# Hay Storage & eeding Management

#### by Bob Schultheis Natural Resource Engineering Specialist



### **Questions to Consider**

- Are you cutting hay for <u>quality</u> or <u>quantity</u>?
- Do you know what your bales weigh?
- Are you forage testing to confirm protein, energy and fiber levels?
- Are you tracking hay <u>consumption</u> or hay <u>disappearance</u>?
- What kind of hay feeders are you using?
   The goal is to get the most high-quality
  - forage into the animal.

Typical Forage Harvesting Losses Field curing -26%

Harvesting -14%

Storage -35%

Feeding -30%



30% Left

Optimum Forage Harvesting Losses

70% Left

Field curing -12%

Harvesting -8%

Storage

-5%

Feeding

-8%



#### **Important Factors for Quality Hay**

- Forage species
- Cutting stage of maturity at harvest
- Baling moisture content at baling
- Handling
- Storage conditions
   Feeding methods



## Forage Moisture Affects Dry Matter Harvest & Storage Losses



Source: Hoglund (1964)

### Shape Dictates Moisture Content at Baling

#### Small Square Bales



Large Round Bales



60 lbs. ÷ 21.3 sq.ft. = **2.8 lbs./sq.ft**. 1200 lbs. ÷ 142.5 sq.ft. = 8.4 lbs./sq.ft.

### Maximum Hay Moisture Content (%) at Baling



Reference: MU Guide G3151 Using a Microwave Oven to Determine Moisture in Forages http://extension.missouri.edu/publications/DisplayPub.aspx?P=G3151

#### **Round Bale Silage - Baling**

Bale at
 50-60%
 moisture
 content



### **Forage Moisture Testing**

#### Heater/fan dryer (Koster® unit) \$365



Photo Credit: www.enasco.com/product/C08633N

#### Electrical conductance moisture meter \$450



Photo Credit: www.enasco.com/product/C16283N

#### Microwave \$50 - \$100



Photo Credit: www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/forages/publications/ID-172.htm

Reference: Determining Forage Moisture Concentration http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/442/442-106/442-106.html

### What Do the Round Bales Weigh?

#### Density = 9.2 lbs./cu. ft. Moisture content = 18% Weight per Dry matter Surface Area per bale Length Diameter Weight Surface Area Volume (feet) (lbs./sq.ft.) (lbs.) (feet) (lbs.) (sq.ft.) (cu.ft.) 4.0 4.0 **462** 75.4 50.3 6.1 379 4.0 5.0 723 102.1 78.5 7.1 593 5.0 5.0 903 117.8 98.2 7.7 741 5.0 5.5 1,093 133.9 118.8 8.2 896 5.0 1,301 8.6 6.0 150.8 141.4 1,067 5.5 5.5 1,202 142.5 130.7 8.4 986 6.0 6.0 1,561 169.6 169.6 9.2 1,280

### What Do the Square Bales Weigh?

#### Small Square Bales Density = 10.3 lbs./cu. ft. Moisture content = 22%

						Weight per	Dry matter
Height	Width	Length	Weight	Surface Area	Volume	Surface Area	per bale
(in.)	(in.)	(in.)	(lbs.)	(sq.ft.)	(cu.ft.)	(lbs./sq.ft.)	(lbs.)
14.0	18.0	40.0	60	21.3	5.83	2.8	47
16.0	18.0	40.0	69	22.9	6.67	3.0	54

#### Large Square Bales Density = 10.3 lbs./cu. ft. Moisture content = 16%

						Weight per	Dry matter
Height	Width	Length	Weight	Area	Volume	Surface Area	per bale
(in.)	(in.)	(in.)	(lbs.)	(sq.ft.)	(cu.ft.)	(lbs./sq.ft.)	(lbs.)
36.0	36.0	96.0	742	114.0	72.00	6.5	623
36.0	48.0	96.0	989	136.0	96.00	7.3	831
48.0	48.0	96.0	1,318	160.0	128.00	8.2	1,107

### Final Moisture Content of Baled Hay, %

	Relative Humidity, %				
Temperature, °F	30	50	70	80	
70	10	13	21	39	
80	8	12	20	38	
85	7	10	18	37	
95	5	8	16	36	

At a given temperature and relative humidity, there is a corresponding moisture content below which the hay will no longer release moisture.

