



## Horse News and Views

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- ◆ The Ontario Hay Listings Service is now available to horse owners. The Ontario Forage Council is providing this service free of charge to buyers and sellers of hay and straw. The Ontario Hay Listings Service can be accessed at [www.ontariohaylistings.ca](http://www.ontariohaylistings.ca). For further information, contact the Ontario Forage Council, 1-877-892-8663, e-mail: [info@ontariohaylistings.ca](mailto:info@ontariohaylistings.ca)
- ◆ We have received numerous questions regarding the use of acid treatment of hay and weed control. Treated hay is the term used when a commercially available preservative product is applied during the baling process. It is commonly used when weather conditions prevent the drying of hay below 15% moisture. There are two main types of preservatives: those containing an acid, such as propionic, acetic and formic acids, and those containing mold inhibitors. Studies have shown that heating and molding of hay during storage are decreased with the use of these preservatives. Studies have also shown that, when given the choice of dry hay or preservative-treated hay, horses preferred the dry hay. However, when only given treated hay, daily consumption did not decrease. Refer to the OMAFRA information sheet *Hay, Haylage and Treated Hay for Horses* at [www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/horses/facts/info\\_haylage.htm](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/horses/facts/info_haylage.htm)

The wet weather has provided ideal conditions for growth of annual weeds. The Canadian Poisonous Plants Information System at [www.cbif.gc.ca/pls/pp/poison?p\\_x=px](http://www.cbif.gc.ca/pls/pp/poison?p_x=px) is an excellent source of information about the toxicity of weeds.

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

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