

REPORT ON THE 2023 AUCTION OF HAY & STRAW

The 62nd Adkin/Thimbleby & Shorland Annual Sale of Hay & Straw was held live and online again this year, with prospective buyers roughly divided equally between those in the room and those bidding remotely. A strong demand for hay and a very weak market for straw are the predictable outcomes of an exceptionally dry summer and a prolonged open autumn. Although grass seemed to continue to grow until very late in the year this did not make up for the lower yields and unseasonable usage due to the spring/summer drought. Straw yields however did not seem to be that badly affected and with usage well down there is little demand. There was a 100% clearance of hay all bar one lot of round bales. Fortunately, there was little straw entered this year.

Auctioneer Chris Boreham said: "It was very pleasing to see such a good trade for hay, and fortunately the bulk of the lots were of hay with little straw entered this year. The future continues to look volatile, and that is without trying to guess what surprises the weather may have in store for 2023! It is noticeable however that regular vendors who know their market are generally successful in selling whatever the prevailing circumstances"

Thanks go to all parties for continuing to support the sale, and to those newer vendors. Things remain unpredictable with cropping and fertiliser usage still uncertain. The principal prices achieved were:

HAY

Meadow

Big Bales

Top price Claas 2100 bales Meadow Hay £35 per bale (approximately £140/tonne) (Marcham Farms Ltd). Average approx. £118/tonne. 100% clearance.

Conventional Bales

Top price £4/bale (A&S Franklin). Average £3.25/bale. 100% clearance.

Seeds

Big Bales

Top price NH BB870 bales Seeds Hay £50 per bale (approximately £150/tonne) (G D Lay & Partners). 100% clearance

STRAW

Wheat Straw

Big Bales

Class 3200 bales £15 per bale (approx. £45/tonne) (Gale Estates Ltd).

SILAGE

Krone (0.7 x 1.2 x 1.6) bales grass silage £26/bale.

For more information please contact Chris Boreham on 0118 950 8611 or email chris@tsauction.co.uk