



Horse Care Info Sheet

Help Extending Hay Supply

Whatever the cause, when hay becomes scarce horse owners become resourceful.

Frequent Feedback from your forage provider

With the majority of your horse's diet consisting of forage, your hay provider and equine nutritionist are vital members in your horse's healthcare team. There is no disputing the value of a testing hay to balance a diet.

- Knowing the nutrients of your forage is important before deciding what the horse may need in the way of concentrates and/or supplements.
- The nutrient contents of hay fluctuate between sources and between cuts at different times a year. If you are sourcing from afar due to shortages the nutrient contents may vary considerably.
- Nutrient requirements will not be the same for an idle mature horse as a performance horse, broodmare or youngster.

Beetpulp

Check with your nutritionist to see if it makes sense to add beetpulp to your horse's diet

- High in fiber and easy to digest
- Relatively high in Calcium
- Cannot be used as a total hay replacement



Roughage

Consult your nutritionist if you are considering partially or fully replacing your horse's forage.

- Hay cubes
- Complete feeds

Avoid Waste

Keep your hay under cover and off the ground by storing on pallets to avoid moisture and mould

- Hay feeders keep hay from being trampled into the ground.
- Hay nets, particularly slow feeders with smaller holes make meal times last longer and reduce waste.
- Preserve pasture by not overstocking and allowing pastures to become over-grazed.
- Making your own hay? [This link has information on moisture and propionate preservatives.](#)

Remember all feed changes should be made gradually over 2 weeks (including forage) and in consultation with an equine nutrition specialist.

If you would like to learn more, Equine Guelph offers [12-week online courses](#) in Equine Nutrition and Advanced Nutrition.

Learn more about online courses for horse caregivers at the [Equine Guelph education web page](#).