

WINTER PREP

MID-HUDSON VETERINARY PRACTICE, P.C.



BRAN MASH RECIPE

Use 1/2 ration of regular grain or feed

Replace the other 1/2 with an equal portion of wheat bran

Add as much very warm water as your horse will accept and mix well.

Remember the idea is added hydration so use lots of water!

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*"No winter lasts forever;
no spring skips it's turn"*

Hal Borland

Winter in the Hudson Valley is a beautiful time of year. We have a few tips for managing barn and paddock chores to make this season more enjoyable for humans and equines alike.

Using hot soupy bran mashes once a week can allow horses to gain a little extra hydration while enjoying a yummy winter "warm-up" treat. You can even use mashes twice a week during the bitter cold weeks, or for the "poor drinkers" in your barn.

Heated water buckets or troughs can help horses drink a larger volume of water at each visit. Filling buckets with hot water in the afternoon just before the horses are brought in can encourage them to take a big drink before dinner.

Taking the salt/mineral block off the wall and placing it in your horse's feed bucket can increase salt intake (and subsequently, water intake). This technique can also encourage your equine companions to eat more slowly.

Giving numerous daily feedings of good quality hay, both in the stall and in the paddock, is an excellent winter management technique. Frequent hay feedings can also help to keep up the weight of the chronically "winter-thin" horse once that high-carb grass is



snow covered.

Older horses with dental problems or missing teeth can be fed with dengie hay, TNT chops, soaked hay cubes, soaked beet pulp, or hay stretcher during the winter months. Beet pulp is a great high-fiber feed supplement for winter because it needs to be soaked well- adding both extra hydration and extra calories to the diet!

An ounce of prevention

Watch for slippery footing in paddocks, near troughs and gates. Use shavings, hay or sand to improve traction in these problem areas.

Traveling south for the winter?

Consider an Influenza / Herpes virus vaccine booster for your horse 1 or 2 weeks before he leaves.



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