Producing the World's Finest Hay Products MANITOBA, CANADA

Your #1 Source for PREMIUM QUALITY Horse Hay

Manitoba

Manitoba Horse Hay

"Serving Manitoba, Canada, USA and the world "

Some of the finest quality hay in the world is produced in Manitoba. Fertile soils, long growing season and few pests make for ideal growing and harvesting conditions.

Manitoba producers have a long history of shipping hay across Canada, USA and the world. Customers from Japan, Korea, Florida, Texas and Wisconsin are among the growing numbers of customers who purchase thousands of tons of Manitoba hay annually. You can be confident that Manitoba hay producers can meet your needs regardless of where you live.

Tips for Purchasing Horse Hay

Choosing Hay

It can be confusing when choosing hay for horses. You will find as many opinions on horse hay as you will horse owners. Outlined in this directory are some important points to consider when choosing hay for your horse.

The Role of Hay in your Horses' Diet

Horses are by nature herbivores. This means that their entire digestive system is designed to consume and digest forages (pasture and hay). Therefore, hay that we provide becomes one of the most important feed products that you will give your horse. Hay provides your horse with long-stem fiber required to maintain good digestive tract function and most of the nutrients that your horse needs. Hay is low in salt and may be deficient in one or more minerals so salt and a mineral supplement should always accompany hay.

Hay also provides one other seldom thought of function - it gives horses something to do. Horses in a pasture will spend up to 17 hours per day eating. When we feed rich hay or a diet high in concentrates (oats/pellets), eating time can be reduced to a few hours. Horses with reduced eating time can become bored and develop vices such as wood chewing or other stereotypic behaviors.

When looking for the right hay for your horse, keep in mind the functions of hay: fiber, nutrients and psychological fulfillment (the need to be grazing). Horses fed high hay diets are less likely to experience digestive troubles.

What about Smell?

Good hay smells fresh and good! Hay that smells musty, moldy, sour or sweet has experienced some type of spoilage. Hay can look perfectly green and still have molded or spoiled in some other way. Your nose will tell you this better than your eyes. Beware of the sweet or almost tobacco smelling hay. This hay has heated and the sweet smell is a result of the carmalization of sugars in the plant. Animals often like the smell and taste of this type of spoilage but it will be low in available nutrients and most likely be very dusty.

What does Color Mean?

The color of hay is determined by the variety of hay and the stage of maturity when harvested. All grasses and legumes cure a different color of green. For example, alfalfa cures a rich dark-green color while timothy cures to a light lime-green color. The difference in color does not make one hay better than the other.

Color can also indicate problems with the hay such as sun-bleaching, weathering, mold growth or heating. However, it does not tell you anything about the nutritional make-up of the hay - *nutritional value can only be determined by a feed analysis*.

Clean Hay is the Best Hay

Hay has to be free of dust, mold, and foreign objects; and it needs to meet your horse's nutritional requirements. Without a doubt the biggest challenge is to find dust free hay. Dust in hay can come from mold spores, leaf shatter or other dusty situations such as gravel roads.

Mold spore dust is the most harmful to the horse. Molds form when the hay is baled too moist or the hay is improperly stored allowing moisture to enter from the top or from the ground. Mold dust acts as an allergen and can cause inflammation of the respiratory tract in horses. It may cause temporary coughing or with repeat exposure the horse can develop permanent lung damage commonly known as heaves or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). This disease is primarily man made by the repeat feeding of moldy hay. The second problem with moldy hay is the possible formation of mycotoxins, which are poisonous compounds produced by molds. Moldy, dusty hay simply should not be fed to horses.

When choosing hay you need to determine if the color indicates detrimental spoilage such as molding or heating, more superficial damage such as sun-bleaching or is just indicative to the hay variety.

Texture

Hay can range from soft and pliable to very coarse, stemmy and brittle. Try to avoid the courser hay especially if feeding weanlings. The coarser the hay, the more likely you are to have higher wastage. This type of hay may not be good value for your money.

