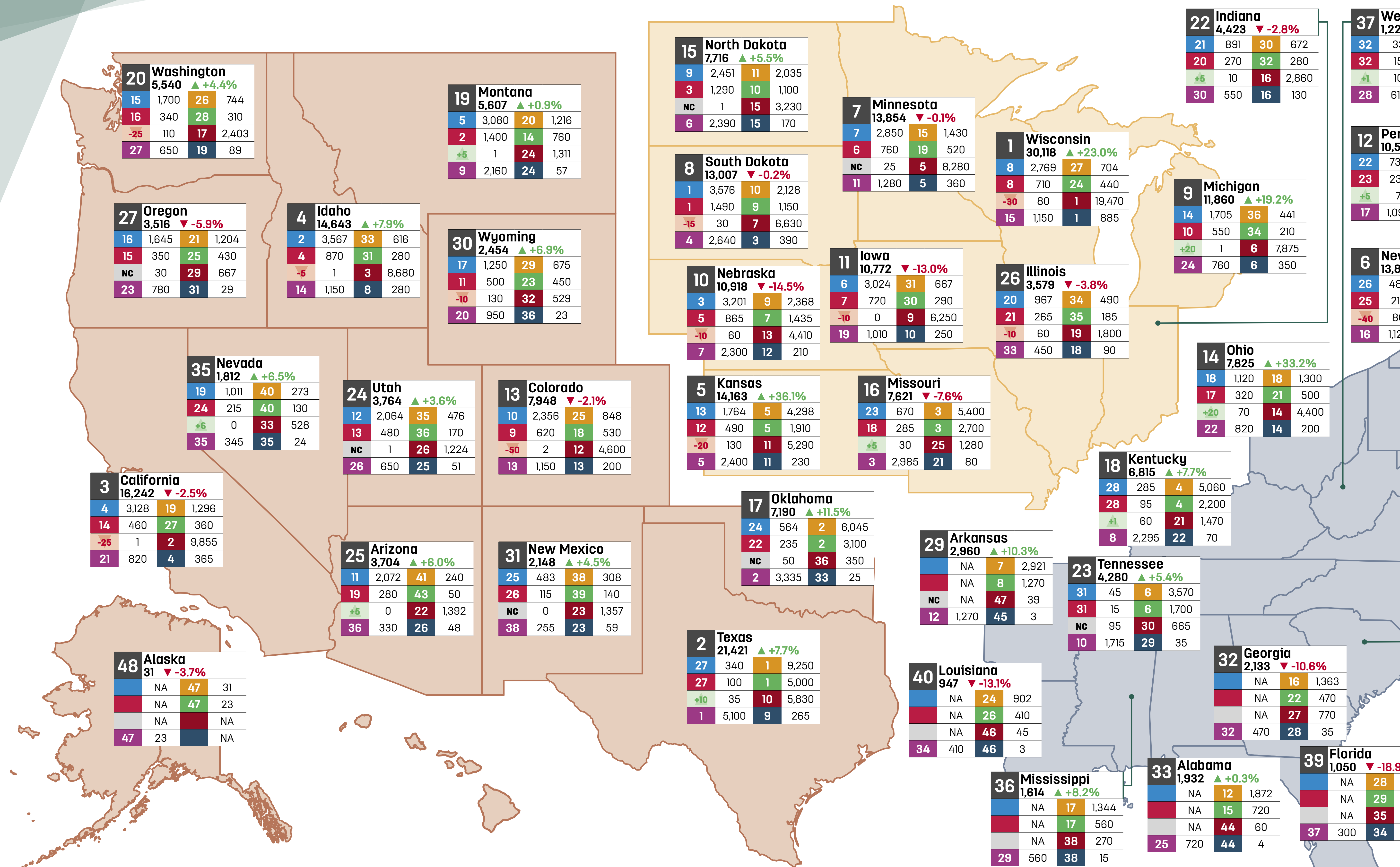


20 Washington
5,540 ▲ +4.4%

15	1,700	26	744
16	340	28	310
-25	110	17	2,403
27	650	19	89

19 Montana
5,607 ▲ +0.9%

5	3,080	20	1,216
2	1,400	14	760
+5	1	24	1,311
9	2,160	24	57

15 North Dakota
7,716 ▲ +5.5%

9	2,451	11	2,035
3	1,290	10	1,100
NC	1	15	3,230
6	2,390	15	170

7 Minnesota
13,854 ▼ -0.1%

7	2,850	15	1,430
6	760	19	520
NC	25	5	8,280
11	1,280	5	360

1 Wisconsin
30,118 ▲ +23.0%

8	2,769	27	704
8	710	24	440
-30	80	1	19,470
15	1,150	1	885

8 South Dakota
13,007 ▼ -0.2%

1	3,576	10	2,128
1	1,490	9	1,150
-15	30	7	6,630
4	2,640	3	390

9 Michigan
11,860 ▲ +19.2%

14	1,705	36	441
10	550	34	210
+20	1	6	7,875
24	760	6	350

27 Oregon
3,516 ▼ -5.9%

16	1,645	21	1,204
15	350	25	430
NC	30	29	667
23	780	31	29

4 Idaho
14,643 ▲ +7.9%

2	3,567	33	616
4	870	31	280
-5	1	3	8,680
14	1,150	8	280

30 Wyoming
2,454 ▲ +6.9%

17	1,250	29	675
11	500	23	450
-10	130	32	529
20	950	36	23

10 Nebraska
10,918 ▼ -14.5%

3	3,201	9	2,368
5	865	7	1,435
-10	60	13	4,410
7	2,300	12	210

11 Iowa
10,772 ▼ -13.0%

6	3,024	31	667
7	720	30	290
-10	0	9	6,250
19	1,010	10	250

26 Illinois
3,579 ▼ -3.8%

20	967	34	490
21	265	35	185
-10	60	19	1,800
33	450	18	90

35 Nevada
1,812 ▲ +6.5%

19	1,011	40	273
24	215	40	130
+6	0	33	528
35	345	35	24

24 Utah
3,764 ▲ +3.6%

12	2,064	35	476
13	480	36	170
NC	1	26	1,224
26	650	25	51

13 Colorado
7,948 ▼ -2.1%

10	2,356	25	848
9	620	18	530
-50	2	12	4,600
13	1,150	13	200

5 Kansas
14,163 ▲ +36.1%

13	1,764	5	4,298
12	490	5	1,910
-20	130	11	5,290
5	2,400	11	230

16 Missouri
7,621 ▼ -7.6%

23	670	3	5,400
18	285	3	2,700
+5	30	25	1,280
3	2,985	21	80

3 California
16,242 ▼ -2.5%

4	3,128	19	1,296
14	460	27	360
-25	1	2	9,855
21	820	4	365

17 Oklahoma
7,190 ▲ +11.5%

24	564	2	6,045
22	235	2	3,100
NC	50	36	350
2	3,335	33	25

25 Arizona
3,704 ▲ +6.0%

11	2,072	41	240
19	280	43	50
+5	0	22	1,392
36	330	26	48

31 New Mexico
2,148 ▲ +4.5%

25	483	38	308
26	115	39	140
NC	0	23	1,357
38	255	23	59