### Effect of Moisture at Baling Time on Heat Retention in Big Bales

#### **Temperature** °F



Source: University of Missouri, 1979

### **Critical Bale Temperatures**

<b>Bale Temperature</b>	Considerations
<120 °F	Safe
120 °F – 160 °F	Caution: Monitor for temperature increase
>160 °F	Fire is likely!! Call fire department. Remove susceptible bales to safe area away from other hay



Reference: MU Guide G4575 Making and Storing Quality Hay http://extension.missouri.edu/publications/DisplayPub.aspx?P=G4575

### **Heating Losses**



Mold damage

#### Maillard reaction (browning)

- Formation of sugar/protein polymers
- Lowers digestibility of available protein and sugars
- Test for available protein as well as total protein

### **Round Bale Storage Alternatives**

#### Outside

- In field
- In rows
- Individual covers
- Wrapped
- Pyramid stack

#### Inside

- Pyramid stack
- On-end stack



#### **Outside-Stored Round Bales**

- Less dense  $\rightarrow$  more squat  $\rightarrow$  more damage
- Under trees  $\rightarrow$  less drying  $\rightarrow$  more damage
- ◆ Flat ground → less drainage → more damage
- ♦ Rounded sides touching → more damage
- ◆ Smaller diameter → more damage





### **Bale Density Affects Weathering**

#### Precipitation = 3 inches Storage Time = 100 days

Moisture penetration = 16.3" 74% of original height Very difficult to handle



Moisture penetration = 3.5" 91% of original height Easy to handle



### Estimating Round Bale Spoilage Depth



Actual spoilage pattern



**Equivalent spoilage** 

### Amount of Dry Matter in Outer Layers of Round Bales



#### **Outer Layer Depth (inches)**

Bale Dia.	2"	4"	6" Dry Ma	8" tter	10"	12"
(ieel)		70				
3.0	21	40	56	69	80	89
3.5	18	35	49	62	73	82
4.0	16	31	44	56	66	75
4.5	14	27	40	51	60	69
5.0	13	(25)	36	46	56	64
5.5	12	23	33	43	51	60
6.0	11	21	31	40	48	56

#### Which Has More Spoilage?



141 lbs. + 141 lbs. 31% 31% 273 lbs. 23%

#### **Outside Uncovered Storage**





#### **Individual Bale Covers or Sleeves**

- Trap excess moisture under plastic
- Lost bonnet spikes can puncture tires
- Wind or animal damage likely
- Better than no cover at all





#### **Reduce Ground Contact**



Pallets, poles or railroad ties

Net wrap

#### Moisture Distribution of Twine Wrapped Alfalfa/Grass Round Bales Stored on the Ground vs. on Pallets



### Is Net-Wrap Worth the Cost?

- Costs \$.30 -\$.50 more per bale than plastic twine
- Installs quicker than twine; saves fuel & labor
  - 10 seconds vs. 60 seconds
- Sheds water 2X better than twine (3" twine spacing)
- Helps hold bale shape better
  - Less wind damage & bottom rotting
- Can save lost hay if handled often
- May save time at feeding
  - Depends on mud & ice cover
  - Less so with elastic edge



#### Moisture Distribution of Twine Wrapped vs. Net Wrapped Alfalfa/Grass Round Bales Stored on the Ground



Twine Wrapped

Net Wrapped

#### **Economics of Net-Wrap vs. Twine**

- Net-Wrap: \$210 per 64" x 7,000 ft. roll, 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> wraps/bale
- Sisal Twine: \$40 per 9,000 ft. bale, 3" spacing
- Plastic Twine: \$37 per 20,000 ft. bale, 3" spacing