The Feed Analysis

A feed analysis could save you a lot of money in the long run. Hay is almost a complete feed by itself. In other words, hay can meet almost all of your horse's nutritional needs with the exception of water, salt and some micro and macro minerals. Hay often has enough protein and energy to meet the horse's nutritional needs with no extra supplementation. When purchasing hay, the feed analysis will help you determine the correct mineral to buy and if extra supplementation of protein and energy will be required. Ask for a feed analysis from the producer when purchasing your hay and, if possible, the feed analysis should have digestible energy (DE) expressed as 'Horse DE'.

Using smell, color, texture and the feed analysis to choose hay will result in making the best choice for your horse.

What about Preservatives?

Propionic acid is the most effective preservative for inhibiting mold growth. Studies have shown propionic acid to be safe for horses but it is well documented that mold spores can be very detrimental to a horse's health. If given the choice between slightly moldy hay or hay treated with propionic acid, go for the treated hay.

Propionic acid will slightly change the smell and taste of the hay but horses will become accustomed to this difference within a few days to a week.

Determining the Amount of Hay Required

Generally you should allow for 2.0% to 2.5% of your horses weight in dry matter (DM) feed (hay) per day. Horses fed free choice hay may eat up to 3.0% of their body weight in hay. You must also account for wastage: if feeding on the ground in muddy pens you may loose up to 25% or more of the hay due to trampling.

Calculation:

1100 lb horse X 2.0 to 2.5% of body weight = 22 to 27.5 lbs DM feed/day
27.5 lbs. X 30.5 days (average month) = 839 lbs of hay per month
8 months (winter feeding period) X 839 lbs = 6712 lbs (this equals 3.4 tons or 122 – 55 lbs bales)

When new hay arrives at your farm you want to determine the weight of the bales. This is because you need to feed by weight as per the calculation above not by number of flakes (bales can vary from 30 to 85 lbs. so each flake can also vary significantly). To weigh a bale, use a regu-

lar bathroom scale. Step onto the scale with a bale and subtract your body weight from the total. Follow this same procedure with several bales. Once you know the average weight of the bales you can calculate the average weight per flake and feed the appropriate amount.

Matching Hay to your Horse's Nutritional Needs

Table 1 below outlines the recommended minimum nutritional requirements for horses. If nutrient rich hay is fed to horses with low nutritional needs, weight gain will occur. If low nutrient hay is fed to horses with high nutritional needs then weight loss or poor growth will occur.
The only way to determine the nutrient content of hay is through a feed analysis. Use the feed

Table 1. Horse Nutritional Needs (Adapted from National Research Council)
(*if problems arise related to aging you can add 7 to 10% fat to the diet.)

Class of Horse	Minimum Crude Protein (%)	Minimum Calcium (%)	Minimum Phosphorus (%)	Energy (DE) (Mcal/kg)
Mature				
Idle	7.2	0.21	0.15	1.8
Light	8.8	0.27	0.19	2.2
Moderate	9.4	0.28	0.22	2.4
Hard	10.3	0.31	0.23	2.55
Pregnant Mares				
0 – 8 months	7.2	0.21	0.15	1.8
9 – 11 months	9	0.39	0.29	2.0
Lactating Mares				
Foaling to 3 months	12	0.47	0.30	2.35
3 months to weaning	10	0.33	0.20	2.2
Young stock				
Weanlings	13	0.62	0.30	2.6
Yearlings	11	0.40	0.21	2.5
Up to 2 years old	9.5	0.31	0.18	2.2
Other				
Elderly*	12	0.30	0.30	1.80

analysis to match as closely as possible the protein and energy that is required by your horse. Use the calcium and phosphorus values to purchase the correct mineral supplement.

Buying Horse Hay Long-Distance

Most of us feel more comfortable buying hay from our neighbor or someone we know personally. This is not always possible because of lack of forages in your area or poor growing or haying conditions on some years. So that you always have the best quality hay on hand, it is a good idea to have suppliers from different regions.

