



NEWS LINE

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Horse and all livestock owners warned not to become complacent

It's not a time for horse and livestock owners to let their guards down, even with milder winter conditions. That advice comes from Les Burwash, manager of horse programs for Alberta Agriculture and Food, who says research shows animals are always healthier if they have access to water on a daily basis.

"It may be of particular interest this year because the winter has been mild and there has been little snow, particularly in the south part of the province, and this means there may not be sufficient snow available as a source of water. Since the weather has been warm we've seen melting and freezing and the snow that may be available may not be in a form that horses could consume enough to come anywhere close to meeting their water requirements," says Burwash.

Burwash suggests producers take a look at the body condition of their horses. Some horses may not be in as good a body condition as might be expected, given the mild weather. If this is the case, owners should increase the number of calories or energy in the diet so that the horses can gain back body condition.

"Don't get complacent," adds Burwash. "Don't just assume that everything is going forward. Be aware of what is actually happening. All horse owners have the responsibility for the welfare of their animals."

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Clip No. 1:

It's not a time for horse and livestock owners to let their guards down, even with milder winter conditions. Les Burwash, manager of horse programs for Alberta Agriculture and Food, says all owners should be aware that mild winter conditions could actually pose problems:

(21... "requirements.")

Clip No. 2:

Burwash advises owners to take a look at the body condition of their horses:

(16... "diet.")

Clip No. 3:

Horse owners should take nothing for granted, adds Burwash:

(18... "animals.")

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