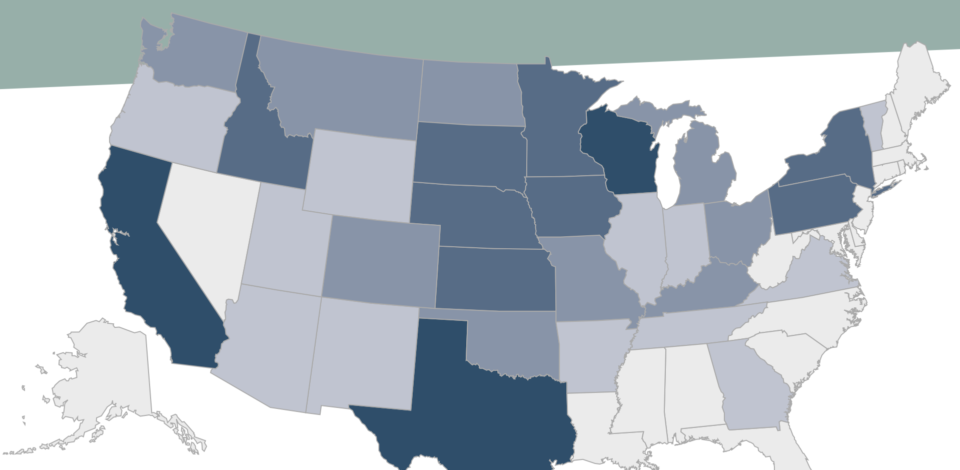
2024 U.S. forage statistics

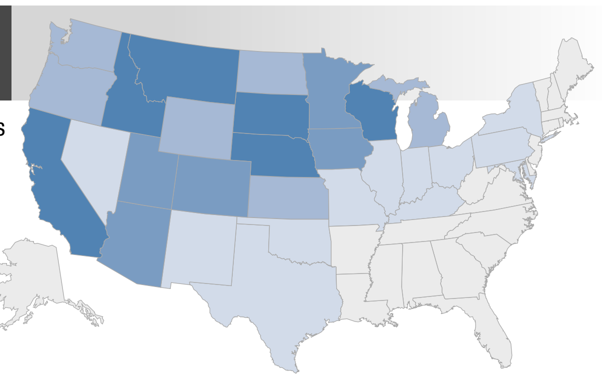


Total forage production

- 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

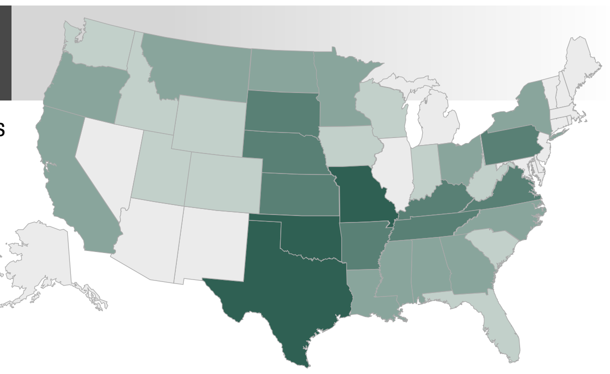
Total forage production is represented by the total of alfalfa, other hay, silage and greenchop production.

Total alfalfa hay production



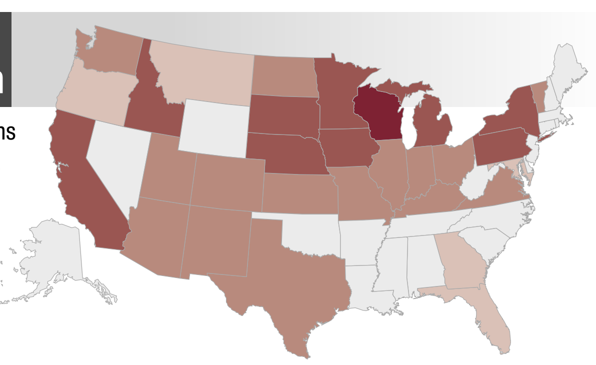
- More than 3,000 thousand tons
- 2,000 to 3,000 thousand tons
- 1,000 to 2,000 thousand tons
- 100 to 1,000 thousand tons
- 0 to 100 thousand tons