2 Texas
21,421 ▲ +7.7%

27	340	1	9,250
27	100	1	5,000
+10	35	10	5,830
1	5,100	9	265

48 Alaska
31 ▼ -3.7%

	NA	47	31
	NA	47	23
	NA		NA
47	23		NA

29 Arkansas
2,960 ▲ +10.3%

	NA	7	2,921
	NA	8	1,270
NC	NA	47	39
12	1,270	45	3

18 Kentucky
6,815 ▲ +7.7%

28	285	4	5,060
28	95	4	2,200
+1	60	21	1,470
8	2,295	22	70

23 Tennessee
4,280 ▲ +5.4%

31	45	6	3,570
31	15	6	1,700
NC	95	30	665
10	1,715	29	35

40 Louisiana
947 ▼ -13.1%

	NA	24	902
	NA	26	410
	NA	46	45
34	410	46	3

36 Mississippi
1,614 ▲ +8.2%

	NA	17	1,344
	NA	17	560
	NA	38	270
29	560	38	15

33 Alabama
1,932 ▲ +0.3%

	NA	12	1,872
	NA	15	720
	NA	44	60
25	720	44	4

32 Georgia
2,133 ▼ -10.6%

	NA	16	1,363
	NA	22	470
	NA	27	770
32	470	28	35

39 Florida
1,050 ▼ -18.9%

	NA	28	690
	NA	29	300
	NA	35	360
37	300	34	24

22 Indiana
4,423 ▼ -2.8%

21	891	30	672
20	270	32	280
+5	10	16	2,860
30	550	16	130

14 Ohio
7,825 ▲ +33.2%

18	1,120	18	1,300
17	320	21	500
+20	70	14	4,400
22	820	14	200

37 West Virginia
1,224 ▲ +19.1%

32	33	23	1,020
32	15	16	600
+1	10	40	171
28	615	41	9

12 Pennsylvania
10,506 ▲ +2.9%

22	736	13	1,806
23	230	13	860
+5	7	8	6,300
17	1,090	7	315

6 New York
13,889 ▼ -2.2%

26	483	14	1,638
25	210	12	910
-40	80	4	8,500
16	1,120	2	500

28 Vermont
3,043 ▼ -5.3%

36	18	39	276
33	13	38	145
NC	0	20	1,512
41	158	20	84

46 New Hampshire
232 ▼ -22.1%

40	6	46	56
38	5	46	31
NC	0	41	170
46	36	40	10

42 Maine
554 ▼ -22.2%

34	22	42	207
35	10	41	115
-1	50	37	325
42	125	32	25

45 Massachusetts
281 ▼ -8.0%

39	8	44	86
39	4	44	45
NC	45	39	187
44	49	39	11

49 Rhode Island
22 ▼ -17.0%

41	2	49	8
41	1	49	5
NC	NA	48	12
49	6	48	1

43 Connecticut
485 ▼ -5.6%

38	10	45	76
37	5	45	40
NC	0	34	399
45	45	37	19

44 New Jersey
352 ▲ +30.2%

33	32	43	180
34	11	42	90
NC	55	42	140
43	101	42	7

47 Delaware
79 ▲ +12.4%

37	11	48	18
40	3	48	7
NC	35	45	50
48	10	47	2

34 North Carolina
1,882 ▲ +22.3%

35	22	22	1,200
36	9	20	500
NC	0	31	660
31	509	30	30

38 Maryland
1,190 ▲ +4.5%

29	140	37	330
