

South Dakota State University

## Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange

---

SDSU Extension Fact Sheets

SDSU Extension

---

1970

### Wheat as a Feed for Horses

Cooperative Extension South Dakota State University

Follow this and additional works at: [https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension\\_fact](https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension_fact)

---

#### Recommended Citation

South Dakota State University, Cooperative Extension, "Wheat as a Feed for Horses" (1970). *SDSU Extension Fact Sheets*. 562.

[https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension\\_fact/562](https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension_fact/562)

This Fact Sheet is brought to you for free and open access by the SDSU Extension at Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in SDSU Extension Fact Sheets by an authorized administrator of Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. For more information, please contact [michael.biondo@sdstate.edu](mailto:michael.biondo@sdstate.edu).

# Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



For current policies and practices, contact SDSU Extension

Website: [extension.sdstate.edu](http://extension.sdstate.edu)

Phone: 605-688-4792

Email: [sdsu.extension@sdstate.edu](mailto:sdsu.extension@sdstate.edu)

SDSU Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer in accordance with the nondiscrimination policies of South Dakota State University, the South Dakota Board of Regents and the United States Department of Agriculture.

# WHEAT

## as a feed for horses



Cooperative Extension Service: South Dakota State University and United States Department of Agriculture in Cooperation with the South Dakota Wheat Commission

# Wheat as a Feed for Horses

By Paul Kohler, Professor of Animal Science

Bran and middlings—wheat by-products—rather than whole wheat, are generally used in grain mixtures for horses.

Wheat bran, made up of the hard outer coatings of the kernel, is recommended for rations of horses of all ages. It is palatable and slightly laxative. Bran averages 12.3% protein (of higher quality than that in corn), 10% fiber, and 4.3% fat. The nitrogen free extract (carbohydrate) averages about 55%. A hundred pounds of wheat bran supplies about 65 pounds of total digestible nutrients.

Phosphorus content of bran (1.21%) is the greatest of all common feeds. Its calcium content (0.13%) is low.

Wheat middlings or shorts are fed only with bulky feeds. This is due to the heavy characteristics of middlings. Care must be taken as excessive amounts will cause colic or other digestive upsets. Middlings should not make up more than 25% of the concentrate ration.

Wheat fed to horses should be coarsely cracked, steam rolled, flaked, or crushed. Feed with a bulky concentrate ration as only a portion of the grain. Table 1 presents a comparative analysis of grains commonly fed to horses.

Table 1. Nutritive Comparison of Grains Commonly Fed to Horses

	Dig. Prot. %	TDN %	NFE %	Fat %	Fiber %	Ca %	P %
oats	11.0	75.0	64.0	5.0	12.0	0.11	0.39
corn	7.8	85.0	75.3	4.0	2.5	0.02	0.32
barley	10.6	80.0	73.0	2.0	6.0	0.09	0.47
wheat	11.1	80.0	69.9	1.9	2.6	0.04	0.39

Table 2. Some Recommended Rations Containing Wheat and Wheat Bran

(All hay of good quality—half legume, half grass)  
**Stallions in Breeding Season**  
 ( $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. grain/cwt.  
 together with an equal amount of hay)

	lbs.		lbs.
oats	55	corn	35
wheat	20	oats	35
wheat bran	20	wheat	15
linseed meal	5	wheat bran	15

## Pregnant Mares

( $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs./cwt.  
 together with an equal amount of hay)

	lbs.		lbs.
oats	80	oats	45
wheat bran	20	wheat bran	10
barley	45		

## Foals, Pre-weaned

( $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$  lb./cwt. with hay)

	lbs.		lbs.
oats	50	oats	80
wheat bran	40	wheat bran	20
linseed meal	10		

## Weanlings

(1-1 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. grain/cwt. together  
 with equal amount of hay)

	lbs.
oats	70
wheat bran	15
linseed meal	15

## Yearlings and 2-Year-Olds

( $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 lb. grain plus  
 1-1 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. hay/cwt.)

	lbs.		lbs.
oats	80	barley	35
wheat bran	20	oats	35
		wheat bran	15
		linseed meal	15





COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
South Dakota State University  
BROOKINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA 57006

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
5M-7-70-238



POSTAGE PAID  
United States Department of Agriculture

# WHEAT as a feed for horses



Cooperative Extension Service: South Dakota State University and United States Department of Agriculture in Cooperation with the South Dakota Wheat Commission