Total other hay production



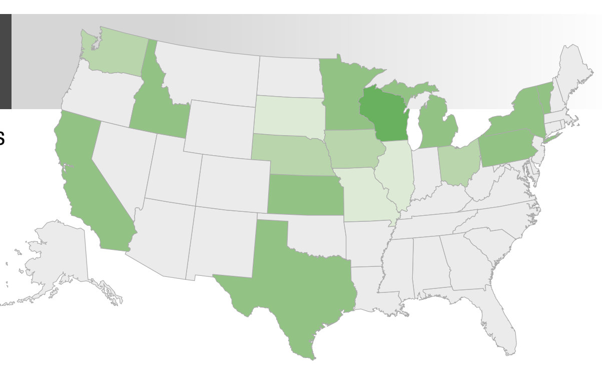
- More than 5,000 thousand tons
- 2,000 to 5,000 thousand tons
- 1,000 to 2,000 thousand tons
- 500 to 1,000 thousand tons
- 0 to 500 thousand tons

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

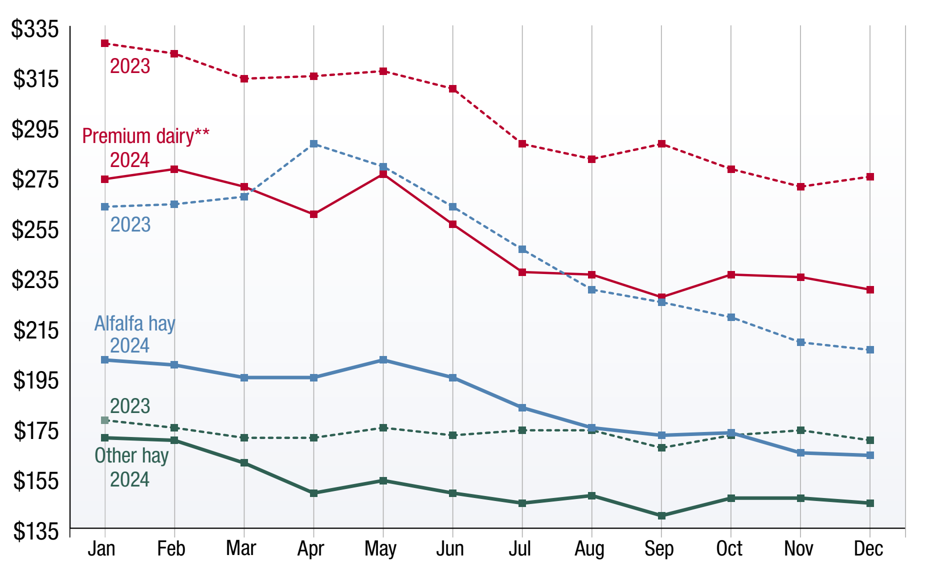
Total greenchop production



- 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

U.S. monthly average* prices, alfalfa, other and Premium dairy hay

2023-24 (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*

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2024 national forage review

Progressive Forage Editor **Dave Natzke**

Prices

After peaking in late 2022 and the first half of 2023, average monthly prices for alfalfa and premium dairy alfalfa classes of dry hay continued to soften through much of 2024 (see line graph on back page). Similar trends were seen in the market for other hay.

The 2024 annual average price for dairy-quality alfalfa hay was about $251 per ton in the five major dairy states tracked by the USDA, down about $48 from 2023's average of $299 per ton. Prices averaged about $233 per ton in the second half of 2024.

U.S. prices for all alfalfa hay* in 2024 averaged $185 per ton, down almost $61 from 2023. In the final six months of 2024, prices averaged $172 per ton.

Prices for all other hay averaged $152 per ton in 2024, down more than $36 from 2023's average of $188 per ton. July-December 2024 prices averaged $145 per ton.

Once at more than $100 in 2022-23, alfalfa hay's price premium over other hay narrowed to less than $20 per ton in November and December 2024.