## John Deere B-Wrap™ An Alternative to Indoor Storage

- Costs about \$5 more per bale than net-wrap
- Sheds rain and snow; protects from ground moisture
- Microscopic pores allow bale moisture to escape
- Installs like net-wrap using a special baler kit
- 1 layer net-wrap + 1 layer B-wrap
  + 2 layers net-wrap
- Works with baled hay & crop residues; best on high-quality hay
- May achieve similar losses as hay stored in barn



#### **Pyramid Stacking + Rock Base**





End ropes tie to post under stack. Rebar "Ts" in grommets hold sides. After 6 months outside storage

### Large Round Bale Outside Storage



#### Ownership Cost Summary for Crushed Rock & Reinforced Plastic Tarpaulin

#### **Assumed:**

- a. 28' W x 120' L x 8" thick crushed rock pad
- b. Pad holds 200 bales weighing 1200 lbs. each, 66" L x 66" D (120 tons)
- c. Maintenance on rock and tarp is minimal for 3 year life.

#### **Construction Cost::**

a. 2"-4" dia. rock (50% <4" dia.), 140 tons @ \$19.00/ton = \$2,660</li>
8" x 28' x 120' = 2240 cu.ft. = 83 cu.yd.
2240 cu.ft. x 125 lb./cu.ft. = 280,000 lb. = 140 tons
\$13.00/ton FOB plant, plus \$6.00/ton delivery within 15 mi.
b. Tarpaulin, 12-mil, reinforced polyethylene plastic = \$1,430

60' x 120' x \$0.20/sq.ft.

#### **Total Cost**

Prices as of 12/2010 --Rock cost ranges from \$8-\$14 per ton, depending on quarry Reference: www.tarpaflex.com/acatalog/Silver\_Heavy\_Duty\_Poly\_Tarps.html

= \$4,090

### **Building Planning**

#### What type?

- Wood truss
- Steel truss
- Metal hoop

2x6 PURLINS

ON EDGE

COMMERCIAL "POULTRY HOUSE" TRUSS FRAMES SET 12' o.c.

METAL ROOFING

EARTH FLOOR (CONCRETE OR GRAVEL OVER FABRIC OPTIONAL)

CROSS SECTION SCALE: 1/8"=1"-0"



### Location and Layout – Site Selection



### Location and Layout – Legalities

Zoning
Building permits
Codes and inspections
## **Building Design**

#### Dead loads

• Weight of building materials



- Assume 5 lbs./sq. ft. for open trusses
- Add more if ceiling or if trusses will support hanging items

#### Live loads (for the Ozarks)

- Snow (15 lbs./sq. ft. uniform loading)
- Add 5 lbs./sq. ft. for uneven loading (ice)
- Wind (90 MPH minimum)

#### Total load = 25 lbs./sq. ft. minimum

#### **Buildings – How They Fail**



## Live Load – Wind Loading Pressures



- Design for 90 MPH winds
- Not tornado-proof

## **Maximum Spacing (ft.) of Posts** on Closed Gable Roof

No. 2 Southern Pine	Eave Height (ft.) with 90 MPH Wind Speed			
Post Size	10'	12'	14'	16'
6x6	5.7	NR	NR	NR
6x8	10.5	7.3	5.4	4.1
6x10	16.9	11.7	8.6	6.6
8x8	14.4	10.0	7.3	5.6



NR = Not Recommended

Use ACQ-approved fasteners

Frost depth = 30 in.

