

### Steaming of Horse Hay

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Hay steaming is used by horse owners to reduce the airborne mold and dust particles from hay. Reduction of airborne particles is especially beneficial to horses with respiratory problems. Research was conducted to determine the effect of steaming moldy alfalfa-orchardgrass hay on forage nutritive value and intake by horses. Steaming was conducted using a commercial steaming chamber and resulted in internal bale temperatures of 115°F after 90 minutes. Steaming increased bale moisture and, therefore, decreased DM content by about 13%. Steaming reduced hay P content by about 16% but did not affect fiber or CP concentrations. Steaming reduced mold concentrations by about 91%.