Getting to know the Horse Hay Producer

Contact information for each producer is provided in this directory. It is worth taking the time to get to know the hay producer. When talking to the hay producer it is important to have a good description of the type of hay you want and to get a good description of the hay you will be receiving. Some of the terms that may be used to describe the physical characteristics of hay include: leaf attachment, softness, color, odor, dustiness, foreign material, and stage of maturity. You will also want to inquire if the hay was rained on during the haying process and lastly if the hay is tarped or shedded. *Do not buy hay that has not been properly stored.*

Ask for the feed analysis to be faxed to you. Look at the crude protein and digestible energy to see if they are in a range that is suitable for your horse. Use Table 1 to help you with this process. Finally look at the percent moisture; it should be in the range of 9 to 15 percent. Higher moisture hay is not likely to store very well and may continue to mold even after delivery.

Pricing

When discussing hay prices always get the quote in dollars per ton or cents per pound. This is the only way you can truly compare prices as bale weights vary significantly. Remember your horse consumes feed on a per weight basis not by the number of bales.

Which hay is the best deal, a bale at $4.95 or one for $5.25? If the first bale weighed 65 lbs and the second bale 75 lbs., the $4.95 bale is $152/ton while the $5.25 bale is worth $140/ton. Clearly, if we were only looking at the cost per bale, we would be paying more if we choose the lower cost per bale. Do you think you would have felt the difference in the weight of these bales if you had picked them both up?

Delivery

In Manitoba, haying season starts the beginning of June and ends in October. During this time, haying takes priority. It is therefore important to give the producer lots of lead time. He can fit your delivery into his busy season if given adequate time. Often it is worth purchasing enough

hay to get you through until October when farming and haying slows down. In this way you won't run short before your new delivery can be arranged.

If purchasing hay locally, it can be picked up or delivered in smaller lots to your farm. However, if you are purchasing hay from a distance, the hay will be delivered with a semi-truck. These trucks hold 20 to 22 tons of hay or approximately 600, 70 lb bales. Arrange to have the hay dropped off at a yard with adequate space for these large trucks to maneuver. If you only need a part load you will have to arrange to split a load with one or several other people but be aware that the truck driver will likely only deliver to one yard. Be sure to have adequate labor and/or equipment present for rapid unloading. And lastly, prompt payment to the hay producer will be appreciated and goes a long way to building a positive, trusting relationship.

Bale Types

As you have probably noticed, more hay producers are changing to medium and large square bales. This is because they are more efficient to bale, handle, and semi-trucks can be loaded to maximum weight. If you have the equipment to handle these large bales you may want to give them a try. They have the advantage of stacking well, and hay flakes off like the traditional small square bale. Because of the producers ease of handling you may be able to negotiate a better price per ton than for the labor intensive small square bales.

Final Advice

Hay is not a manufactured product; this means that there can be a lot of variability. The producer will need constructive feedback from you in order to provide you with the product you are seeking. Good communication will build your confidence in purchasing hay long-distance and providing you with the highest quality and most suitable product.

"Manitoba hay producers - serving Canada, USA and the world"

Directory of Manitoba Horse Hay Producers

Serving Manitoba, Canada, USA and the world

Hay Codes

Al—Alfalfa ALG—Alfalfa/grass G—Grass CS—Cereal Straw

Bale and Product Codes

SS— Small squares (50—85 lbs.)

MS—Medium squares—(700—900 lbs.)

LS—Large squares (900—1100 lbs.)

RB—Round bale (800—1400 lbs.)

F—Ground flax

O—Oats

WS—Wood shavings

North East

Name	Address	Contact	Hay Types	Bale Types
6-Tron Bison (Tronrud, Mark)	Box 43, Teulon, MB R0C 3B0	Ph: 204-886-3388 Fx: 204-886-2995 tronrud@mts.net	ALG, G, CS	SS,MS
Bonikiowsky, Paul	Box 6151, RR#2 Beausejour R0E 0C0	Ph: 888-408-4880 Fx: 204-265-3078 bonfarms@mts.net	AL, ALG, G, CS	SS
Duiguid, Michael	Box 11, Camp Morton R0C 0M0	Ph: 204-642-7630 Fx: 204-642-7630 mcduguid@mts.net	AL, ALG, CS	MS
E Bar C Ranch (Bernier, Ed)	Box 311 Fisher Branch R0C 0Z0	Ph: 204-372-6937 Fx: 204-372-6589 cbernier@mts.net	AL, G, CS	MS, RB
Greenridge Farms (Stocki, Marvin & Kevin)	Box 89 Fisher Branch R0C 0Z0	Ph: 204-372-6642 Fx: 204-372-6811	AL, ALG,G, CS	SS
Hummel, Hubert	223 Little Britain Rd. Lockport R1A 3S2	Ph: 204-757-2531 Fx: 204-757-7964 chummel@mts.net	AL, ALG, G, CS	MS
Sigurdson, Barrie	Box 220 Gimli R0C 1B0	Ph: 204-642-5625 Fx: 204-642-4682 sigfarm@mts.net	AL, ALG, G, CS	SS, MS, RB
Thompson, Robert	S 425, C 14 RR#4 Beausejour R0E 0C0	Ph: 204-268-3038	ALG	SS, MS