Reference: NRAES-1 Post-Frame Building Handbook

http://extension.missouri.edu/publications/DisplayPub.aspx?P=NRAES1

## Post Embedment Depth (in.) for Buildings up to 60 ft. wide



Reference: NRAES-1 Post-Frame Building Handbook

http://extension.missouri.edu/publications/DisplayPub.aspx?P=NRAES1

## **Beam & Footing Sizing**

40' wide barn 10' post spacing 25 psf roof load

Beam load: (40'  $\div$  2) x 25 psf = 500 lb./ft. = 6x10 beam

Footing load: 10' x 500 lb.ft. = 5000 psf = 20" dia. footing

#### **Pressure-Treated Lumber**

- ♦ CCA → Chromated Copper Arsenate
- ACQ-C → Alkaline Copper Quat Type C
- ♦ ACQ-D → Alkaline Copper Quat Type D Carbonate
- ◆ CBA-A and CA-B → Copper Azole Types A and B
- ◆ SBX/DOT → Sodium Borate
- Zinc Borate
- MCQ → Micronized Copper Quat

Use hot-dip galvanized or Types 304 or 316 stainless steel fasteners



#### **Truss Anchorage**

 One ½" bolt is equal to four 30d pole barn nails

Upper chord

Lower chord



## Wind Bracing & Ceiling Support



## **Sizing Hay Barns**

#### Small Square Bales



250 cu.ft. per ton

#### Large Round Bales



310 cu.ft. per ton

## Inside Storage Stacked Square Bales

# Small Square Bales 14" x 18" x 40", 60 bs., 22% M.C.

Flat (twines up): 6960 bales 163 tons dry matter

On Edge: 7026 bales 164 tons dry matter

40' W x 60' L x 16' H Hay Bam

#### **Inside Storage - Pyramid**

#### Large Round Bales

5'L x 5' D, 900 lbs., 18% M.C.





4 rows, 307 bales 113 tons dry matter 18 ft. high

3 rows, 252 bales 93 tons dry matter 13.6 ft. high

40' W x 60' L x 16' H Hay Bam

### **Inside Storage - On-End**



40' W x 60' L x 16' H Hay Bam

#### Ownership Cost Summary for Clear-Span Wood or Steel-Truss Barn

#### **Assumed:**

- a. 40' W x 60' L x 16' H barn rated at 25 psf total roof load.
- b. Barn holds 200 bales weighing 1200 lbs. each, 66" L x 66" D (120 tons)
- c. \$7.50/sq.ft. cost = clear-span, colored metal, dirt floor, 15-20 year life.

Construction cost at \$7.50 per sq.ft., including labor = \$18,000

#### Annual Barn Cost (depreciated over 10-year life of 9% loan):

	Total Annual Cost	=	\$ 3,240
e.	Insurance (0.3% of construction cost)	=	54
d.	Taxes (1% of construction cost)	=	180
C.	Repairs (0.7% of construction cost)	=	126
b.	Interest ( $2/3$ of annual interest rate on loan = $6\%$ )	=	1,080
a.	Depreciation (\$18,000 ÷ 10 years)	=	\$ 1,800

#### **Hoop Structures for Hay Storage**

#### Specifications for this structure:

- 30 ft. x 102 ft. (widths range from 24-70 ft., lengths in 10-ft. increments)
- UV-treated polyethylene cover
- Clearance: 11'4" + wall height (11'4" + 6' = 17'4")
- Holds 270 bales weighing 1200 lbs. each, 66" L x 66" D (160 tons) in 6-5-4 pyramid
- Estimated 10-year life



## **Hoop Structures for Hay Storage**

Item	Cost
Package (hoops, cover)	\$10,080
Posts (42 ea.)	1,260
Concrete for posts & lumber for side walls	1,260
Approx. materials cost	\$12,600
Approx. labor cost	\$ 5,700
Approx. Total Cost	\$18,300



Price estimate as of 12/2010

#### **Round Bale Storage Economics**

- Outside: 28'W x 120'L x 8"H rock pad, \$4,090 total cost (\$1,363/year)
- Inside: 40'W x 60'L x 16'H barn, \$18,000 construction cost (\$3,240/year for 10 years)



Annual Cost per Bale (\$)

