

# Forage First<sup>®</sup> Hay Cubes

**Forage First Alfalfa Cubes**  
**Forage First Timothy/Alfalfa Cubes**

Product Number  
**80907AAA54**  
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## Product Positioning

Forage First — Because of the horse's unique digestive system, forage must be the first component of the nutritional pyramid. The fiber in forage keeps the digestive tract functioning properly, and with the help of bacteria in the hindgut, provides energy, protein, and vitamins to horses. Forage types can be combined to provide the best program for each individual horse.

A source of energy that does not contribute to metabolic and digestive disorders and developmental orthopedic disorders (DOD) is a long-awaited breakthrough for the horse industry. ADM's Forage Products are formulated for today's Forage First Programs combine good-quality forage, GROSTRONG<sup>®</sup> vitamin-mineral products, Premium Hi-Fat Supplements, Premium Blends, and Fortified Feed products to produce balanced total rations. With this combination of feeds, horses can be healthy and perform at their best when fed less grain than they would receive from traditional horse rations. Consequently, horses are at less risk of metabolic and digestive disorders and DOD that may result from high-starch intake.

Forage First Hay Cubes offer horse owners a consistent, high-quality forage source that can be used to supply all or a portion of the forage needs for all classes of horses. These products are cubed, which produces a higher leaf-to-stem ratio, more concentrated nutrients, and less waste than most long-stemmed hays. Forage First Hay Cubes are excellent choices for horses with dental or respiratory problems or for travel.

## Product Description

**Forage First Alfalfa Cubes** are an excellent choice to complement grass hays and whenever higher dietary protein is needed. Alfalfa contains more protein, energy, calcium, and vitamin A than grasses. The inclusion of alfalfa in rations for growing horses, working horses, senior horses, and broodmares takes advantage of these additional nutrients. Forage First Alfalfa Hay Cubes are clean and bright colored and cut at an early to mid-bloom stage for best quality.

**Forage First Timothy/Alfalfa Cubes** are a well balanced, high-quality forage for horses. High-quality grass/alfalfa blends are the single feed with the best balance of protein, energy, and fiber for most horses. A balance of timothy and alfalfa helps avoid the excess protein (and associated ammonia odor) that can be a problem when too much high-protein hay is fed to mature and idle horses. Forage First Timothy/Alfalfa Cubes are bright green in color, free of dust and mold, and cut in early stages of development.

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## Features

Reduce feed waste

Consistent and maximum nutrient quality

Avoid blister beetles

Less storage space

Low moisture content

## Benefits

Very little wastage occurs with cubes as compared to the 20% or more wastage with long-stemmed hays.

Cubes are subjected to rigid quality control standards and must meet product nutrient guarantees.

Made from forages grown in northern areas of the US and Canadian meadows far north of the known habitats of blister beetles.

Cubed forages require less storage space compared to baled hay.

More value and longer storage time.

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## Product Form/Packaging

Cube form in 50-lb bag.



## Guaranteed Analysis

(as-fed basis)	Alfalfa	Timothy/Alfalfa
Crude Protein, min. . . . .	15.0%	12.0%
Crude Fat, min. . . . .	1.8%	2.3%
Crude Fiber, max. . . . .	32.0%	32.0%
Moisture, max. . . . .	12.0%	12.0%

## Ingredients

**Alfalfa Cubes:** Chopped Alfalfa  
**Timothy/Alfalfa Cubes:** Chopped Alfalfa and Timothy

## Questions & Answers

- Q. Can Forage First Hay Cubes be fed as the sole source of forage to horses?

A. Yes, Forage First Hay Cubes can replace any or all of the long-stemmed hay fed to horses. The substitution rate depends on the moisture and quality of the long-stemmed hay. Less cubes than hay may be needed if the hay is of lower quality. As with any changes in a horse's diet, phase Forage First Hay Cubes into the diet over several days.
- Q. Won't horses choke on Forage First Hay Cubes?

A. Choking is not a problem when large cubes like Forage First Hay Cubes are fed to horses. However, inadequate chewing due to "gulping" feed may cause any animal to choke regardless of the type of feed. Good feed management practices can help decrease a horse's tendency to "gulp" feed.
- Q. Why be concerned about blister beetles?

A. Blister beetles contain a chemical, cantharidin, which causes welts on the skin and lining of the intestinal tract upon contact in any animal. Ingestion of 15 to 20 blister beetles can kill a horse, while consumption of fewer than 15 can produce colic symptoms. Blister beetles are generally found in conditioned hay raised under irrigation and in crops which had heavy concentrations of grasshoppers the previous year. Blister beetle larvae feed on grasshopper eggs, over winter in the soil, and hatch the following year.
- Q. Why are Forage First Hay Cubes free of blister beetles?

A. Blister beetles are not found in northern areas of the US and Canada where hay is grown for these cubes.

## Directions for Use

This product can be fed as the sole source of fiber or fed in combination with hay at the rate of 1.0% of body weight. The maximum amount of Alfalfa Cubes or Alfalfa/Timothy Cubes depends on the individual horse, desired body condition, level of activity and development stage. Feed at least twice daily. For horses who bolt their feed or older horses experiencing teeth problems, we suggest soaking this product. Supply clean, fresh water at all times. Introduce feed changes gradually over 7 to 10 days.

## Suggested storage conditions

Store cubes in a cool, dry place. Avoid contact with moist surfaces and sunlight.

### The Forage First Hay Cube Advantage

Feature	Benefit
Excellent source of energy and protein	Contributes to substantially meeting macro nutrient requirements.
Digestible high-fiber content	Quality fiber provides digestible energy and assists correct gut function.
Guaranteed nutrients	Dependable, guaranteed amounts of nutrients.
Long-strand fiber and large cube form	Ensures slow intake to alleviate boredom and encourage chewing and correct digestive system management.
Manufactured in drug and antibiotic-free facility	Ensures against risk of contamination.
Quality commitment	Total quality assurance unconditionally guarantees superior consistency and quality.
Convenient and easy to handle	Little wastage, reduced labor, storage, and facility management costs.
Recommended for all horses	Flexible to extend, supplement, or replace forages.

For equine technical information or assistance: Call our Equine HELPLINE at 1-800-680-8254 or check ADM's Equine Web site: [www.ADMequine.com](http://www.ADMequine.com).