

I do not free feed hay or feed hay at all with my pellets. As I am QUITE well known for saying: "If you feed a high quality feed, you do not need to feed anything else." Clarifying part there is high quality feed. I want at least a minimum of 18% fiber in my feed. Rabbits NEED that in order to function properly. Your pellets should be adequate to keep their teeth in check, if not you have genetic issues that I'd get rid of. I keep small pieces of untreated lumber in their cages or twigs of safe trees in there for them to chew on as well.

If you are afraid of them getting bored (projecting IMO) get them toys from the dollar store or make them out of old RX bottles with a few pellets in them to make noise, pieces of pvc pipe (small and large) the small ones they'll throw around and play with the large ones they hide in (the babies)

Hay en mass scares me. We raise our own, but honestly I know TOO much about hay. I've written tons of articles for our local Ag paper about how to care for hay. Many farmers spray their hay to make it grow, spray it for bugs, they also gas it to cure it. These are all things I don't want my rabbits eating. We don't do any of that, but I still worry about dust, mites and mycotoxins. Mycotoxins are horrid bacteria that stores in mold. It is VERY difficult to dry hay to perfection. When you package it, either in square or round bales, often times a portion of it will mold. Cows and horses can tolerate mycotoxins in parts per billion; rabbits only in parts per million. That's a HUGE difference. I will post an article on mycotoxins.

When looking at hay any visible signs of mold you should discard, don't feed dusty hay as well. HOWEVER, any type of hay, such as lespedeza that has an open stem, can have mold that you can't see and it can be lethal. I found that out when I fed Lespedeza (clover) hay to a doe that had diarrhea. She promptly died. I couldn't figure out WHY. After extensive research I called a hay producer friend of mine and said what do you think happened. He told me.

There is SO much to know about hay. Rest assured if you buy hay that is nice and evenly green throughout the "package" it's been sprayed that color, because real hay just doesn't look like that.

NEVER feed alfalfa with your pellets. It will over protein and can make your feed to "hot" as well as add too much calcium. Again refer to the nutritional needs that we have in the files section.

I liken feeding hay all day to feeding your kids potato chips all day then trying to feed them a healthy dinner. A rabbit's gut is small. Fiber digests slowly. They will ALWAYS eat hay first. THEY LOVE HAY, **but** they aren't getting they nutrients they need for their full nutritional needs.