## Affordability of Storage (\$\$ value of hay lost)

	Hay price (per ton)				-	
Storage loss (%)	\$40	\$60	\$80	\$100	120	
5	2	3	4	5	6	Tom
10	4	6	8	10	12	= Tarp
15	6	9	12	15	18	Rock
20	8	12	16	20	24	- Barn
25	10	15	20	25	30	- Dam
30	12	18	24	30	36	
35	14	21	28	35	42	
40	16	24	32	40	48	

#### Note: Does not include losses associated with shrinkage or reduced quality.

## Hay Feeding Losses Can Be Significant



#### Hay Wasted by Cows When Fed With and Without Racks

(Bell, S., and F.A. Martz., University of Missouri, 1973)

Type of Hay	Percent Wasted
Square bale in rack	7%
Large round bale in rack	9%
Large round bale without rack	45%

### **General Rules on Hay Feeding**

#### Hay quality should be matched to animal needs

- Sort cattle into groups based upon stage of production
- Barns with side access work best for this
- Feed lowest-quality hay to dry or non-lactating cows
- Feed highest-quality hay to lactating heifers or cows
- Feed "pounds of hay," not "number of bales"

Feed outside-stored hay before inside-stored hay

• Animals fed high-quality hay early in the season will often refuse poor-quality hay when it is offered later

## **General Rules on Hay Feeding**

- Feed coarse, less-dense, or high-quality outside hay before fine-stemmed, more-dense outside hay
- Feed hay in small amounts or in a feeder to minimize waste
- Feed hay in well-drained areas or move hay areas around
- Time feeding to force clean-up
  - Remember last part of hay is lowest quality watch body condition!

#### **Herbicide Precautions of Feeding Hay**

- Was hay treated with herbicide products containing aminopyralid?
  - GrazonNext® HL, Chaparral<sup>™</sup>, Milestone®
  - Aminopyralid readily passes through livestock, with no effect on the animal
  - Land planted to sensitive broadleaf crops can be impacted by herbicide residue in urine and manure
    - Alfalfa, soybeans, sunflowers, cotton, tobacco, peanuts, sugarbeets
    - Tomatoes, beans, lettuce, cucurbits, potatoes, strawberries, grapes, flowers

#### Graphic credit: www.dowagro.com/range/eSteward/south\_index.htm Reference: www.manurematters.com/na/en/



#### **Herbicide Precautions of Feeding Hay**

#### If feeding hay you raised:

- Stop feeding treated hay to cattle 3 days before moving them to sensitive fields
- Manure can be spread on pasture grasses, grass grown for seed, wheat or corn

#### If purchasing hay:

- Ask if the hay you are buying has been treated with a herbicide
- Do not use treated hay for compost or gardening
- As a hay producer:
  - Will the hay be used on-farm or will it be sold?
  - If sold, communicate precautions to the purchaser



## Estimated losses (% of hay offered) from different hay-feeding methods

Bale Type	With 1-Day Supply	Rack 7-Day Supply	Withou 1-Day Supply	it Rack 7-Day Supply
Small square	3.9	4.9	6.7*	
Large round or square	4.9	5.4	12.3*	43.0*
Formed haystacks	8.8	15.0	22.6	41.0
Small round bales (fed in place on pasture)			10.0	30.0

#### \* Bales spread or unrolled across pasture

Reference: MU Guide G4570 Reducing Losses When Feeding Hay to Beef Cattle http://extension.missouri.edu/explorepdf/agguides/crops/g04570.pdf

## **Advantages of Unrolling Hay**



- Allows "boss" cows and timid cows to eat together
- Less hoof damage to feeding area because it is larger
- Controls the amount of hay allotted by portioning bales
- Can help overseed pastures with legumes
- Distributes fertilizer nutrients back on field

#### **Bale Processors - Pros & Cons**

- Myth: grinding forages will increase forage quality
- Quality may decrease, especially if hay is ground on a windy day (leaf loss)
- Decreased particle size = decreased rumen retention time = increased forage intake
- Allows a way to increase consumption of low to medium quality forages
- Allows a way to combine forages of differing quality for best use in a cow feeding diet
- Allows a way to manage problem forages, i.e., high nitrates
- Increased ownership cost of \$20K-\$25K equipment

