

Foraging Around



By Dr. John E. Baylor
Director of Market Development
Beachley-Hardy Seed Company

Forages for Horses

High quality forage in the form of both pasture and hay represents an important source of feed for your horse. For quality pasture it can be one of the best and least expensive feed sources. And good quality hay, of course, can provide most of the nutrients, except salt and water, for many mature horses - and is very important for all classes of horses.

Pasture

When acreage is very limited, less than one acre per mature horse, exercise may be the main use of pasture. Pasture for this purpose, in addition to exercise itself: (1) provides access to fresh air and sunlight, and (2) provides freedom from respiratory problems frequently associated with stabled animals. However, this type of pasture cannot be expected to supply more than a minimum amount of feed.

But grass is the horse's natural food. And if you have an adequate acreage of productive, well managed pasture it can provide most of the feed requirements for horses during the growing season, including protein, vitamins and minerals, and usually at the least cost to you. In fact, for many classes of horses good pasture (and I emphasize good) is sufficient to meet all of their nutrient requirements.

Pasture Improvement

Well limed and fertilized Kentucky bluegrass is generally most suitable when your acreage is very

limited. Kentucky bluegrass can withstand close and continuous grazing better than most other grasses, and, when well established and properly fertilized, it produces a reasonably dense and attractive sod.

In heavy traffic areas, along fences and around gates and water troughs, tall fescue may be used. Older varieties such as Kentucky 31 are generally considered less palatable than bluegrass. But tall fescue does produce one of the toughest, heavy traffic sods. However, horse authorities tell us brood mares should be removed from pastures containing tall fescue at least eight weeks prior to foaling.

But, whether it's for exercise or exercise and feed, if you already have good stands of desirable grass and legume species such as bluegrass and white clover, lime and fertilizer, together with good management may be sufficient to assure good horse pasture. Otherwise you may need to start from scratch and reestablish a new pasture using improved species.

For well drained soils a mixture of Kentucky bluegrass, timothy, red clover and ladino clover is considered standard for horse pasture. But newer varieties of tetraploid perennial ryegrass are extremely high in quality and may either be added to the above mixture or replace bluegrass in the mix. On soils with variable drainage Norcen or Empire birds-

foot trefoil may be used in place of red and ladino clovers.

But whether you improve your pastures by the use of lime and fertilizer alone or by reseeding, sound management is essential to keep the desired species persistent and productive. This includes rotational grazing, clipping and dragging pastures one or more times per year and a good maintenance fertilization program.

Hay

For hay to be of the most value as feed for horses it must be high in quality. That means early cut, leafy, free of must, mold and dust, free of foreign material such as weeds and stubble, and green. This type of hay is usually rich in energy, protein, minerals and vitamins, and is readily consumed by horses with little wastage. Thus, whether you are buying, selling, or just feeding hay to horses these are the factors you should consider.

In feeding trials at the University of Delaware, horses preferred legume hay over grass hay and clover hay over alfalfa hay. However, when quality was high, horses were content with a number of hay mixtures, including a variety of legumes and grasses. Respiratory or digestive disturbances frequently associated with feeding hay were found to be more related to dust and mold than to mixtures.

A number of Pennsylvania horsemen have indicated that early-cut, well-cured, dust-free birdsfoot trefoil-grass mixtures are relished by horses. But alfalfa-grass and clover-grass mixtures, and even straight grass hays, are highly acceptable when early-cut, leafy and free of molds and other dust.

In general, well managed legume-grass hays are higher in protein and minerals than straight grasses with similar management. However, protein, and to a lesser extent mineral, levels are so readily changed by fertilizer applications, time of cutting and other hay making practices, especially for grasses, that with good management any hay species or mixture can be satisfactory in these constituents for more classes of horses. One caution: mainly alfalfa-hay, while normally high in protein, may contain an excessive amount of calcium in relationship to phosphorus (wide Ca: P ratio) when fed as the sole source of forage to young, growing animals.

VP appointed

BALTIMORE — Nelson L. McMillan, Jr., a resident of Lutherville, Maryland, has recently been promoted to Assistant Vice President/Credit Review Manager, by the Farm Credit Banks of Baltimore.

A 1966 graduate of Bluefield State College, Bluefield, WV, McMillan completed his Masters Degree at Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, and in 1975 completed the requirements for an "Advanced Professional

Certificate in Agriculture" at the University of Maryland.

He taught Vocational Agriculture for eight years at Hereford High School in Baltimore County and joined the Farm Credit Banks Credit Quality Department in 1981.

In his new capacity, he will have responsibility for the total review of credit in the Farm Credit Associations located in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Anchor offers beef certificates

SAN ANTONIO, TX. — Anchor Animal Health will offer beef gift certificates as a premium to its customers and distribution network in 1986.

The company announced the program to a meeting of the American National CattleWomen during the National Cattlemen's Association Convention in San Antonio.

Beef gift certificates, originated by the CattleWomen, are gift certificates good only for the purchase of beef in grocery stores and meat markets. Anchor will buy the certificates through state Cattlewomen organizations.

Customers can earn beef gift certificates by buying STEER-oid

and HEIFER-oid implants with other Anchor products from January 1 through May 31, 1986.

"We're encouraging livestock producers that earn the certificates to use them in further beef promotions," David Heinje, Anchor business unit manager, said. "They can donate the certificates to local charities or work with the local CattleWomen chapter on other promotions. One such opportunity is the Cattle Drive for Hunger sponsored by the American National CattleWomen.

"It's a low-cost way for producers to fund local promotion, earn local publicity and spread the good word about beef," Heinje said.



Dr. George F. W. Haenlein and Susan Kyle, from West Chester, a sophomore at the University of Delaware.

★★★★ANNOUNCING:★★★★

1986 DELMAR MILKER SCHOOL

March 17, 1986 (Monday)

Pencader Grange Hall, Glasgow, Delaware
(South of intersection of Del. 896 & U.S. 40)

9:00 a.m. till 3:30 p.m.

Dr. J. Woody Parkey, Ph.D., University of Vermont;
and

Dr. Robert B. Corbett, D.V.M., El Paso, Texas

will discuss:

9:30 - 11:00 A.M. Mastitis Prevention & Control Program

Dr. Corbett
Dr. Parkey

11:00 - 12:00 Noon Mastitis in a Control Program

12:00 - 1:00 P.M. Lunch

1:00 - 2:00 P.M. How Infections Occur

2:00 - 3:00 P.M. Mastitis Therapy

3:00 - 4:00 P.M. Questions & Answers

Dr. Parkey
Dr. Corbett

* LUNCH WILL BE SERVED FROM 12:00 till 1:00 BY THE LADIES OF THE PENCADER GRANGE *

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 A.M.
COST IS \$5.00 (Includes Lunch)

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