

# Limit feeding forage in Atoka County



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## Limit Feeding Hay

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- Best to limit feed hay daily along with concentrate feed.
  - Only practical if you have
    - Square bales
    - A hay grinder
    - A way to unroll round bales
    - Capable of Timed/Limited access



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# EXTENSION



# How???

- Square Bales

# How???

- Hay Grinder, Vertical Mixer, Bale Processor (equipped with scales)



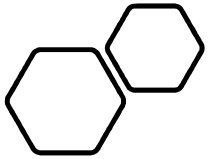
**EXTENSION**

# How???

- Unroll Bales



EXTENSION



## How???

- Unroll Bales

Problems

Guessing  
weight of half of bale can  
be deceiving

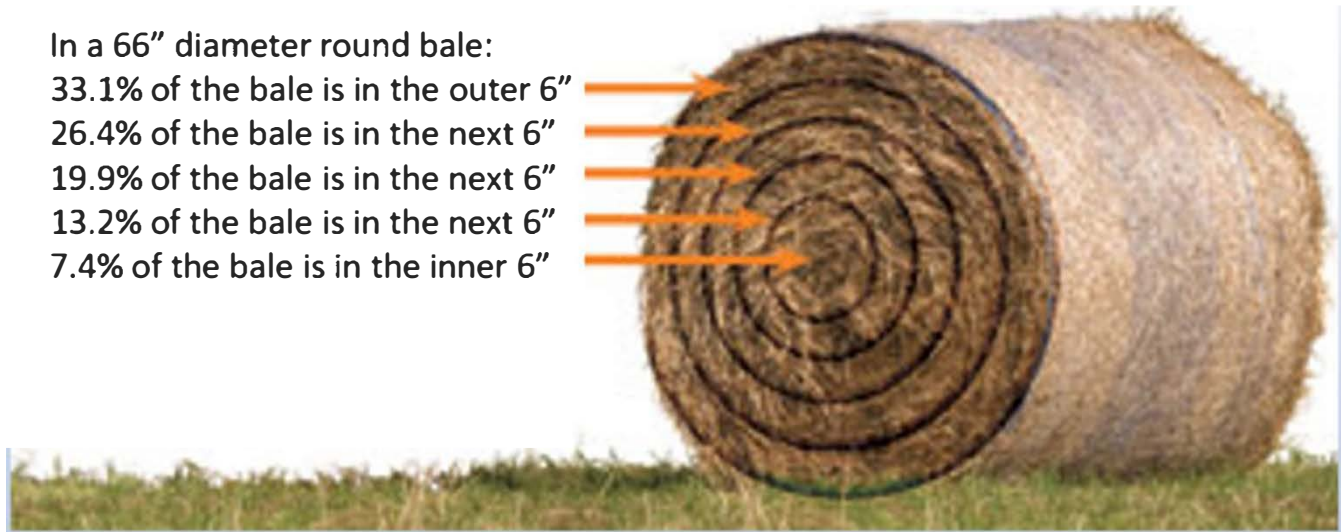
Never  
unrolls evenly



**EXTENSION**

If bales weigh  
1000 lbs

In a 66" diameter round bale:  
33.1% of the bale is in the outer 6"  
26.4% of the bale is in the next 6"  
19.9% of the bale is in the next 6"  
13.2% of the bale is in the next 6"  
7.4% of the bale is in the inner 6"



Outside 6 inches = 331 lbs  
Next 6 inches = 264 lbs  
Next 6 inches = 199 lbs  
next 6 inches = 132 lbs  
6 inch core = 74 lbs

**Oklahoma Cooperative  
Extension Service**

# How???

- Unroll Bales

## Problems

Guessing weight of half of bale can be deceiving

Never unrolls evenly

## One Solution

Match herd size to weight of bale



EXTENSION



# How???

- Timed/limited access

## **Controlling Access to Round Bales**

- Hay feeding area must be separate from where cows are maintained.
- Must have room for all cows to eat at one time.
- May be hard to get cows away from hay.
- Feed concentrates in separate pen after cows have had access to hay.



## Timed Access to Hay (consumption estimates)

- 45 minutes                      6-10 lbs
- 3 hours                            17-18 lbs
- 6 hours                            20-21 lbs
- 9 hours                            22-23 lbs
- 14 hours                           24-26 lbs

# Precautions

- Must feed at the same time every day to avoid digestive problems.
- Must feed hay first to insure adequate hay intake.
- Total pounds consumed/day will be less than accustomed to.
- Cows will be hungry. (may eat the bark off trees in the beginning)
- Fences must be good.
- Acidosis, bloat, founder etc. could be a problem.
- Does require more labor and management skill.