

What Horses Eat

Level 3

Grains

Pellets, Sweet Feed,

Corn, Oats and Beet pulp





Horses need 6 main nutrients to survive

Water, Fats, Carbohydrates, Proteins, Vitamins and Minerals

They get these nutrients from Water, Forage (Hay and Pasture Grass)
Grains and Supplements if needed

There are feeds made for specific needs
(Senior feeds, feed for Foals, ration feeds, performance feeds, etc.)

Hay is fed at a rate of 2% of the horse's body
So if a horse's weight is 1000lbs =
20 pounds of hay a day



Horses are grazing animals.

They can survive in the wild on grasses and water.

Domestic horses are fed according to how hard they work, their metabolism, their age, their health, and the quality of their hay/pasture.

Generally speaking more work = more feed

Pasture Grass

Pasture grass can vary from lush and green to dry and depleted.

Hay + Pasture Grass = Horse's Total Forage





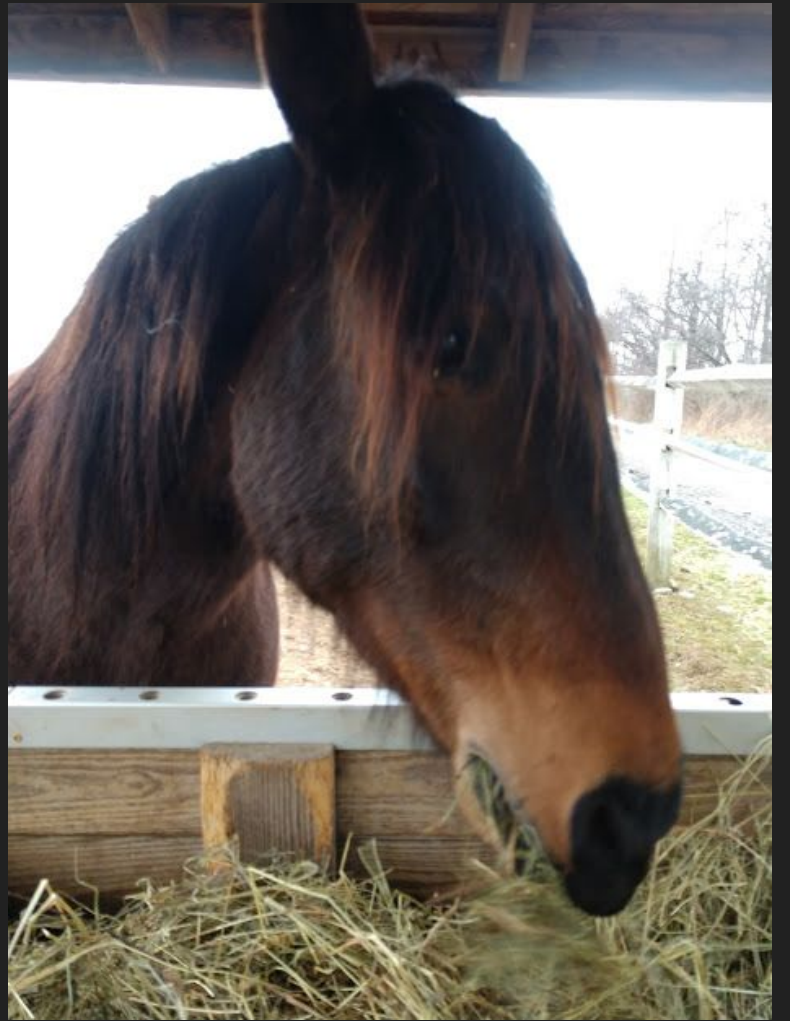
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjRgBX5JDro>



Hay

Hay can come in round or square bales and ranges in color from yellow to bright green. Hay cubes are an option for horses with poor teeth.





Hay

Rectangular bales of hay are made up of several flakes of hay.
A flake of hay is a section of hay or a chunk of hay.
(One bale may have 15 flakes of hay for example)



Good Hay

- Green in color
- Sweet smell
- Leafy
- Low moisture
- Tender texture
- Free from weeds, poisonous plants, trash and foreign objects



Poor Hay

- Dusty
- Moldy
- Damp
- Brown to yellow in color
- Many weeds
- Tough stems



Water

Horses need to have access to water 24/7.

A horse can drink
5 -10 gallons a day.

Water is the horse's
most important
nutrient.





Things to consider:

- Horses do not know when they are full. If given a whole bag of grain they would try to eat the whole bag!
- Horses can not throw up, so if they over eat they can become very sick.
- Horses like regularity - Try to feed at the same time each day.
- If their grain needs to be changed make the change gradually over a few weeks.
- A horse needs their teeth checked each year to make sure they can use them properly to make good use of their grain.

Summer = less hay because grass is plentiful

Winter = more hay because there is not much grass

Some horses require very little grain to maintain their weight while others require a great deal. Those that require less grain are typically on a ration diet that includes a dense amount of essential vitamins and minerals with less calories overall.

If a horse has any sort of weakness like poor hooves or sore joints there is a supplement to improve whatever that weakness might be.

Salt Blocks are placed in pastures to allow horses access to salt whenever they need it.

When horses sweat they lose salt. Horses instinctively know when they need more salt and will seek out a source.



Supplements can help with any deficiency your horse may have. They can be a liquid, pellet, crumble or a powder.

Some Horses Need Supplements

Supplements can be added to grain.

There are many different kinds...

Examples:

Joint Supplements

Electrolytes

Salt

Vit E and Selenium

Hoof Supplements

Respiratory Supplements

Muscle Supplements

Omega Oils

Pre and Probiotics

Horse Treats

Apples, Carrots, Peppermint sticks,
Peppermints and Crunchy treats