#### **Bale Processors**





Feeding Method	100-cow herd, feeding cost per cow
PTO-powered bale processor	\$128.10
Unrolling bales on ground	\$113.90
Tapered-cone round bale feeder	\$101.80

Rolling bales out on the ground or shredding into windrows with a bale processor increased hay consumption and winter feeding cost without enhancing cow performance

Reference: North Dakota State University, 2005 -- www.ag.ndsu.edu/archive/dickinso/research/2004/beef04r.htm

## Low-Labor Hay Ring Management



- Space bales 20 ft. apart in pasture or paddock corner
- Enclose bales with movable electric fence
- Feed bales in hay rings
- Use multiple rings to reduce "boss" cow problems
- Move fence & rings as needed

#### **Feeder Design Affects Wastage**



Cattle remove hay & step on it



#### Hay gets used as bedding

### **Feeder Design Affects Wastage**

JAS 81:109 (Michigan State University, 2003)

Cone feeder 3.5% loss



Ring feeder 6.1% loss

Trailer 11.4% loss



Cradle 14.6% loss

## Why the Big Differences?



- Slanted bars discourage cows from backing out of feeder
- Most dropped hay stays in feeder
- Boss cows less aggressive toward timid cows

### **Cone Feeder Pros & Cons**

- Keeps hay off of the ground
- Saves 10-20% hay usage annually
- Saved hay stretches limited supplies
- Supports bales up to 2,500 lbs. in weight
- Top ring keeps cattle from pulling hay off of the top
- Much longer life compared to cheap hay rings
- Feeder weighs 600+ lbs. Cannot be easily moved by hand
- Higher initial cost



## **Can You Afford a Cone Feeder?**

- Initial feeder cost = \$725
- Assume 10% hay savings on \$50 bale
- Assume 10-year life vs. 1-2 year life
- Saves \$500 for every 100 bales fed, or \$5,000 for 1000 bales fed over 10 years

Photo credit: Windmill Cattle Co., LLC

When might a cheap hay ring be better?.....

.....when feeding junk hay that the cows are going to waste. It's easier to move the ring by hand more frequently.

#### Hay Ring Waste Calculator Sheeted Bottom Steel Ring

#### **Example:**

50 cows for 3 months 30 lbs. hay per day \$60 per 1000 lb. bale

= \$1,053 hay wasted



Reference: www.noble.org/ag/tools/livestock/hay-ring

#### Hay Ring Waste Calculator Modified Cone Ring

#### **Example:**

50 cows for 3 months 30 lbs. hay per day \$60 per 1000 lb. bale

= \$429 hay wasted



Reference: www.noble.org/ag/tools/livestock/hay-ring
### **Cone Feeder Styles**



Photo credit: fyi.uwex.edu



Photo credit: www.applegatelivestock.com



Photo credit: www.weldyenterprises.com



Photo credit: www.franklinwaterers.com/bale.html



Photo credit: www.titanwestinc.com/bextra.html

### **Cone Feeder Styles**





Photo credit: jlhaysavers.com



Photo credit: www.haymizer.com/haymizer\_I.htm

Photo credit: behlencountry.com



Photo credit: www.centurylivestockfeeders.com



Photo credit: www.klenepipe.com











# Summary

- Harvest for quality or buy good hay
- Protect the hay from moisture
- Know what your bales weigh
- Test for nutrient quality before feeding
- Use some type of hay feeder if not limit-unrolling
- Select feeder that minimizes waste
  - At least solid lower panels and slanted bars
- Limit-feed in well-drained area
- Costly-to-buy feeders likely cheaper long-term



# **Questions?**

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- MU Extension AA/EEO Office 109 F. Whitten Hall, Columbia, MO 65211
- MU Human Resources Office 130 Heinkel Bldg, Columbia, MO 65211

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