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WEEKLY BRAN MASHES ARE ASKING FOR TROUBLE!

The bacteria that live in the hindgut need consistency. That's why new feeds need to be introduced very slowly, taking a few weeks to completely switch over. A bran mash, or any feed for that matter, is unfamiliar to the hindgut microbial population and exposing them to it suddenly can trigger a dangerous colic attack. But there's more to be concerned about, when it comes to feeding bran mashes.

Many people feel that a bran mash helps as a laxative. Sure, the manure becomes softer but that's because bran irritates the digestive lining, leading to softer manure. This indigestion causes poor absorption of nutrients. Furthermore, bran is very high in phosphorus – it has 10 times more phosphorus than calcium. When phosphorus exceeds calcium, it can lead to porous bones and poor muscle contraction/relaxation.

If you want to feed a warm bran mash during this winter, consistency is key – it must be fed every day, not once a week. Be sure to introduce it gradually and use a commercially fortified version that has added calcium to correct for its naturally inverted ratio.

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