



National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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June 8, 2020

NAFA Releases “*Alfalfa: High Quality Hay for Horses*”

St. Paul, MN – Known as the “*Queen of Forages*,” alfalfa has long been accepted as one of the highest quality hays fed to horses. It is a widely-adapted, perennial forage legume which produces more protein per acre than any other crop. To provide a comprehensive overview of the advantages of feeding alfalfa hay to horses, the National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance (NAFA) has recently updated and released, “*Alfalfa: High Quality Hay for Horses*,” serving as a quick & handy guide to everything horse enthusiasts should know about feeding alfalfa to horses. Some of the publications highlights include:

- Physical Characteristics of High-Quality Alfalfa Hay
- Equine Digestion of Forages
- How Growth Stage Affects Forage Quality
- Nutritional Needs of Horses
- Storing and Feeding Hay

“When we think of feeding alfalfa hay the first thing that comes to mind is its common use in dairy and beef cow operations,” said Beth Nelson, NAFA President. “But alfalfa is often overlooked as an integral part of a well-managed, nutrient-dense equine diet.”

In addition to discussing the use of alfalfa for mature horses on a maintenance diet, horses used for sport and competition, broodmares, and growing horses, *Alfalfa: High Quality Hay for Horses* also covers multiple options of bale size, how to assess quality through hay testing and visual inspection, and how the time of the year alfalfa is harvested can influence quality.

The new publication concludes with a valuable *Myth vs Fact* section which addresses many of the common misconceptions about feeding alfalfa to horses, such as the myth that excess protein in alfalfa hay will damage a horse’s kidneys. In fact, normal healthy horses have no issues metabolizing and excreting extra protein, whether it is consumed from alfalfa hay or lush pasture.

This publication is intended as a resource for both horse owners and hay farmers as a useful educational tool to provide valuable information to their regular customers and to potential buyers. Get your copy today!

Alfalfa: High Quality Hay for Horses is available to order for \$2/copy in print form or may be downloaded for free at <https://www.alfalfa.org/publications.php>.