Production

With higher prices in 2022-23, increased dry hay and total forage production and yield contributed to the lower prices in 2024. In many categories, yield increases offset slight declines in acreage. Compared to a year earlier:

• *All dry hay:* 2024 production was estimated at 122.5 million tons, up 3% from 2023. Area harvested was estimated at 49.4 million acres, down 6%, while U.S. average yield, at 2.48 tons per acre, was up 0.23 ton from the year before. Alaska saw record-high production and acreage, while record-low acreage was estimated in 10 states, including Indiana, Michigan, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Washington.

• *Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures:* 2024 production was estimated at 49.8 million tons, up slightly from 2023. Harvested area, at 14.6 million acres, was down 6%; average yield was estimated at 3.41 tons per acre, up 0.22 ton from 2023. Record-high yields were estimated in Nebraska and Wisconsin.

• *All other hay:* Production in 2024 totaled 72.6 million tons, up 6% from a year earlier. Harvested area, at 34.8 million acres, was down 6% from 2023. Average yield was estimated at a record-high 2.09 tons per acre, up 0.24 ton. Record-high production was estimated in Alaska, with record lows in Michigan and Ohio.

• *Total forage:* The USDA's total forage estimation program covers 17 states. Haylage and greenchop are converted to 13% moisture and combined with dry hay production to derive total forage estimates.

With dry hay, the 17-state total for all forage production was nearly 81.7 million tons, up 11% from 2023. About 39.2 million tons were alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures, up 4%.

All haylage and greenchop forages were harvested from 3.69 million acres in 2024, up about 6%. Average yield was higher, with total production at 28.5 million tons, up 10%.

• *Corn silage:* 2024 production was estimated at 123 million tons, down 5% from 2023. Area harvested for silage was estimated at 6.1 million acres, down 6%; average yield was estimated at 20.2 tons per acre, up 0.1 ton.

• *Sorghum silage:* Production was estimated at 4.06 million tons, down 18% from 2023. Area harvested for silage was estimated at 306,000 acres, down 20%; yield averaged 13.3 tons per acre, up 0.3 ton per acre from 2023.

• *New seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures:* Acreage newly seeded to alfalfa increased for a third consecutive year. In 2024, acreage was estimated at 1.85 million acres, up 107,000 acres (6%) from 2023 but still the fourth-lowest total in more than 25 years. About 1.45 million acres (78%) of new seeding was concentrated in 22 of 24 major dairy states, where new seeding was up about 153,000 acres compared to a year earlier.

• *Hay stocks:* Heading into the 2024 growing season, all dry hay stocks stored on U.S. farms on May 1 totaled about 21 million tons, up 45% from a year earlier. With higher production and increased use, hay inventories as of Dec. 1, 2024, totaled about 81.5 million tons, up 6% from a year earlier.

"Disappearance" from May 1 – Dec. 1, 2024, totaled 61.9 million tons, up 10% from the same period in 2023.

Among major dairy states, December 2024 hay inventories were estimated about 14% higher than a year earlier, with a record high in New Mexico but a record low in Ohio.

Exports

At 2.13 million metric tons (MT), 2024 alfalfa hay exports fell to a 10-year low. Sales to China represented 44% of the total market, but mid-year sales there again softened somewhat.

At 60,471 MT, export sales of dehydrated alfalfa cubes fell to a 17-year low, offset somewhat by gains in sales of dehydrated and sun-dried alfalfa meal.

While remaining low historically, 2024 exports of other hay did pick up slightly compared to 2023, with annual sales inching above 1.05 million MT. Japan maintained its spot as the top market, taking about 55% of other hay shipments during the year, followed by South Korea, at 27%.