North West	Chychota Hay Farms (Glenn)	Box 43 Sifton R0L 1X0	Ph: 204-655-3338 Cell: 204-648-3937 Fx: 204-655-3323 chychota@mts.net	G	MS
	Fulton, Dave	Box 141 Birtle R0M 0C0	Ph: 204-842-5192 Fx: 204-842-3486 dfulton@mts.net	AL, ALG, G, CS	SS
	Hupalo, Brian	30 MacNiell Place Dauphin R1N 3K2	Ph: 204-638-8218 Fx: 204-638-8218 hupalo@mts.net	G	MS
	Kooistra Hay Sales (Larry)	Box 609 Swan River R0L 7Z0	Ph: 204-734-5139 Fx: 204-734-5139	ALG, G, CS, O, F	SS
South West	Chapman Bros. Farm (Darren & Parry)	Box 490 Virden R0M 2C0	Ph: 204-748-1830 Cell: 204-851-0164, 204-851-0582 Fx: 204-748-6085 cbfarms@mts.net	AL, ALG, G	SS, MS
	Dyck Valley View Farm	Box 211 Rivers R0K 1X0	Ph: 204-328-7138 Fx: 204-328-7915 valley5@inetlink.ca	G	LS
	Friesen, Dennis	Box 12, RR#1 Wawanesa R0K 2G0	Ph: 204-824-220 Fx: 204-824-2208	AL, ALG, G	MS
	Frontier Forages (Combs, Clark & Murray)	Box 492 Deloraine R0M 0M0	Ph: 204-747-3126, 769-2201 Cell: 204-534-7824, 534-8263 Fx: 204-769-2105	AL, ALG, CS	SS, MS
	Grenier's Base Line Ranch (Grenier, Andre)	Box 5085 St. Leon R0G 2E0	Ph: 204-744-2709 Fx: 204-744-2749 andreblr@hotmail.com	AL, ALG, G, CS	MS
	Henry, David	Box 93 Rossendale R0H 1C0	Ph: 204-252-2345 Fx: 204-252-2345 jdhenry@mts.net	AL, ALG, G	MS, RB
	Lepp, Daniel	RR#2, Box 46 Brandon R7A 5Y2	Ph: 204-728-4784 Cell: 204-721-1542 delepp@mts.net	ALG, G, CS	SS, MS

South West (cont)	McCaskill, Murray	Box 419 Gladstone R0J 0T0	Ph: 204-385-2764	ALG, G	MS
	Oliver & Sagin Forages	Box 880 Carberry R0K 0H0	Ph: 204-834-2261, 204-834-2762 Cell: 204-761-0589, 204-476-0041 gerry@spiritsands.ca	AL, ALG, G	SS
	Pollard, Trevor	Box 727 Gladstone R0J 0T0	Ph: 204-385-2387 Cell: 204-856-6506, 204-857-2990 Fx: 204-385-3108	AL, ALG	MS, RB
	Sandstone Acres Ltd. (Raymond)	Box 90 St. Claude R0G 1Z0	Ph: 204-379-2898 Cell: 204-745-7545 Fx: 204-379-2899 rleheighet@mts.net	ALG, G	SS
	Smith, Barry	RR#1 Austin R0C 0C0	Ph: 204-637-2431 Cell: 204-526-5454 Fx: 204-637-2164 Spiker01@mts.net	AL, ALG	MS, RB
	Suderman, Richard	Box 570 Gladstone R0J 0T0	Ph: 204-385-0100, Cell: 204-871-0100, 204-871-2101	G	LS
South East	Agasea Farms (Ian Wishart)	Box 446 Portage la Prairie R1N 3B7	Ph: 204-857-3311	AL, ALG, G, CS	MS
	DeMeyer, Murray	Box 50, RR#2 Lorette R0A 0Y0	Ph: 204-257-3710 Fx: 204-253-7928 mdemeyer@mts.net	AL, ALG, CS	SS, MS, RB
	Dunderave Holdings Ltd. (Gavaga, Myron)	Box 110, RR#5 Winnipeg R2C 2Z2	Ph: 204-222-8878 Fx: 204-222-1617 gavaga_5@hotmail.com	AL, ALG, CS	SS, MS
	E & E Newfield (Ed & Elaine)	1610 Lee Blvd Winnipeg R3Y 1S3	Ph: 204-471-3529, 204-223-4494 Fx: 204-269-6883 enewfield@wpcug.net	ALG, G, O, F, WS	SS

