



## Horse News and Views

Published by the  
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

- ◆ With good hay in short supply, and expensive, no one can afford to waste 20% or more. But that is what happens when hay is placed on the ground. In the late 1980s, the Alberta Horse Industry Branch conducted research where horses were either fed on the ground or from a simple plywood box feeder. An alfalfa-grass, mixed hay was fed at a rate to meet the requirements for moderate growth. The horses fed from the box were significantly heavier. In addition to wasting feed, hay fed on the ground forms a mat, which will kill any grass under it, creating bare spots in the pasture/paddock and muddy areas. (Ref: Coleman R. Feeding Horses When Feed is Short, Republished by the Government of Alberta, Agriculture and Rural Development, [www.agric.gov.ab.ca](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca) and search for the title.)
- ◆ New resources available from Equine Guelph and the University of Guelph include:
  - A new online biosecurity tool to help assess the risk of introducing infectious disease and control the spread of infections in horses is now available for use. The Biosecurity Risk Calculator is available on the Equine Guelph website at [www.equineguelph.ca/education/biosecurity.php](http://www.equineguelph.ca/education/biosecurity.php)
  - "EQUIDBLOG" ([www.equidblog.com/](http://www.equidblog.com/)) aims to provide information and insight about equine infectious diseases to horse owners and veterinarians. The site is co-ordinated by Prof. Scott Weese and Maureen Anderson of Ontario Veterinary College's Department of Pathobiology. They are specialists in large-animal internal medicine with expertise in infectious diseases and infection control.

For further information, contact Dr. Bob Wright, (519) 846-3412 or visit our website [www.ontario.ca/livestock](http://www.ontario.ca/livestock).



*Horse News and Views* is prepared by  
Dr. Bob Wright, Animal Health and Welfare,  
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs,  
Wellington Place, R.R. #1, Fergus, Ontario N1M 2W3  
Telephone: 519-846-3412 Fax: 519-846-8101  
E-mail: [robert.wright@ontario.ca](mailto:robert.wright@ontario.ca)

This version is available for distribution after February 1, 2009.

**Please retain original format of article.**