29	35	37	150
-1	0	28	720
40	185	27	40

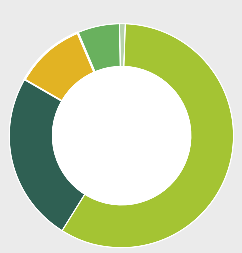
41 South Carolina
739 ▼ -1.5%

	NA	32	625
	NA	33	250
	NA	43	114
39	250	43	6

21 Virginia
4,627 ▲ +32.7%

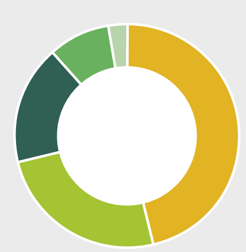
30	112	8	2,415
30	35	11	1,050
-1	20	18	2,100
18	1,085	17	100

Source: *Crop Production 2025 Summary Report, USDA, NASS. Statistical ties are represented by the same numerical ranking.*



Total U.S. forage acres
in thousands of acres

Other hay	34,881	▲ +103
Alfalfa	14,676	▲ +64
Silage	6,208	▲ +1
Greenchop	3,552	▼ -140
Sorghum	448	▲ +142
Combined total	**59,765**	



Total U.S. tons harvested
in thousands of tons

Silage	21.8 *tons/acre*	135,540	▲ +7.3%
Other hay	2.1 *tons/acre*	72,818	▲ +0.2%
Alfalfa	3.4 *tons/acre*	50,213	▲ +0.7%
Greenchop	7.6 *tons/acre*	26,816	▼ -2.0%
Sorghum	16.4 *tons/acre*	7,325	▲ +19.0%
Combined total		**292,712**	

United States
292,712 ▲ +5.23%

49,840	▲ +0.03%	72,686	NC
14,612	NC	34,778	NC
1,850	NC	125,590	▼ -2.03%
49,390	NC	6,207	▼ -1.75%

Legend

11 Iowa
10,772 ▼ -13.0%

6	3,024	31	667
7	720	30	290
-10	0	9	6,250
19	1,010	10	250

- State ranking-total forage production
- All forage production *(in thousands of tons)*
- State ranking-alfalfa yield
- Alfalfa yield *(in thousands of tons)*
- State ranking-alfalfa acres
- Alfalfa acres *(in thousands of acres)*
- Change in acres of new alfalfa plantings *(in thousands of acres)*
- Alfalfa new plantings *(in thousands of acres)*
- State ranking-total hay acres
- Total hay acres *(in thousands of acres)*
- Percentage increase/decrease in forage production 2024-25
- State ranking-other hay yield
- Other hay yield *(in thousands of tons)*
- State ranking-other hay acres
- Other hay acres *(in thousands of acres)*
- State ranking-corn silage yield
- Corn silage yield *(in thousands of tons)*
- State ranking-corn silage acres
- Corn silage acres *(in thousands of acres)*

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