

It Pays To Cover Your Hay Stack!



Round Bale Stacks that are left uncovered are subject to serious deterioration due to the nature of the shape of the bale.

University studies make it clear that "over 30% of the bale is in the outer 6" and only ¼ of the bale is in the center 3". Total weathering losses always exceeds what our initial glance might suggest." (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture study)

We assume a spoilage loss of 30% on round bales that are uncovered and compare it to a 3-2-1 stack of 72 – 5' diameter x 4' long round bales. Bales are about 1200 lbs, and are valued at \$75 each (alfalfa ~\$125/ton).

EXAMPLE:

72 bales x 30% loss	= 22 bales yearly
22 bales x \$75 each	= \$1,650.00 loss
Cost of P25x48Rnd	= <u>\$379.37</u> 1 st year

ONE YEAR SAVINGS = \$1,270.63

Three year savings of \$4,570.63

(Based on \$1,650.00 x 3 less \$379.37)

Where else can you invest \$379.37 and collect a \$4,570.63 profit in three years!

Some farmers insist that their losses are less than this. If you don't know how much you are losing, then your losses are probably much greater than you realize. Check it out and save yourself some money.

Using the above example, it would cost the hay grower only about \$1.76 per bale, per year, to cover round bales (based on only three years use.) It is common for Performer Hay Tarps to last longer with proper care.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Bales shrink, so tarps should be retightened 2 or 3 times. A loose cover will rip in high winds.
- When covers are not in use, roll them up and store them away from rodents. Mothballs work wonders!
- When feeding from a stack, it is best to take the tarp completely off. If this is not feasible, then be sure it is folded back and retied tightly.
- Be very careful to install your Performer Hay Tarp correctly and retighten them as the bales settle. With proper care they should last 3-5 years or more.
- Do not tie tarps together. Always tie and secure them independent of one another.