Weather and drought

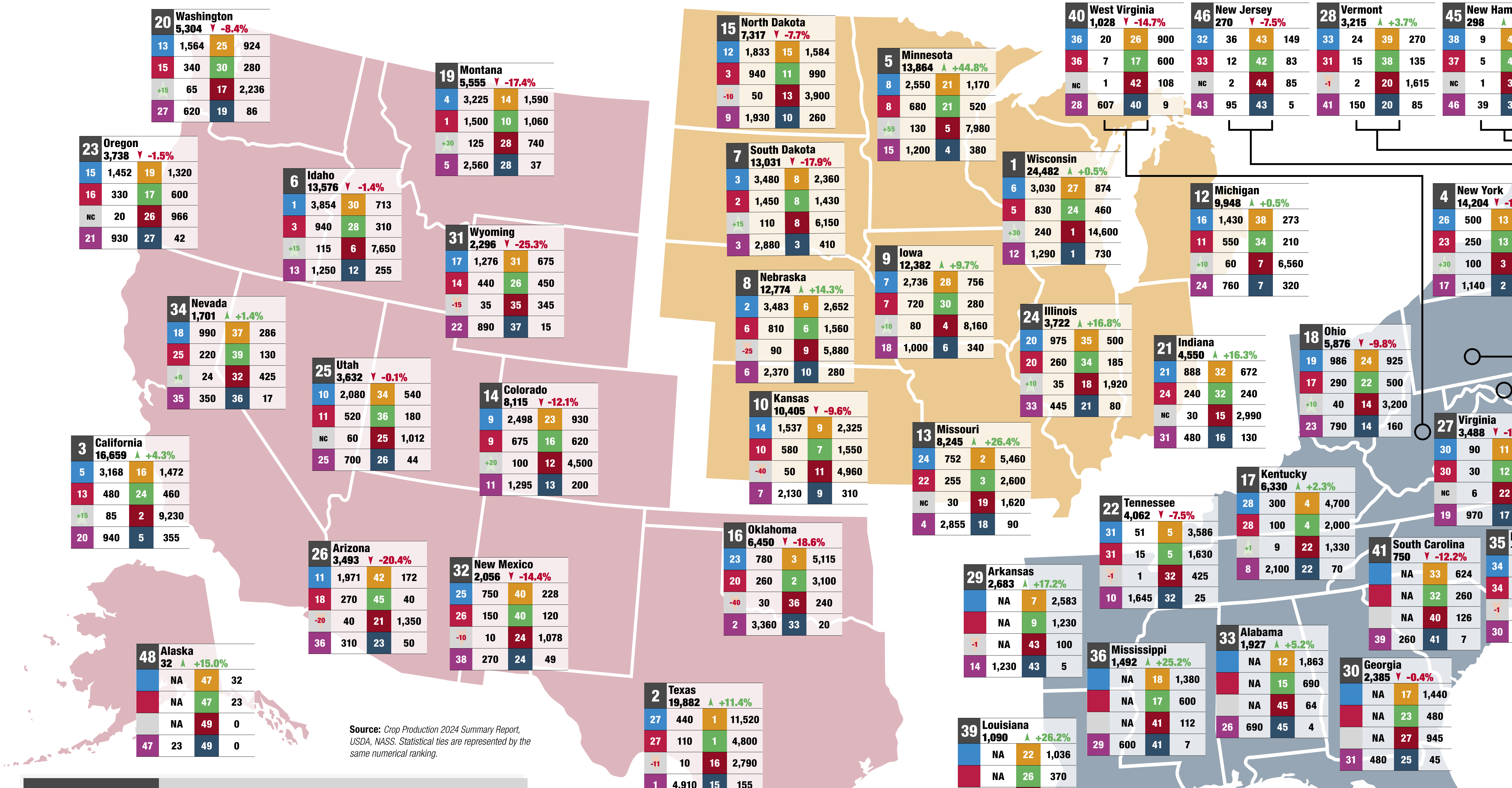
USDA Drought Monitor maps estimated less than 20% of U.S. hay acreage was under moderate to severe drought conditions through the first six months of 2024, before escalating in July and peaking at about 64% at the end of October.

The percentage of alfalfa hay acreage under drought conditions ran slightly higher through 2024, peaking at about 67% at the end of October and ending the year at about 51%.

As 2025 got underway, most extreme and severe drought conditions were in hay-producing areas of Arizona, southern California, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming.

