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How much does a 3x4x8 straw bale weigh

Any links on this page that lead to products on Amazon are affiliate links and I earn a commission if you make a purchase. Thanks in advance - I really appreciate it! My friends and I went to the feed store because we heard there was a good deal on alfalfa hay bales. But it turned out that it was only the three-string bales on sale, and I wasn't sure I could handle its weight. Which led me to wonder how much do hay bales weigh, not only square bales but also round ones. A standard two-string square hay bale weighs between 40 and 75 pounds; a three-string square bale weighs over 100 pounds, and some as much as 140 pounds; the average round hay bale weighs about 1,250 pounds, but their weight varies greatly from 563 to 1,584 pounds. The weight of hay bales can be challenging to determine because many different factors come into play, such as its size, moisture level, and density, all influence a single hay bale's total weight. Weight matters when you have to load, unload, and store your hay. Type of HayThree String Bale WeightTwo String Bale WeightRound Bale WeightAlfalfa10-140 pounds60 to 75 pounds5'x6' dia 1,200 to 2,000 poundsGrass Hay75-90 pounds40 to 55 pounds5'x6' dia 1,270 to 1,700 lbs This article is one of a series of articles on horse hay I wrote, the main article being: Horse Hay: An Owner's Guide. Factors that play a role in the weight of hay bales. Dealing with hay bales is a part of horse ownership. Hay is a critical component of a horse's diet; it offers fiber and roughage, which helps support digestion and provides nutrients like protein. It is essential to have a good supply of hay for your horses, but it's not easy to know which type of hay you need. When it comes to choosing your hay bale's size, there are two common concerns for horse owners: is it light enough for you to handle, and do you have adequate storage space? It's also essential to understand that not all hay bales weigh the same, even if they are the same size. A bale's weight varies depending on its density, species, and moisture content and affects the nutritional value and price you pay for each one. Some types of hay are not only more expensive than others, but they may also contain harmful chemicals or additives that could cause harm to your horse's health. The size of hay bales influences their weight. There is a lot to consider when you are buying hay. One of the most critical parts of the equation may be how big and how much do the bales weigh? Generally, square bales are sold in two and three-string sizes. Two-string hay bales are typically 14" high x 18" wide x 35" long, and three-string bales are 16" high x 22" wide x 44" long. Round bales can come in various diameters depending on what size baler was used to make them. Standard sizes are 5 feet wide and 6 feet in diameter or 4 feet wide and 5 feet in diameter. Most horse owners use square bales because they are uniform, take less storage space, are easy to stack and handle. Hay bale density plays a role in its weight. The density of a bale is dependent on its tightness and how much compression was used to form it. A tightly compressed hay bale weighs more than a loose one. Most balers allow for customizable settings to meet your preferences, plus some offer ways to compress tighter than standard equipment. The forage's maturity and species can have a significant effect on the density of hay bales as plants mature, their fiber content increases, making them less dense. Hay bales made from different ages and species of forage vary in weight. Alfalfa hay is denser than bermuda hay and weighs more. The moisture content of the hay affects bale weight. Forage is cut and then cured. To dry cut forage, haymakers fluff the cut grass; fluffing spins the cut forage and helps it evenly dry before baling. It's essential to bale at the correct moisture level during the curing process to maintain nutritional value. When it comes to hay bales, there are two styles: the small rectangular and the large round. The differences in size make a difference in how long hay bale retains heat. Therefore the moisture level of grass should be lower as the size of the bale increases. The more you know about bale moisture levels, the better because of nutrient values, and storing hay too moist can cause fires. Freshly cut forage materials continue to respire, producing a small amount of heat and can ignite a fire. You may have heard that it's acceptable for hay to have a moisture level of 22%. But this only applies to