



Forage Substitutes for Horses



EH
EXTENSIONHORSES

HAY CUBES



- Made from long stem hay, dried, chopped, & compressed into cubes
- Best option for a forage alternative
- Some formulated to be a complete diet, total mixed ration (TMR) cubes

COMPLETE FEEDS



- Available in textured, pelleted, or extruded forms
- Mixtures of grains, hay and/or beet pulp, and vitamin and mineral supplements
- Designed to be fed alone and meet all the horse's requirements

STRAW



- Stalks left over from harvesting the grain crop
- Mainly a “chew factor” & fiber source
- Contains very little nutritional value
- Horses should have < quarter of the diet

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BEET PULP



- A by-product of the sugar beet industry
- A good source of fermentable fiber
- High in calcium but no vitamin content
- Should not be fed as the sole source of nutrition or forage
- Use only as an additive

WHEAT & RICE BRAN



- Neither brans should be fed in large quantities (< 10% of the diet)
- Extremely high in phosphorus; could cause calcium / phosphorus imbalances
- Rice bran is also a good source of fat

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LAWN CLIPPINGS



- Not Recommended! Feeding can lead to colic, laminitis, and/or death
- Small particle size / high moisture content results in rapid fermentation
- Many ornamentals are toxic to horses



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