



# FEEDcentralNEWS

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## Another Year Comes to a Close

As we close out the year, I want to thank all our growers, buyers and industry partners for your ongoing support. It's been a challenging and highly variable season, with tough conditions for many in the south and an exceptional run for producers in northern NSW and southern Queensland. The resilience, adaptability and commitment to quality across the industry have been outstanding.

This year has also marked a major step forward for Feed Central and LocalAg. Separating our Quality Assurance business from the Marketplace has created more clarity, transparency and confidence for everyone involved. We've seen how strong information, trusted relationships and consistent standards allow both buyers and sellers to succeed, even in a volatile market.

Thank you once again for your partnership. Wishing you and your families a safe, happy festive season and a prosperous 2026.



**Tim Ford**  
Managing Director,  
Feed Central & LocalAg



## Hay vs Silage - Which Will Work for You?

**Choosing between hay and silage comes down to what best fits your feeding program, storage options and overall costs. Both can work well, but they differ in price, quality and practicality on farm.**

**Hay is cheaper to produce**, easier to transport and has a stronger market behind it. You're not paying to cart water, and plenty of contractors can make it. The trade-offs are weather risk during curing and the need for good storage to maintain quality.

**Silage usually delivers higher feed test results** and is less exposed to weather, making it a consistent, reliable feed - especially for farmers using it on their own stock. It's clean, well-protected and generally free from weed seeds.

**The main downsides are cost and logistics.** Silage is heavier with higher moisture, so transport and delivery are more expensive, and wrapped bales are more vulnerable to damage.

**Feed Central's bottom line:** silage is excellent for on-farm feeding, but hay is typically the more economical choice when buying or selling - always compare on a dry-matter delivered basis.

**[Read more about Hay v Silage.](#)**



## Sampling Silage

For accurate feed test results you need to wait 3-4 weeks after ensiling so fermentation has stabilised - too early and your results could be misleading.

For pit or bunker silage, use a long coring probe; for wrapped bales, a hay corer works best. Don't just take a surface sample - grab small amounts from 10 random spots across the pit or bale face for a truly representative mix.

Mix your sample thoroughly, label it, and send it to the lab promptly. A little care in sampling goes a long way, giving you a clear picture of your silage's nutritional value and helping you feed your livestock smarter.

**[Watch our Silage Sampling video](#)**

## The Ultimate Guide to Stacking Hay



A tidy, stable hay stack is not just about good looks. It protects feed quality, saves time at feeding, and helps reduce waste this season. Our latest guide breaks down exactly how to stack hay bales for maximum stability and longevity, making sure each bale sits squarely on the one below and is oriented to shed water and avoid collapse when the weather turns.

Poor stacking can lead to mould, heating, bale damage, and serious safety risks during loading and feeding. A few simple changes in technique can make a big difference to how long your hay lasts and how safe your stack remains.

Whether you are stacking square or round bales, indoors or out, this simple method will help you get it done right. Do not risk spoilage or safety.

[Read the full guide on Feed Central now.](#)

## From the Lab

### 'Tis the season for feed testing

With hay production now at its peak, our laboratory is running at full speed. This is the busiest time of year for our team as growers and buyers look to verify quality, optimise feeding decisions, and maximise value across the supply chain.

In recent months, we've also seen a strong increase in equine-specific feed testing. Horse owners and trainers are seeking more precise nutritional information to support performance, health and safety - making accurate lab analysis more important than ever.

If you need results before the Christmas shutdown period, now is the time to act. We encourage you to submit your samples as soon as possible to avoid delays and ensure you have the information you need heading into summer.

**Get Your Feed Test Today!**



## A MOISTURE METER THAT ALSO RECORDS TEMPERATURE

This advanced Hay, Straw and Silage Digital Tester provides consistent moisture and temperature tests to ensure quality bales that are safe to store.

[For more info or to order click here](#)

Moisture range:  
8% - 72%  
Temperature range:  
0° - 70° C

## Have you heard?



**HAY MATTERS**  
WITH STEPHEN PAGE

Summer Season Episodes coming up!  
Season 3 starts 5 February 2026.

 SUBSCRIBE

Brought to you by  




## HAY CORER

**makes FAST work of coring**  
Engineered for easy and safe collection of hay, straw and silage samples. Comes with clean-out rod. Simply attach to your 1/2" drill.  
[For more information or to order, click here](#)

## Interested in Advertising?

We'd love to have you in the Feed Central News!  
Contact the team at [hello@feedcentral.com.au](mailto:hello@feedcentral.com.au) or on [1300 669 429](tel:1300669429) for more details.

## National Hay Market Snapshot

**Anthony Balzer**  
- LocalAg Plus

**As the year winds down, the fodder market is shifting.** Recent southern weather has slowed curing in some regions, prompting some growers to switch focus back to grain harvest, while early buyers are already topping up sheds and prioritising strong feed tests and reliable quality.

**Vetch remains the standout mover**, with buyers wanting to secure high-protein lines for winter. Anything already tested and inspected is attracting extra attention, putting prepared sellers in a strong position to move product quickly.

**Local neighbour-to-neighbour trading remains steady**, particularly where freight can be avoided, and confidence across the sector is strong, with pastoral companies and large growers expanding operations and investing in more shed space.

### What To Do Now

- **Get feed tests completed** to give buyers confidence.
- **Book inspections early** before the Christmas break
- **List product online** ensuring buyers can act fast when ready.



## Latest Listings



Barley Hay

1440  
tonnes available

\$320  
per tonne + GST

[Get more details](#)



Wheaten (awned) Hay

325  
tonnes available

\$300  
per tonne + GST

[Get more details](#)

## Member Benefits



Networking



Insights



Events



Support

## Join us



**TOGETHER WE WILL GROW OUR SUSTAINABLE AND PROFITABLE FODDER INDUSTRY.**

The Australian Fodder Industry Association (AFIA) is the national, independent voice for the Australian fodder industry, with a clear focus on building a strong community of members, sponsors, partners and providers. The fodder industry is one of the most important industries in Australian agriculture, underpinning production in dairy, livestock, horticulture and other intensive industries.

Since its establishment in 1996, our network of members, sponsors, supporters and engaged participants have worked together to help the fodder industry grow.

Join AFIA today to be part of a growing community and help us shape the future of fodder across the country for both the domestic and export markets.



COMMUNITY



ADVOCACY



R & D



TRADE



BIOSECURITY

SCAN TO JOIN



NURTURE

NETWORK

GROW

SCAN TO JOIN



## On the Road

Photos from around the country



Hay operations in Narromine, NSW.



Grower Services Manager, Steve Page completing an on-farm inspection at Gilgandra, NSW in November.



Round bales in the paddock in Narromine, NSW



**Our office will be closed from December 24th to January 5th**, so please plan ahead if you're in sending samples. During the closure, any samples received will be securely stored in cool storage until testing resumes in the new year.

We wish you a safe and joyful festive season. Here's to a strong finish to 2025, and a happy and prosperous year ahead in 2026!

## The Feed Central Team