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

2024 U.S. forage statistics



Washington — 20 — 5,304 — -8.4%
13	1,564	25	924
15	340	30	280
+15	65	17	2,236
27	620	19	86

Oregon — 23 — 3,738 — -1.5%
15	1,452	19	1,320
16	330	17	600
NC	20	26	966
21	930	27	42

Idaho — 6 — 13,576 — -1.4%
1	3,854	30	713
3	940	28	310
+15	115	6	7,650
13	1,250	12	255

Montana — 19 — 5,555 — -17.4%
4	3,225	14	1,590
1	1,500	10	1,060
+30	125	28	740
5	2,560	28	37

Wyoming — 31 — 2,296 — -25.3%
17	1,276	31	675
14	440	26	450
-15	35	35	345
22	890	37	15

Nevada — 34 — 1,701 — +1.4%
18	990	37	286
25	220	39	130
+9	24	32	425
35	350	36	17

Utah — 25 — 3,632 — -0.1%
10	2,080	34	540
11	520	36	180
NC	60	25	1,012
25	700	26	44

Colorado — 14 — 8,115 — -12.1%
9	2,498	23	930
9	675	16	620
+20	100	12	4,500
11	1,295	13	200

California — 3 — 16,659 — +4.3%
5	3,168	16	1,472
13	480	24	460
+15	85	2	9,230
20	940	5	355

Arizona — 26 — 3,493 — -20.4%
11	1,971	42	172
18	270	45	40
-20	40	21	1,350
36	310	23	50

New Mexico — 32 — 2,056 — -14.4%
25	750	40	228
26	150	40	120
-10	10	24	1,078
38	270	24	49

Alaska — 48 — 32 — +15.0%
	NA	47	32
	NA	47	23
	NA	49	0
47	23	49	0

North Dakota — 15 — 7,317 — -7.7%
12	1,833	15	1,584
3	940	11	990
-10	50	13	3,900
9	1,930	10	260

South Dakota — 7 — 13,031 — -17.9%
3	3,480	8	2,360
2	1,450	8	1,430
+15	110	8	6,150
3	2,880	3	410

Nebraska — 8 — 12,774 — +14.3%
2	3,483	6	2,652
6	810	6	1,560
-25	90	9	5,880
6	2,370	10	280

Kansas — 10 — 10,405 — -9.6%
14	1,537	9	2,325
10	580	7	1,550
-40	50	11	4,960
7	2,130	9	310

Oklahoma — 16 — 6,450 — -18.6%
23	780	3	5,115
20	260	2	3,100
-40	30	36	240
2	3,360	33	20

Texas — 2 — 19,882 — +11.4%
27	440	1	11,520
27	110	1	4,800
-11	10	16	2,790
1	4,910	15	155

Minnesota — 5 — 13,864 — +44.8%
8	2,550	21	1,170
8	680	21	520
+55	130	5	7,980
15	1,200	4	380

Iowa — 9 — 12,382 — +9.7%
7	2,736	28	756
7	720	30	280
+10	80	4	8,160
18	1,000	6	340

Missouri — 13 — 8,245 — +26.4%
24	752	2	5,460
22	255	3	2,600
NC	30	19	1,620
4	2,855	18	90

Wisconsin — 1 — 24,482 — +0.5%
6	3,030	27	874
5	830	24	460
+30	240	1	14,600
12	1,290	1	730

Illinois — 24 — 3,722 — +16.8%
20	975	35	500
20	260	34	185
+10	35	18	1,920
33	445	21	80

Michigan — 12 — 9,948 — +0.5%
16	1,430	38	273
11	550	34	210
+10	60	7	6,560
24	760	7	320

Indiana — 21 — 4,550 — +16.3%
21	888	32	672
24	240	32	240
NC	30	15	2,990
31	480	16	130

Ohio — 18 — 5,876 — -9.8%
19	986	24	925
17	290	22	500
+10	40	14	3,200
23	790	14	160

Kentucky — 17 — 6,330 — +2.3%
28	300	4	4,700
28	100	4	2,000
+1	9	22	1,330
8	2,100	22	70

Tennessee — 22 — 4,062 — -7.5%
31	51	5	3,586
31	15	5	1,630
-1	1	32	425
10	1,645	32	25

Arkansas — 29 — 2,683 — +17.2%
	NA	7	2,583
	NA	9	1,230
-1	NA	43	100
14	1,230	43	5

