

Sainfoin, used as forage for horses, is grown without fertilizer, additives and pesticides.



## “Holy Hay” Makes Healthy Horses

Sainfoin hay is helping keep horses healthy. The legume known as “holy hay” is recognized for its palatability and health benefits. StableFeed is making it more widely available for horse owners with their sainfoin forage products.

“We’ve made big headway in creating a market for sainfoin hay,” says Mary Hartman, StableFeed. “It’s a sustainable crop raised without fertilizer, additives, and pesticides. In the future, as people realize the value in it, it’ll have its place next to alfalfa, not just as forage for horses, but also for cattle, sheep, deer and elk.”

Hartman has built a business based on feeds designed to improve horse health. When her horse developed health problems, her research into horse nutrition led her to give the animal chia seed-based biscuits for its stomach ulcers and other maladies.

Seeing a dramatic improvement in its health and appearance, she gave the biscuits to other horses also. At the same time, she became aware of research in the U.K. that suggested benefits of sainfoin as a food for horses with health problems.

Sainfoin’s high tannin levels reduce gas production in the gastrointestinal tract, reducing the likelihood of colic or bloat. It has also been shown to slow chewing time while increasing saliva production and water intake, both of which are important for gastrointestinal health.

The tannins also increase the utilization of protein throughout the body. This produces better topline and more effective maintenance of topline/muscling in hard-working horses and improved hoof horn. In cattle, it produces faster growth and better hides.

Sainfoin has also been shown to help control parasitic worms in cattle, sheep and goats. Limited testing with horses suggests some impact on parasite control.

“When other people heard my story, they wanted to try the chia and sainfoin,” says

Hartman. “We’ve had animals literally at death’s door and seen them turn around and regain their health.”

The positive results she saw led her to work with Minnesota’s Agricultural Utilization Research Institute to do product research and development for both chia and sainfoin-based feeds. She now markets the horse healthy feeds through her website, as well as through a handful of dealers, mostly in the eastern U.S.

She has begun marketing Glenview sainfoin seed, a cultivar developed at the Lethbridge Research and Development Center (LRDC), Lethbridge, Canada. The new cultivar was developed to grow and compete with grass.

“The older varieties were hard to establish and didn’t like wet feet,” says Hartman. “This scared people away from planting it.”

Hartman secures most of her sainfoin supply for her products from Montana and Wyoming. However, she is also contracting production in Minnesota, where she is based and believes it has a much more widespread potential.

“We had a beautiful crop last year,” she says. “We seeded at 35 lbs. per acre and got 2 1/2 tons per acre with our first cutting.”

The LRDC promotes sainfoin as drought tolerant and good for the soil. It has a long deep taproot, fixes nitrogen, sequesters phosphates, and supports pollinators. It helps restore soil health.

Hartman is selling the Glenview sainfoin for \$4 a pound and is eager to find more growers. “Every time an article comes out on sainfoin, we get more potential growers,” she says. “The more we grow, the more we can make changes in horse health.”

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## Zero-Turn Mower Handle

Nick Russian, Central City, Penn., wanted to help an elderly local veteran who was having trouble getting on and off his zero-turn lawnmower.

Looking for an inexpensive way to make the mower more accessible, Russian took to the scrap pile of a nearby junk recycler.

“I found curved 1-in. iron pipe, probably from a heating system, which was the perfect size and shape. No bending was required. I drilled holes at the ends and bolted it to the front of the mower, using existing holes. The pipe needed a stabilizing brace, so I used the support from an aluminum folding lawn chair. The piece also was the perfect size and shape.

“I drilled it and the pipe and bolted it on using existing holes in the mower. I used six 1/2-in. dia. bolts. We painted it green to match the mower,” says Russian.

“The project only took a few hours of my time, and the handle really helps him get on



Using scrap materials, Nick Russian made a support handle for a zero-turn mower.

and off the mower.”

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“You can lift it or lower it hydraulically on the fly depending on how much dirt you need to move. Combined with the aggressiveness of the disk angles, you can pull a little or a lot of soil to fill ruts,” says Clifton.

## Triple Component Machine Smooths Irrigation Ruts

To eliminate troublesome ruts made by center pivot irrigation systems, Eilers Machine offers their tractor-pulled 610 Closer.

After purchasing the machine’s patent 3 years ago from a local farm owner and entrepreneur, Eilers has manufactured hundreds of units in their Nebraska shop.

The 6,000-lb. 610 Closer’s main frame and tongue are built from heavy-duty 3/8-in. thick-walled, 6 by 4-in. tubing. Its main components include two sets of adjustable disk gangs measuring 10 ft. in width, a 6 ft. wide box scraper, and a rolling rear basket. Hydraulics control the raising and lowering of the frame, disk angles, and bucket operation.

Disks begin at a diameter of 22 in. on the inside and end at 13 in. on the outside, helping to gather and spread dirt from mounds and high areas. Their pitch can be aligned on the go to help smooth out the largest ruts. The basket rolls on durable, long-lasting bearings pulling loose soil from a wide swath,

evening the ground and helping restore it to its original state.

“What separates our unit from the competition is our bucket,” says Kevin Clifton, Eilers Machine production manager. “You can lift it or lower it hydraulically on the fly depending on how much dirt you need to move. Combined with the aggressiveness of the disk angles, you can pull a little or a lot of soil to fill ruts.”

The machine is adjustable via the front leveling bar and features two top-center springs for fine-tuning the front height.

610 Closers are available from distributors throughout North America. Cost is dealer influenced but generally ranges from \$24,000 to \$25,000 plus S&H.

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## Snow Mover Mounts On 2-Wheeler

The patent pending ClearPLOW® Snow Pusher provides a labor-saving method of moving snow when it’s not so heavy or deep as to require a snowblower or plow.

“I always thought there had to be a better way to move snow than shoveling,” says Patrick Donnelly, who owned a landscape/construction company in Michigan for over 20 years. In 2016, he came up with the idea to use something most people already own - a 2-wheel hand truck - and create a plow to attach to it. After working with an inventor friend and several prototypes, he came up with two models.

The Home-Owner Snow Pusher is made with 1/4-in. Lexan™ polycarbonate and works well in moderate temperatures. For colder areas and more commercial applications, Donnelly recommends the HD-Commercial Snow Pusher.

“It’s made of UHMW (Ultra High Molecular Weight) polyethylene, which won’t become brittle to -240 F,” Donnelly says.

The plow attaches quickly and easily with a stainless-steel bar and two handles to the hand truck lift plate. Both models have options for 14 or 18-in. wide hand trucks and the pushers come in 24 and 36-in. widths. They also have replaceable 1 1/2-in. curved cutting edges that slide over sidewalk cracks.

Donnelly has pushed up to 8 in. of dry snow with the ClearPLOW, by taking narrower swaths. But he emphasizes that ClearPLOW is too hard to push when the snow is deep, heavy, and wet - a plow or blower is needed then.



Plow attaches with a stainless-steel bar and two handles to the hand truck lift plate.



Prices for the ClearPLOW attachment range from \$250 to \$350 for the U.S.-made products, and Donnelly offers a 2-year warranty on defective materials or workmanship.

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