

# Calliope Wholesale Feeds

**April 2011**

**California Dairies Paying Dearly  
Alfalfa Prices are at record highs**

**"The price of alfalfa hay has just gone through the roof," says Dan Putnam of \$320/ton and higher delivered prices for first cutting coming out of the Imperial Valley to dairies in the Central Valley. "It's been phenomenal. I don't think hay growers in Imperial have ever seen prices this high," the University of California Extension forage specialist says.**

**Hay supplies are tight across the central part of the state, according to USDA's California Weekly Hay Report, and that's forcing some dairies around Tulare, Visalia, Hanford and Bakersfield to pay as high as \$335-345/ton prices for new hay brought in. "Prices should moderate as the first harvest comes off in the bigger production areas in the San Joaquin Valley," Putnam agrees. But the weather hasn't been cooperating, with 60-mph winds and driving, cold rain, plus the threat of flooding, slowing alfalfa production.**

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