Mississippi — 36 — 1,492 — +25.2%
	NA	18	1,380
	NA	17	600
	NA	41	112
29	600	41	7

Louisiana — 39 — 1,090 — +26.2%
	NA	22	1,036
	NA	26	370
	NA	46	54
34	370	46	3

Alabama — 33 — 1,927 — +5.2%
	NA	12	1,863
	NA	15	690
	NA	45	64
26	690	45	4

Georgia — 30 — 2,385 — -0.4%
	NA	17	1,440
	NA	23	480
	NA	27	945
31	480	25	45

Florida — 37 — 1,294 — -11.8%
	NA	29	750
	NA	29	300
	NA	30	544
37	300	30	34

South Carolina — 41 — 750 — -12.2%
	NA	33	624
	NA	32	260
	NA	40	126
39	260	41	7

North Carolina — 35 — 1,539 — -20.0%
34	23	20	1,276
34	8	20	580
-1	1	36	240
30	588	33	20

Virginia — 27 — 3,488 — -16.2%
30	90	11	2,068
30	30	12	940
NC	6	22	1,330
19	970	17	95

West Virginia — 40 — 1,028 — -14.7%
36	20	26	900
36	7	17	600
NC	1	42	108
28	607	40	9

New Jersey — 46 — 270 — -7.5%
32	36	43	149
33	12	42	83
NC	2	44	85
43	95	43	5

Vermont — 28 — 3,215 — +3.7%
33	24	39	270
31	15	38	135
-1	2	20	1,615
41	150	20	85

New Hampshire — 45 — 298 — +3.7%
38	9	46	58
37	5	46	34
NC	1	38	231
46	39	38	11

Connecticut — 43 — 514 — +19.0%
37	11	44	104
37	5	44	45
NC	1	34	400
44	50	33	20

Maine — 42 — 712 — +22.9%
35	20	41	198
34	8	41	110
+1	2	31	494
42	118	31	26

Massachusetts — 44 — 306 — +12.3%
40	5	45	92
39	3	43	46
NC	1	39	209
45	49	38	11

New York — 4 — 14,204 — -1.8%
26	500	13	1,780
23	250	13	890
+30	100	3	8,455
17	1,140	2	445

Rhode Island — 49 — 27 — -20.9%
41	2	49	7
41	1	49	5
NC	0	48	18
49	6	48	1

Pennsylvania — 11 — 10,209 — -15.0%
22	837	10	2,270
18	270	13	890
NC	50	10	5,120
16	1,160	7	320

Maryland — 38 — 1,139 — +10.7%
29	176	36	403
29	40	37	155
+7	8	29	560
40	195	29	35

Delaware — 47 — 70 — -15.9%
39	8	48	17
39	3	48	7
-1	1	47	46
48	10	47	2

Source: *Crop Production 2024 Summary Report, USDA, NASS. Statistical ties are represented by the same numerical ranking.*

Legend

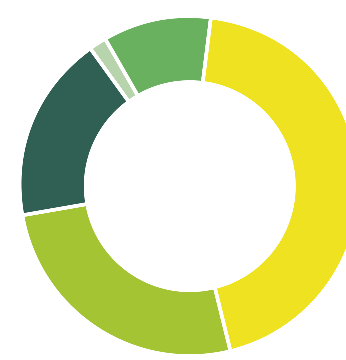
5 Minnesota 13,864 +44.8%

8	2,550	21	1,170
8	680	21	520
+55	130	5	7,980
15	1,200	4	380

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 2023-24
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)*

Total U.S. forage acres
in thousands of acres

Other hay	34,778	-2,389
Alfalfa	14,612	-992
Silage	6,100	-371
Greenchop	3,692	+218
Sorghum	306	-78
Combined total	**59,488**	



Total U.S. tons harvested
in thousands of tons

Silage	20.2 *tons/acre*	123,093	-5.3%
Other hay	2.1 *tons/acre*	72,686	+5.7%
Alfalfa	3.4 *tons/acre*	49,827	+0.1%
Greenchop	7.7 *tons/acre*	28,502	+10%
Sorghum	13.3 *tons/acre*	4,062	-18.0%
Combined total		**278,170**	

United States
278,170 -0.4%

49,827 +0.1%	72,686 +5.7%
14,612 -6.4%	34,778 -6.4%
1,850 +107	123,093 -5.3%
49,390 -6.4%	6,100 -5.4%

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