

Preparation of Pasture Enclosures for Hay Delivery and Tarping

DRAFT – 9/5/13 – will use this document as starting point to document process and add revisions from learning this year. Continuous process improvement needs to be documented from prior year’s experience

2013 Process for Preparation of Hay Delivery and Tarping

Action Needed	Responsible for
Preparation of hay enclosure with the required 2 layers of pallets before hay delivery.	Pasture Manager
Inventory current tarps, inspect what can be reused as the base layer below the “new” tarp	Elise
Identify pastures that will need hay tarped and send Pasture Managers hay stack count	Hay Purchaser/Julie
Once hay delivered Doug to coordinate with Pasture Manager measuring hay stack to calculate the size of tarp needed for top layer.	Doug
Have central coordinator of ordering tarps - Order size and quality of tarps needed prior to the hay delivery (central ordering will ensure quality)	Doug
Inform Pasture Managers when newly ordered tarps received – if weather of any concern Doug will have ordered a few spare tarps in advance of average size and we have numerous old tarps to multi-layer	Doug
Once tarps received ensure hay stacks tarped timely and according to instructions (see Hay Tarping). Request volunteers as needed.	Pasture Manager
Once hay stack is fed down in respective pasture fold tarps and remove from hay enclosure and store in appropriate place – probably Storage Container in Pavilion so do not get eaten by mice and damaged by sun.	Pasture Manager

2013 Pastures with hay stacks needing tarping and bale count

Location	Bales	2013 Pasture Mgr
Forest Meadow	60	Heidi Kader
Lower Sullivan	36	Suzette Curran
Lower	42	Kim Zvik
El Toyonal (for Beer Can)	50	Alison Martin

Inventory and examination of condition of existing tarps (excluding any tarps that maybe in FM hay enclosure (Elise and Doug inventoried and labeled 9/2/13)

Newer Tarp for top layer (with no holes)

1. 19ft x 19ft with grommets every 22in

Used tarps for bottom layer (have holes)

1. 23.5ft x 19ft – silver
2. 36ft x 23ft – blue/brown
3. 27ft x 18ft – green
4. 19ft x 19ft – brown

TARPING HAY – Draft of key components for successful tarping

A. **BUYING TARPS** – key element to buy appropriate type of tarp with these 3 features:

1. Thickness of tarps should be at least 9 – 12ml
 - Learning: In the past some tarps bought at hardware stores have been only 5 – 6 ml thick which is not a sufficient thickness.
2. Grommets should be every 18” to 2 ft apart so that the tarp can be tied down and the grommets hold and less damage in winds.
 - Learning: In the past some tarps have only had grommets every 4 ft which is too far apart to secure against the wind.
3. Recommendation: have one person order all the tarps so that there is consistency in types of tarps ordered.
 - Order online as can order the thickness and size needed.

B. **TARPING ACTUAL HAY STACK**

1. **IMPORTANT:** The hay should be stacked however high, on a double layer of pallets so it is further off the ground and then tarp can be more easily be tied to the pallets. If only 1 layer of pallets it is hard to tie all the grommets to easily be reached.
2. Use 2 layers of tarps on each stack
 - If any older tarps from year before that are in somewhat good condition use those on the bottom.
 - THEN tarp with the NEW tarp on the top layer.
3. Assembling tarp on stack:
 - Start by laying tarp down on the ground next to the pile of hay to be tarped and tie bailing twine attachments to each grommet.
 - Start by then securing one side and pulling tarp over one stack. The reason for securing one side before you stretch the tarp over the top is because any wind can blow the tarp off if it is not secured on one side first – preferable to tie first side down from where the wind is coming from. After securing one side, stretch the tarp over the top and tie down the opposite side. Then do the other two side and the corners.
 - Suggestion on which side to secure first: start from north and west sides as they get more weather and should be the most taught sides.
 - Make hospital corners (like how you fold those on your bed at bottom – reference for those of us neat freaks)
 - Once tarped and all grommets tied down then with a heavy rope tightly cinch around the whole bottom near the lower quarter of the bottom.

C. **REMOVAL AND STORAGE OF LAST YEAR’S TARPS**

1. Learning: At end of pile being fed down – IMMEDIATELY remove tarp and store so that not left for months in hay enclosure for mice to eat through and sun exposure to damage. Suggest all tarps are stored in Container in Pavillion so protect our investments in tarp. This way we can hopefully salvage these expensive tarps for at least the 1st bottom layer of next year’s tarps.
2. Pasture manager should be responsible for ensuring that tarps are properly stored once feeding pile feed down.

Potential Resources to use to order tarps online– additional research needed to do comparison:

Morris suggested resources:

For instance <http://www.tarpsonline.com> has a 20x22 green for \$32, grey for \$48 (grey is heavier weight). 9-10 Mill Thickness for green.

http://www.tarpaflex.com/acatalog/Green_Poly_Tarps.html has a case of 4 green tarps for \$111.72

http://www.tarpfactoryoutlet.com/tarps/nav/green_tarps.asp has 20x20 green tarps for \$48. Theirs is a 3ply construction. Their 20x20 blue tarp is only \$20 (6 mil thickness instead of 12 mil).

It's not easy to see online how one green tarp compares with another green tarp -- the first website gives weight per square yard, the last gives mil thickness.

Cheryl suggested resources:

<http://www.sportsmansguide.com/net/cb/iit-reversible-silver-blue-tarp.aspx?a=784460>

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