

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Photos attached

HORSE RESCUE EXPANDS ITS SUCCESSFUL FODDER PROGRAM WITH AN ASPCA MATCHING GRANT

STANLEY, NEW MEXICO - APRIL 28, 2016

“We grow it from barley seeds and water, and we harvest it fresh every day. The horses love it! They are healthier! And it saves us valuable dollars to help us rescue more horses,” said Steve Forester, Ranch Manager at New Mexico Horse Rescue at Walkin N Circles Ranch in Stanley, New Mexico,

Thanks to a generous [ASPCA](#) matching grant awarded to the ranch in 2015, the fodder barn was expanded this year from a facility that successfully fed 16 rescue horses to one that can successfully feed 40 to 50 horses, more than half the whole herd at the ranch. In the process it grew from a 7 ft. x 12 ft. fodder room to a 30 ft. x 12 fodder growing system, with an increase from 8 to 27 pvc constructed racks to hold a rotation of 7 trays on each rack, one for each day of the week. The initial 8 racks held 176 growing trays. Current 27 racks hold 584 growing trays.

The 7-day growing cycle starts with dry seed being placed in each “Monday” fodder tray, covering the bottom. The tray is placed in a rack, and the process repeated to begin the growing process. New trays are prepared each day to complete the 7-day cycle. The room is lit with fluorescent lights 24 hours a day. A digital timer waters the racks in the

environmentally controlled room (kept at 62 degrees for optimal growth). Nothing but barley seed and water is used to grow this nutritious food for many farm and ranch animals. When the first day racks are ready, they are taken to the shredder especially built for preparing the fodder for easy eating. Each horse is fed a bucket of shredded fodder with a small amount of grass hay for fiber. The trays are then washed thoroughly with a bleach mixture, allowed to dry, and new trays are planted to replace them.

The fodder rooms are lined with waterproof materials and all excess water drains to a leech field behind the barn. Above the leech field, a community garden has been readied for planting in mid May. Ripe vegetables grown there will be provided to ranch hands as available.

WNCR ranch hands are now in the process of being trained to plant, feed and clean fodder barn equipment. An intern program is also being launched soon to train members of the public in the process so that they can understand the operation and the work involved in growing and feeding fodder.

The ranch saved about \$1,000 per month when feeding the fodder last year to 16 horses. That saving should at least double as the capacity to feed increases.

The system, designed by Tom Mead, Tijeras, and Ranch Manager Steve Forester, has been improved significantly in the rebuild to reduce mold growth and to reuse all the water, which formerly had been returned to the aquifer. “We’ve also fed our chickens and the ranch goats this fodder. They all love it,” said Forester.

For more information, go to <http://www.wncr.org>, or call the ranch, just outside Edgewood east of Albuquerque, 505-286-0779. Tours will be available after May 15 (reservations required).

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