EQUINE FARM MANAGER · FACT SHEET

Annual Forage Planning at a Glance

How much hay the herd needs, by cutting and by month; whether the hay on hand meets every horse; what it costs per calorie; and what is still left to buy.

Version 2.0 · November 2026 Pairs with: Forage tab

01 What it calculates

- **Every horse counted separately** by weight and class: easy keeper to hard keeper, senior, insulin resistant, in work, broodmare, stallion, or growing.
- **Grazing by horse:** each horse's grazing system sets an editable month-by-month pasture share.
- **Body condition built in:** the latest BCS from the worksheet flows into the plan and its advisory checks.
- **Month-by-month demand** after pasture and feeding waste, with the heaviest month flagged for storage.
- **Daily pounds per horse** for this month, split AM and PM, on a printable barn sheet.

02 What it tracks

- **Hay library by cutting,** each with its own bale weight, inventory, analysis, and cost.
- **Auto cutting selection:** each horse is fed the best-fit cutting in stock, with low-sugar hay reserved for insulin-resistant and easy-keeping horses.
- **Feeding log:** one tap logs today's feeding from the chart and draws down bales on hand.
- **Have vs. need by cutting.** A surplus in one cutting does not cover a shortfall in another.
- **Cost three ways:** per bale, per ton, or farm-grown cost of production, compared in dollars per megacalorie.
- **Value of testing:** import lab results as XML or PDF, and see what the test changed in tons and dollars.

03 How a farm uses it through the year

SEASON	USE IT TO…
Before buying	Size the year's hay by cutting, not just total tons. Set the feeding window and read still-to-buy and the quality target.
During haying	Add each cutting as it comes off the field and watch the shortfall close.
When lab results return	Import them. The plan, cost per calorie, and sugar warnings update.
Before winter	Check the heaviest month against what the barn holds.
Every day	Feed from the printed chart and log it, so inventory stays true.
For records	Print the comprehensive farm report or the daily feed chart from Reports.

04 Numbers to know

Feeding waste

- Slow-feed net ~6%
- Manger or rack ~12%
- Round bale with feeder ~15%
- On the ground ~20%
- Round bale, no feeder ~30%

Hay quality checks

- DE outside ~0.40–1.10 Mcal/lb is flagged
- ESC + starch under ~10% for IR horses
- Untested hay assumed 90% dry matter
- Calcium at least equal to phosphorus

> **A PLANNING TOOL, NOT A RATION**
>
> Confirm diets for insulin-resistant, senior, broodmare, and growing horses against a current forage analysis and with your veterinarian or an equine nutritionist.

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These guides are planning and educational aids, not veterinary, nutritional, or agronomic advice for an individual horse or field. Confirm diets and health decisions with your veterinarian or an equine nutritionist. Mention of a product, lab, or service is not an endorsement.

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