



## Avoiding Round Bale Syndrome

Take care to avoid "Round Bale Syndrome" at this time of the year. This condition occurs when you put out just enough hay to feed your herd for 24 hours. The boss cows push to the front and eat the best hay first, while the lower ranking cows get leftovers. At first glance this appears to be good management. After all very little hay is wasted and the cows are fed every day, but over the course of the winter the boss cows will do fine while the timid ones will lose weight and could suffer from malnutrition.

The solution to this is simple. Feed enough hay for at least two days at a time. The boss cows will eat their fill and there will still be enough good quality hay left for the timid ones. The next day the boss cows will be forced to eat some of the lesser quality hay along with the others. This simple management tip will more evenly distribute your nutritional resources among your herd.

*Jackie Nix is a nutritionist with Sweetlix ([www.sweetlix.com](http://www.sweetlix.com)). You can contact her at [jnix@sweetlix.com](mailto:jnix@sweetlix.com) or 1-800-325-1486 for questions or to learn more about the Sweetlix line of mineral and protein supplements for goats, cattle, horses, sheep and wildlife.*

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