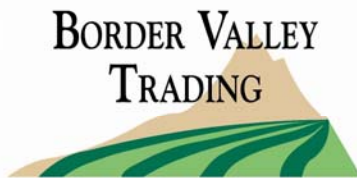


# Border Valley News

July 3, 2008



A Commitment to Safe, Quality, Feed

[www.bordervalley.com](http://www.bordervalley.com)

## IMPERIAL VALLEY

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Sudan harvest volume in the Imperial Valley continues to increase as we now are seeing sudan harvest that was planted the first part of May. Some farmers continue to plant late sudan, but for the most part, sudan planting has been completed.



With the hotter temperatures we are now seeing a wider range in quality, mostly the color. Most sudan being harvested now is fine stem and medium color. Occasionally we are seeing some variation in stem size, as well as color. While most of the sudan being harvest is medium color, we are seeing some standard color sudan, as well as isolated cases of lower color. As we get further into July, we expect to see increase in lighter color sudan. The earliest 2nd cutting sudan will start in a few more weeks.

Suppliers have been very aggressive to secure sudan. Pricing remains firm and in many cases has strengthened. The feeling in the countryside is that supply of top quality sudan will be very limited this year, and as a result we are seeing aggressive buying from suppliers. We are hopeful with a wider range in quality, we will see some grades of sudan more competitively priced in the countryside.

Klein Grass harvest continues as most growers have now completed 2nd cutting, with some 3rd cutting just starting. Quality of 2nd cutting klein grass has been quite nice, with most klein making premium and #1 grade.

Influenced by increasing countryside pricing of sudan grass, we have also seen klein grass pricing to the farmer increase. With increases in cost of fertilizer, growers do need higher pricing to compensate for higher production costs.

Harvest of bermuda straw has started. Supply volume of bermuda straw should be close to the same amount that we had last season. Even though there has been a decrease in bermuda grass acres, we are seeing farmers making less

early harvested bermuda hay and making bermuda seed instead.



4th cutting alfalfa varied depending on weather conditions. Under ideal weather, we did see some nice quality #1 export grade alfalfa. With hotter temperatures, we are seeing more bloom in the alfalfa, which is very typical for this time of year.

In Central and Northern California growers are completing 3rd cutting alfalfa, and have started 4th cutting in the Southern most areas. Quality of 3rd cutting alfalfa has been very nice, and we have seen some very good quality premium export alfalfa.



Domestic demand is strong for bermuda straw as domestic dairies will feed some straw as part of their total ration to cheapen the overall cost of their feed. In order to secure bermuda straw, exporters must compete with the domestic market.

Farmers in the Imperial Valley are finishing the harvest of 4th cutting alfalfa, and some have started 5th cutting. Overall quality of



With the start of 4th cutting, we are seeing a wider range in alfalfa quality. With hotter temperatures and times of higher humidity, we are seeing cases of increase in the amount of bleach. Even though the alfalfa is showing more bleach, it has good leaf retention and test.

Demand from the domestic market for alfalfa in California is very strong. As a result the price of alfalfa remains firm, and in many cases we have seen pricing increase. The domestic market is also securing alfalfa from Northern Oregon, Utah, Nevada and Colorado for California dairies.

## PSW Harvest Progress

as of July 3 2008

### Imperial Valley

Alfalfa

Sudan

Klein

Early Bermuda Hay

Bermuda Hay after seed

Bermuda Straw

### Central California

Southern San Joaquin Alfalfa

Northern San Joaquin Alfalfa






Sudan

	1st Cutting		2nd Cutting		3rd Cutting		4th Cutting		5th Cutting	
	Cut	Baled	Cut	Baled	Cut	Baled	Cut	Baled	Cut	Baled
Alfalfa	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%	80%	10%	5%
Sudan	40%	30%								
Klein	100%	100%	95%	90%	5%	1%				
Early Bermuda Hay	100%	100%	100%	90%						
Bermuda Hay after seed										
Bermuda Straw	20%	5%								
Southern San Joaquin Alfalfa	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%				
Northern San Joaquin Alfalfa	100%	100%	100%	100%	80%	70%				
Sudan										






*Due to the Fourth of July holiday our office will be closed Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup> and will reopen on Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>.*

## The Weather

### Imperial Valley

JUL 3	JUL 4	JUL 5	JUL 6	JUL 7
				
Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny
High: 44° Low: 28°	High: 45° Low: 28°	High: 46° Low: 28°	High: 44° Low: 28°	High: 44° Low: 29°

### Modesto

JUL 3	JUL 4	JUL 5	JUL 6	JUL 7
				
Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny
High: 34° Low: 18°	High: 33° Low: 18°	High: 35° Low: 19°	High: 37° Low: 20°	High: 39° Low: 21°