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UW-Extension Web site links hay buyers and sellers

Many livestock producers may find themselves short on hay or other feed for livestock because of losses to alfalfa and pasture winterkill last winter and abnormally dry weather this summer.

"Some parts of the state, especially in southern and eastern Wisconsin, have shortages already, said Laura Paine, University of Wisconsin-Extension agriculture agent in Columbia County. "Other parts of the state have good supplies because they weren't affected by winterkill or have had more rain. This year, people who need to buy hay may be able to find it without searching out of state. The site has also been very useful for putting buyers and sellers in touch locally."

Paine and other members of Extension's Grain Team, have established a Web site where growers facing shortages can find growers who have excess feed to sell. The Web site is at <http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu>. The Farmer to Farmer Hay, Forage and Corn List is free of charge for both buyers and sellers.

Paine said this site can benefit both buyers and sellers. Buyers can locate feed for their animals quickly. Sellers can find buyers for hay, forage or corn they don't need for their own animals.

The Web site is easy to use and buyers and sellers can access it anytime between now and Dec. 1. People who wish to use this service but do not have access to the Internet can get access and assistance at their county UW-Extension office.

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