What Hay Is Right For Your Livestock

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What Have We Learned So Far?

• Renovate fields
• Establish new stands
• Maintain existing stands
Harvesting

- Haying equipment needed
- Dry hay making large round & square bales
- Making balage
Storage

- Round bales wrapped or stacked dry
- Round bales wrapped or ensiled balage
- Square bales in a barn
- Knowing what you have
Determining Forage Quality

- Forage testing
- Forage quality
- Reading forage test results
- Feed value terms
Forage Quality

- Determines feeding value and price
- Determines Dry matter Intake (DMI)
- Determines what livestock you will feed it to and when
- Determines who you will sell it to or who will buy it
Feeding Hay To Livestock

• Horses
• Cattle
• Goats
• Sheep
• Alpacas
Factors To Consider When Choosing A Hay To Feed

• Clean hay
• Nutrient value
• Type of animal being fed
• Maturity
Clean Hay Free Of Mold And Dust

Causes of Moldy or Dusty Hay

- Rained on after it was cut
- Baled too green (over 15% moisture)
- Baled to dry
- Improper storage
- Weeds
- Feeding on the ground
- Floods
How To Determine If Hay Is Moldy Or Dusty

• See the mold on the outside of the bale
• Smell the mold
• See the mold or dust when feeding
• The bale feels wet or hot
• Heavy bales
Nutrient Value Of Hay

Legumes-
  – High in protein 15-20%
  – High in energy (ton) 48-55%
  – High in calcium 0.9-1.5%

Grasses-
  – Protein 7-11%
  – Energy 42-50%
  – Calcium .3-.5%

Why the wide ranges legume to legume or grass to grass.
Matching Hay Type To The Horse
Not all horses have the same nutrient needs

• High nutrient requirements
  – Growing horses
  – Lactating mares
  – Working draft breeds
  – Racing horses

Early-maturity alfalfa, alfalfa grass or grass hay are more palatable and higher in nutrients. A grain supplement may also be needed.
Matching Hay Type To The Horse

• Low nutrient requirements
  – Pleasure horses only ridden weekly
  – Draft horses not used for work
  – Barren mares
Mid to late maturity hay is all that is needed
*Note- Clovers and Fescue are a problem with horses
Feeding Hay To Beef Cattle

• Moldy hay
  – Nutrient value can be reduced by 15-20%
  – Moldy hay should not make up more than 30% of the ration
  – Animal will eat less
  – Mycotoxins not a problem in cattle
What Can A Beef Cow Eat

• 2%-2.5% of their body weight in dry matter
• 1000lb cow x .025=25lb dm/day
• 25lb dm=about 30lb dry hay
High Nutrient Requirement From Hay

- cows nursing calves
- Growing heifers
- Pregnant heifers and cows last 60 days of pregnancy
- Bulls after breeding season
- Steers under 850lbs
Low Nutrient Requirements From Hay

• Dry Cows
• Bulls maintenance
• Feedlot cattle over 850lbs
Other Factors That Affect Nutrient Requirement

• Breed
• Sex
• Age
• Hide
• Weather conditions
• Physical activities
• *Note- Selenium deficiency is a problem
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<tr>
<th>Body Weight (lb)</th>
<th>Daily Gain (lb)</th>
<th>Dry Matter Intake (lb)</th>
<th>Crude Protein (lb/day)</th>
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<th>TDN (lb/day)</th>
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Vitamin A requirement for (1) pregnant heifers and cows = 1270 IU per lb dry feed; (2) lactating cows and breeding bulls = 1770 IU per lb dry feed.

Feeding The Right Hay To Sheep At The Right Time

• Feed a medium quality grass hay to ewes during maintenance and early gestation
• A mixed grass-legume hay should be fed to ewes in late gestation (limit feed)
• Lactating ewes should be fed a pure alfalfa or mixed grass mostly alfalfa hay to meet protein and calcium needs
• Lambs being raised for replacement or for sale should receive mixed mostly legume hay for growth
• Ewes 2 weeks before breeding should be fed a mixed grass mostly legume hay
Feeding Hay To Your Goats

• Goats, both dairy and meat goats, prefer hay that is highly digestible. NDF below 35%
• Feed mixed mostly legume hay to:
  – Kids
  – Pregnant does
  – Lactating does
• Feed a medium quality grass hay to:
  -Mature goats
Goats prefer browse and forbes which are highly digestible
Stretching Your Hay Supply With Corn Grain

1 pound of corn can replace 2lb of medium quality hay on a TDN basis
Corn- $4.50 bushel  $.08lb
Medium quality hay- $145-$210. ton  $.08lb

Ruminants should be fed at least 1lb of hay per 100lb body weight
Comparative value for hay ($/ton) based on TDN level of a hay sample for a range of corn prices ($/bu) assuming similar dry matter percentages and corn having 88% TDN

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Questions?

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Cell- 518-577-0958