South East (cont)

Kletke Hay & Straw (Chris)	Box 111 Brunkild R0G 0E0	Ph: 204-736-3580 Cell: 204-746-0462 Toll Free: 877-736-3580 Fx: 204-736-4203 kletkebison@hotmail.com	AL, ALG, G, CS	MS
Lintott, Jim	Box 11, Grp 2, RR#2 Dugald R0E 0K0	Ph: 204-444-2514 Fx: 204-444-2514 jclintott@mb.sympatico.ca	AL, ALG, G CS	SS, MS
Moroz, Bill	Box 7 Hazelridge R0E 0Y0	Ph: 204-755-2244	AL, ALG, CS	MS
Penner, Leo	Box 159 Blumenort R0A 0C0	Ph: 204-326-6564	AL, ALG, CS	MS, RB
Plett, Alvin	Box 37, RR#1 Landmark R0A 0X0	Ph: 204-355-4980 Fx: 355-4760 abplett@mb.sympatico.ca	AL, ALG, CS	MS
Shewchuk, Wayne	Box 81 Ridgeville R0A 1M0	Ph: 204-373-2246 Fx: 204-373-2246	AL, G, CS	SS
Siefor Farms Ltd. (Siemens, Jerrold)	Box 420 Morris R0G 1K0	Ph: 204-746-8130 Fx: 204-746-2145 J.siemens@wildcat.ca	CS	SS, MS
Wiebe, Jim	Box 70 Blumenort R0A 0C0	Ph: 204-326-2869 Fx: 204-346-9863 jimwie@mb.sympatico.ca	AL, ALG, CS	LS, RB

Serving Manitoba, Canada, USA and the world with the finest quality hay products

Manitoba Forage Processing Companies

Compacted Hay Products

Compacted bales come in a number of sizes and weights:

- **16″ X 22″ X 9″ = 44 lbs.**
- **18″ X 18″ X 16″ = 50 lbs.**
- **16″X 22″ X 18″ = 88 lbs.**

Intermountain Forage Ltd.
Box 88, Dauphin, MB R7N 2T9
Phone: 204-622-8810, Fax: 204-622-8811
Contact: Rod Fisher

Sunridge Forage Ltd.
Box 250, Russell, MB R0J 1W0
Phone: 204-773-2013 Fax: 204-773-3137
Contact: Chris Halwas
sunridge@mts.net

Canadian Greenfield Forages Ltd.
Box 155, Teulon, MB R0C 3B0
Phone: 204-886-2676 Fax: 204-886-3722
Contact: Irvin Helwer

Questions?

Manitoba Forage Council
Box 1, Grp 310, RR3
Selkirk, MB R1A 2A8
Contact: Fraser Stewart
Phone: 204-482-6315
Fax: 204-482-1700
Email: mfc@mbforagecouncil.mb.ca
www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca

Manitoba Agriculture Food & Rural Initiatives
1129 Queens Avenue
Brandon, MB R7A 1L9
Contact: Jane Thornton
Phone: 204-729-1387
Fax: 204-726-6260
Email: jthornton@gov.mb.ca
www.manitoba.ca/agriculture

Prepared by Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives.

GROWING Opportunities