



## Treating Bales with QLF Pasture Supplements

Large bales of hay or crop residue can be convenient to feed, but can also result in increased feed waste when fed free choice.

In some years, hay quality and/or quantity suffers and we may need to feed crop residues to stretch our hay supplies.

### Treating bales of lower quality forages with QLF Pasture Supplements can:

- Improve the intake of low quality forages.
- Improve the protein, energy, and mineral levels of the baled forage.
- Improve the digestibility of low quality forages, by providing increased protein and energy to the rumen microbes which are required to digest fiber.
- Reduce waste of bales fed free choice in bale rings.
- Controls the consumption of the QLF supplement to prevent overconsumption which can happen if fed free choice in dry lots.
- If a QLF 40% Pasture Supplement is applied at 10% of the bale weight, it will raise the dry matter protein level of the forage by 4 percentage points
  - For example, 6% protein hay can be brought up to 10% protein
- Along with a free choice mineral, it makes your free choice hay bales into a complete ration.

### How to treat bales with QLF Pasture Supplements:

- Weigh, or estimate the weight of the bales and plan to use 7-10% of the bale weight as QLF Pasture Supplement. So, 1500# bales would be applied with 105-150# of QLF.
- Turn the bales on their side so the cut end of the bales is on top (i.e. the round side up on round bales).
- Pour the QLF Pasture Supplement in an even pattern over the bale.
- Allow the QLF plenty of time to work its way down through the bale.
  - In general, people tend to flip them back too soon rather than too late.
  - The tighter the bale is wrapped, the longer the QLF will take to work its way through.
  - The more QLF you apply, the less time it takes to work its way through.
  - If you don't apply enough QLF or allow enough time to penetrate the bale, there will be untreated forage in the bottom of the feeder and the cows may refuse to eat this.
- When analyzing costs, remember that you have also increased the weight of the bale by 7-10%.
- If you are going to process the bales, allow them to sit at least 5 days before grinding.
- Don't carry poured bales over into warm weather – there could be a risk of microbial activity.

In addition to pouring bales, QLF Pasture Supplements can also be applied directly through applicators mounted on bale processors. This allows you to apply the QLF directly on the windrow, and control the amount applied based on needs.

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