

Forage stations for horses

Here we have looked at forage stations for horses, two different types from HIT Active Stable. If you want to know more about the forage stations and Active Stable visit www.aktivstall.de/english

Free access to forage of suitable quality works excellent for many horses. If one has to limit the daily forage ration 1.5 – 2.0 kg DM per 100 kg body weight and day is appropriate for the horse to still get enough fibre and to satisfy its mental need to eat during longer periods of time.

Different horses have different nutrient requirements and it can be difficult to feed them individually when they are kept outside in groups. Another problem when feeding forage in the paddock is all the wastage that is trampled down and mixed with faeces, this is not good from a hygienic perspective. It also implies a large economic loss in all the feed that goes to waste and has to be discarded.



It should not look like this.

Today there are practical automatic forage stations where horses kept in groups can be fed individually or together. Since the forage station closes the access to the forage with continuous intervals spread over the 24 hours of the day the horses take the opportunity to “clean up” and eat the forage leftovers spilled around the station.

When the horses continuously clean up around the station there is never hygienic problems with trampled forage in the paddock. There is neither any economic loss in wasted forage. How much forage is wasted in your paddock? Do an estimation and calculate on how much money ends up on the dunghill! In some places it is up to 50-60% of the forage that never ends up in the horses' stomach, this can be a large economic loss every year.

Here is a forage station where several horses can eat at the same time. A computer-driven shutter decides when forage is available and not for the horses. When the shutter goes up the horses can take the opportunity to clean up around the station.



Here is a forage station where several horses can be fed at the same time, when the shutter goes down they get access to the forage.

The station looks like this from the inside, with a tractor it is easy to load new bales into the station. The roof protects the forage from rain and snow.



With a tractor big bales can be placed in the forage station.

Computer-driven forage stations also implies that it is possible to feed horses during all 24 hours of the day. So no long boring hours of no forage for the horses during night or weekdays when the human is at work.

There are also forage stations where horses are fed individually. The horses have a transponder around their neck that shows the computer which horse it is and if and how long it shall have access to the forage.



Forage station for individual feeding of forage.

There are two automatic dispensers separated by a wall in every forage station so two horses can be fed at the same time. When the shutter slowly goes up in these stations the horses here also have the opportunity to clean up the spillage on the floor before they leave the station.



Here is individual feeding for two horses at the same time.

Also in these stations there is room for storing a lot of forage under roof.

Here we look into the forage station from the other side and see the feed storage and two closed dispensers.



Here is the forage and when the shutters go down it becomes available for the horse.

Here below the shutter has opened and the forage is available for a certain amount of minutes adjusted for this particular horse.



The shutter is down and the horse have access to its forage under a certain time.

Smart solutions with the horses' best kept in mind, I think that's the future!

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