



52024 RR225

SHERWOOD PARK, AB

T8C 1C5

HERBERS VETERINARY
SERVICES

Feeding Horses Through Winter

Strategies for Winter Feeding

Especially When Hay is Scarce

MIX: High quality hay with forage of a lower digestibility (alfalfa hay with oat straw). Ensure at least 1% body weight per day in forage. Add concentrates or extruded feed to poorer quality hay if necessary.

Impaction Colic

- **WATER WATER WATER!**
- **Add salt or electrolytes to encourage drinking.**
- **Keep warm water available at all times.**
- **Limit the amount of poorly digestible feed.**
- **Can use soluble fibers to increase water intake – ie Beet Pulp (but can be difficult in cold weather).**
- **Encourage some activity.**



REDUCE WASTE

- Use a feeder
- Fork off round bales at mealtimes
- Store hay properly!

SUPPLEMENTAL CALORIES

Feed hard keepers concentrates, richer hay, or fat separately for at least part of the day. The same goes for young horses (growth ration) or submissive horses.

REDUCE ENERGY REQUIREMENTS

Have good, deep shelters with windbreaks and bedding.

Blanket horses in poorer condition in colder weather.

Water, water, water- WARM if possible. It takes 80x the amount of calories to melt snow as to raise cold water 1 degree.

Consider bringing horses inside in extreme cold.

AGAIN-- ALWAYS FEED TO BODY CONDITION!

YOU CANNOT EASILY SUPPLEMENT FOR BAD HAY!