

CHANGING YOUR HORSE'S FEED

Applicants for the Equine Safety Net Program must read and sign



Changing the Diet of Horses

Whether it's the grain, hay, or time on pasture, any change in the horse's diet should be spread over several days or weeks.

When introducing a new type of hay or grain to a horse, the new hay or grain should replace the old feed at a rate of 25 percent every other day, taking a total of six days until the horse is completely on the new feed. Feed intake or eagerness to consume the diet may decrease during this changeover period. If this occurs, more time may be needed for the horse to adjust to the new feed.

When a horse is to be turned out on pasture all day, especially if the pasture is lush and green, time on pasture should be gradually increased to avoid overeating, in a manner similar to increasing the grain. Horses should be provided with all the hay they want to eat about a week prior to the start of complete pasture turnout. The time on pasture should be increased by one hour each day for four to five days. Then, before the horse is going to be turned out completely on pasture, a hay meal should be provided. It is important to remember that each horse is different.

Some horses take more time to adjust to dietary changes than others. Therefore, it is important to monitor the horse's eating habits and health status carefully during this time.

From www.extension.org

I have read this information and will introduce the new feed to my horses gradually as recommended in the above article.

Signed _____

Date _____

The Kentucky Horse Council assumes no responsibility or liability for the health of horses which are fed through the Equine Safety Net program.