



Hay Variability - Tips and Tricks

Article

It is Oxbow's goal for every bag of hay that leaves our farm to be as soft, fragrant, and green as the bag before. Because hay is a product of Mother Nature, however, you will naturally notice occasional variability between crops or cuttings. A change in the color or texture of hay between bags does not necessarily indicate a change in quality. Every bag that leaves our facility meets our guaranteed analysis and has the right stem to leaf ratio that your animal's physiology requires.

Occasionally, your animal companion might not express his usual enthusiasm for his favorite hay. If this happens, don't be alarmed! Small herbivores are selective feeders by nature and will eat the tenderest, most flavorful parts of the plant first. In the event that a particular bag is not as tender as usual, your pet may be hesitant to consume it at first. In this instance, we offer a series of proven tips to help encourage its consumption. Because hay should make up at least 75% of your pet's daily diet, is extremely important to be proactive to ensure your pet consumes plenty of hay. To help ensure your pet consumes adequate amounts of hay, we offer the following proven tips to help make your hay more appealing to your pet:

Tip 1:

Try mixing the less tender hay with a soft, aromatic hay to encourage your pet's consumption. Our Orchard, Oat and Botanical Hays are all great options for this. Try mixing the hay in question with one of these varieties. If your pet eats around the less tender hay, repeat mixing to allow the varieties' aromas to blend. Over time, your animal should become more accepting of the hay. Something else that might help would be to mix some of our Simple Rewards Medleys in with the hay. The Medleys contain fragrant herbs which will blend with the hay and make it more desirable to your pet.

Tip 2:

Place a small amount of hay in a warm, moist towel. Try using your towel after showering, or one removed from the dryer before the cycle is complete. Roll the hay like a burrito in the towel and leave for at least five minutes. The warmth and moisture from the towel will help soften the hay. Be sure the towel you use is moist but not wet.

Tip 3:

Place a small amount of hay in a steam-filled bathroom. The humidity produced by the hot water from the shower will infuse with the hay, helping to soften it and release its aroma. Offer the hay to your animal as you normally would. Repeat this process if necessary.

In the event that these tips do not improve your pet's acceptance of a particular bag of hay, please contact Oxbow's Customer Care team. They will be happy to answer your questions and assist you! Our toll free number is: (800) 249 0366.