



Estimating Hay Inventory and Feeding Needs

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With all of New York State in various severity of drought, your hay crop didn't yield the best, it is very likely that pasture has run out, and you are feeding the hay you planned on for this winter and you might run out. Your options are to buy additional hay or consider feeding less animals this winter. Now is the time to do both a feed inventory and animal inventory.

Feed Inventory:

A. Weigh at least 10 % of your bales of hay and determine average weight in lbs. _____

B. Count the number of bales available for feed _____

Total hay inventory (A X B) in lbs. _____

Animals to feed:

| CLASS OF ANIMAL (horse, beef, sheep, goat, etc.) | NUMBER | X DAYS FED | X WEIGHT LBS = | TOTAL WEIGHT LBS. |
|--|--------|------------|----------------|----------------------|
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TOTAL WEIGHT OF ALL CLASSES (LBS.) _____

*Estimate Hay Intake: *Depending on the quality of hay and the stage of production, livestock will consume 2.0% to 3.0% of their body weight*

Total weight of all classes (from above) x 2.5% _____

*Wait! An additional step you might not have considered: account for storage and feeding loss—be honest!

| TYPE OF STORAGE | % LOSS FACTOR | FEEDING SYSTEM | % LOSS FACTOR |
|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Inside on crushed stone | 4% | Cone Ring Feeder | 4% |
| Inside on ground | 6% | Steel (plastic) ring | 5% |
| Outside on stone, covered | 14% | Trailer | 12% |
| Outside on other base, covered | 16% | Bale cradle | 18% |
| Outside on stone, uncovered | 17% | Unrolled on ground | 25% |
| Outside on ground, covered | 25% | | |
| Outside on ground, uncovered | 28% | | |

Storage Loss Factor % x Total Hay Inventory = _____ LBS.

Feeding Loss Factor % x Total Hay Inventory = _____ LBS.

continued...

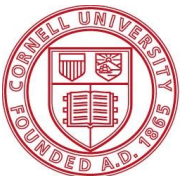
TOTALS:

Hay Intake _____
+ Storage Loss _____
+ Feeding Loss _____
= Total Hay Needs _____ LBS.

Total Hay Inventory _____
- Total Hay Needs _____
= Surplus (+)/Shortage (-) _____ LBS.



If you have a surplus, use it wisely. If you are short, either plan on buying additional feed or cull your herd more than normal. Undecided on which way to proceed? Please contact your local extension office. I can be reached at rak76@cornell.edu or 315-788-8450. *I also have an excel spreadsheet to do the math for you. Contact me and I will send along or send me your numbers and I will report back.*



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*Contact us for more information at 315-788-8450
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