square bales: round ones should not exceed 18% in order to prevent mold and overheating. Moisture content also affects the nutritional value of the hay. Researchers baled alfalfa at three moisture levels, low (10%), medium (16%), and high (22%), to study the effects moisture has on nutrients. The hay was also baled in small and large sizes. They found hay baled at the highest moisture levels, and the largest size got the hottest and resulted in the most loss of nutrient value, including dry matter and crude protein. Science has proven that baling hay at too high of a moisture level is not good. Alfalfa hay in large bales at 22% moisture causes high temperatures, which results in loss of nutrient content and digestibility. Moisture and heat can also result in moldy hay. Square hay bales vs. round bales for horses. Most horse owners use square bales for their horses but not all. I have a friend who exclusively uses round bales unless he is traveling. He's been doing this for years and has never had a problem. Horses need hay to keep them healthy and strong, but they might get sick eating hay that you didn't store correctly. It's crucial to keep round hay bales dry because if they get damp, your horses might not be able to eat the hay or may get sick as a result. But when stored correctly, the hay from a round bale is perfectly safe for horses so long as it doesn't sit too long unprotected. Round bales take a long time for horses to eat unless you have a lot of them, and the longer a round bale is exposed to the elements, the greater the chance it molds and ruins. Plus, moving around round bales requires equipment such as a tractor with a hayfork and a facility in your pasture to keep the hay dry while allowing your horses access to it. Overall, square bales are better than round bales for horses. Why use square hay bales for horses. I've always used square bales for my horses, and these are some of the reasons I find them advantageous: Square bales are more efficient in terms of space used for storage;Square bales are easier to handle without equipment;It's easier to monitor your horses' hay using square bales;Square bales are fresher;Square bales are less likely to mold than round bales; Why use round hay bales for horses. I don't use round bales for my horses, but these are some of the reasons horse owners prefer using round bales to feed their horses' hay: FAQ The amount of square bales that equals a round bale depends on the size of each. Approximately thirty, two-string square bales of hay equal one large 5'x6' diameter round bale. Generally, a standard square bale lasts an average horse four days. A horse should eat between 1 to 2 percent of its body weight in hay daily. However, if you're trying to put weight on a horse, you may want to feed more.If a square bale of hay weighs 48 pounds and your horse weighs 1,000 pounds, your horse should eat the bale in four days. .012 (percent of body weight) X 1,000 pounds (horse weight)=12 pounds (daily hay ration). Something went wrong. Wait a moment and try again. By Hayforks.com~Team Small 2 string square bale 14" x 18" x 36" 40 lbs to 60 lbs (18 kg to 27 kg). Small 3 wire square bale 16" x 22" x 44" 100 lbs to 120 lbs (45 kg to 54 kg). Large square bale 36" x 48" x 96" 1,200 lbs to 2,000 lbs (544 kg to 907 kg). Round bale 48" wide x 60" dia. 600 lbs to 1,200 lbs (272 kg to 544 kg). Hay bales can weigh from 40 lbs to 2,000 lbs (18 kg to 907 kg). They come in two basic shapes, round and square. Round hay bales are usually quite large and weigh from 600 to 1,600 lbs (272 kg to 544 kg). Square hay bales come in two size groups, small and large. Most small square bales can be handled manually. Large square hay bales and round hay bales require bale handling equipment such as a tractor with a bale lift. Later on in this article we will discuss the size and weight details of different types and of hay bales. We will also look at the factors that affect hay bale weight, such as density, moisture content and hay species. Topics covered in this hay bale weight guide: Round Hay Bale Weights and Sizes Square Hay Bale Weights and Sizes How Hay Plant Species Affects Hay Bale Weight How Hay Bale Density Affects Hay Bale Weight How Moisture Content Affects Hay Bale Weight How Much Does a Round Bale of Hay Weigh? A 4'x4' round bale of legumes like alfalfa weighs about 600 lbs (272 kg). A 4'x5' bale weighs 950 lbs (430 kg). A 5'x5' bale weighs 1,200 lbs (540 kg) and a 5'x6' bale weighs 1,500 lbs (680 kg). Grass bales, like timothy, weigh 20% less than alfalfa bales. Moisture content can affect bale weight by as much as 25 percent. Round Bale Weight Chart - Pounds and Kilograms Length Width Height Diameter Weight lbs. Weight kg 4' 4' 600 270 4' 5' 950 430 5' 5' 1200 540 5' 6' 1500 680 Round bales, also called rolls of hay, started showing up in fields about 40 years ago. Their handling and transport advantages led to them becoming the most popular bales today. Round bales are usually handled with a tractor mounted front loader having a special spike attachment. Short distance transport is done with special wagons and trailers. Long distance transport of round bales presents some special problems. Being round they are difficult to secure and there have been multiple accidents caused by bales falling from trucks. It is also difficult to build a secure load with enough weight to keep the shipping cost reasonable. Square Hay Bale Weights and Sizes Square hay bales come in two major size groups, small and large. Small square bales have been around the longest, over 100 years. They are popular with horse owners, small animal breeders, landscapers, and anywhere that manual handling is required or where only smaller quantities of hay are needed. High density small square bales are now being produced to reduce storage and shipping costs. Small Square Hay Bales - 3 Types: 2 String, 3 Wire and High Density Two string square hay bales: Weight from 40 to 60 lbs. Size: 18" wide x 14" high x 36" long. Two string bales were the most common hay bales for many years. Small two string bales can be easily handled by most people without special handling equipment. Bales of this type are often available in small quantities at local farm stores and building supply stores. Three wire square hay bales: Weight from 80 to 120 lbs. Size: 22" wide x 16" high x 44" long Three wire bales are denser, a bit bigger and weigh about twice as much as two string bales. They are often preferred when the bale is going to be shipped long distances, since their density lowers shipping costs and makes it easier to build a secure load. Although heavier than two string bales, they can be handled by one or two people without special equipment. High density square hay bales: Weight: 2 to 3 times the weight of the same size standard bale Size:: 18" x 14" x 36" -- weight: 120 to 180 lbs. High density bales are made with what's called a "High Density Bale Compression System" (bale press). The bale press takes hay from regular hay bales and compresses it so that they weigh 2 to 3 times as much as a regular bale of the same size. This is a big advantage for shipping and storage. Large Square Hay Bales Weight: from 1,000 to 2,200 lbs. Size: 3 ft. x 4 ft. x 8 ft. Large square bales have been around for about 40 years. They have some distinct advantages over small square bales and round bales, are ideal for shipping and are easy to stack in storage areas. The ability to be handled by forklifts and front end loaders is another key feature. These large bales have replaced their smaller counterparts on many farms and hay growing operations. How Plant Species Affects Hay Bale Weight Alfalfa bales - 1,000 lbs. Timothy bales - 850 lbs Alfalfa bales are about 15% heavier than the same size bale of timothy. Hay is produced from many different plant species. The two main plant types are grasses and legumes. Legume bales are normally about 15% heavier than grasses for the same size bale, all other factors being equal. A 4 ft wide x 5 ft high round legume hay bale may weigh 1,000 lbs. The same bale made with grasses would weigh 850 lbs. How Bale Density Affects Hay Bale Weight Typical hay bale density is 9 to 12 lbs per cubic foot. Hay bale density is determined by how much the baler compresses the hay. Bale density is measured in pounds per cubic foot. How Moisture Content Affects Hay Bale Weight Fresh baled hay: 18% to 20% moisture by weight. Stabilized hay: 8% to 9% moisture by weight. Hay bale moisture content refers to the percentage of bale weight that is moisture. Here's an example. You have a hay bale that weighs 100 lb. You put it in a drying oven to remove all the moisture. The bale now weighs 80 lbs. The bale had 20% moisture content. Formula: weight before drying - weight after drying / weight before drying = moisture content percentage (100 lbs - 80 lbs) = 20 lbs (20 lbs / 100 lbs) = 20% Most hay bales stabilize at about 8% to 9% moisture content. Fresh baled hay is usually around 18% to 20%. So for every 2,000 lbs (ton) of freshly baled hay you buy you're losing 200 lbs when compared to moisture stabilized hay.

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