

to feed and keep the leaves on (without being lost and wasted) than round bales. Horses eating free choice from a round bale tend to waste more hay and there's more leaf loss. In many parts of the country if people go to the trouble to produce alfalfa they put it in large square bales or small squares because it's easier to transport and feed than round bales. Some horse owners buy large or mid-size square bales because that is what is available, and adapt feeding methods—finding a mechanical means to move those bales around. A big square bale can be put on a cart, hauled around, with flakes taken off for feeding. This can work if you are set up to handle big bales," says Smith.

"Many horse owners prefer a mixed grass/alfalfa hay. Except for hard-working horses the nutrition level of pure alfalfa is too high, and horses don't need dairy quality hay," says Smith. To know the nutrient content of any hay—whether grass or alfalfa—it should be tested, since maturity, harvest conditions, soil conditions, etc. can all make a difference in protein, energy and mineral levels.

Glenn Shewmaker, University of Idaho, says even after you've selected good hay it always pays to check it as you feed it. "Look for dust, mold, weeds, foreign objects, blister beetles etc. as well as checking it for maturity," he says. Even if most of the hay is excellent, there might be a few bales that came from a corner of the field with weeds—or blister beetles, since these insects swarm. They may only be present in one small area when the hay was cut, with only one or two bales containing dead beetles, or a bale with a dead snake or some other small animal baled up in the hay.

"Poisonous plants sometimes grow in alfalfa fields. Work with your hay supplier and only buy from a reputable person who knows what they are doing in terms of growing weed-free hay. Ragwort, groundsel, Johnson grass, sudan grass, water hemlock and hoary alyssum are examples of poisonous plants found in hay and pastures," he says. ○

October

SEPTEMBER 1-NOVEMBER 1 Keleen & Carlton Beal Cup (12) Houston, Houston, TX	Arena Constitution Cup (3-6) Arena Adm. Chester Nimitz (0-3) Poway, Poway, CA
SEPTEMBER 4-OCTOBER 4 Kentucky Cup (12-14) Mt. Brilliant, Lexington, KY	Middle School League Tinicum, Erwinna, PA
SEPTEMBER 18-OCTOBER 4 USPA National President's Cup (4-8) New Bridge, Aiken, SC	Congressional Cup (0-2) South Bay, Gilroy, CA
National Arena Chairman's Cup Great Meadow, The Plains, VA	Congressional Cup (0-4) San Antonio, San Antonio, TX
SEPTEMBER 24-OCTOBER 8 Regional Classic (10-14) Houston, Houston, TX	Southern Hotel Cup New Orleans, Folsom, LA
SEPTEMBER 25-OCTOBER 12 USPA Governors Cup (0-6) Houston, Houston, TX	OCTOBER 4 Harriman Cup—UVA vs. Yale Myopia, South Hamilton, MA
SEPTEMBER 26-OCTOBER 4 USPA Wickenden Cup (8) Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, CA	OCTOBER 4-6 Women's Invitational (8-12) Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, CA
SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 11 USPA Governors Cup (6) Aiken, Aiken, SC	OCTOBER 7-25 USPA Association Cup (8) New Bridge, Aiken, SC
Wagener 4 Goal Wagener, Wagener, SC	OCTOBER 9-11 National Sherman Memorial (3-6) Westchester, Portsmouth, RI
SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 4 Women's Arena Open (12-15) Women's Arena Handicap (7-10) Great Meadow, The Plains, VA	OCTOBER 9-18 Intra-Circuit Cup (8-10) Willow Bend, Little Elm, TX
SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 11 USPA Constitution Cup (4-8) Mashomack, Millbrook, NY	Arena Masters Cup (0-8) Denver, Littleton, CO
SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 18 USPA National Copper Cup (8-12) New Bridge, Aiken, SC	OCTOBER 9-23 H. Ben Taub Memorial (8-12) Houston, Houston, TX
OCTOBER 1 Nat'l Arena Commander in Chief Cup Virginia Polo, Charlottesville, VA	OCTOBER 9-26 Sportsmanship Cup (-1-2) ATX, Manor, TX
OCTOBER 1-2 Sportsmanship Cup Tulsa, Bixby, OK	OCTOBER 10 Arena Challenge Cup Skull Valley, Skull Valley, AZ
OCTOBER 3 LBI Beach Polo Classic Tinicum, Erwinna, PA	OCTOBER 10-11 USPA Women's Challenge ATX, Manor, TX
	Mardi Gras Cup (0-2) New Orleans, Folsom, LA

November

- Arena Challenge Cup
Rancho Naranjo, Santa Teresa, NM
- Masters Cup
Arizona, Casa Grande, AZ
- Middle School League
Garrison Forest, Owings Mills, MD
- Middle School League
Gardnertown, Newburgh, NY
- NOPC Fall Classic
New Orleans, Folsom, LA
- OCTOBER 12-13
Last Chance Tournament (1)
Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, CA
- OCTOBER 13-25
Gen. George S. Patton Jr. (2-6)
Aiken, Aiken, SC
- OCTOBER 16-25
Arena Women's Challenge (0-6)
Yale, Bethany, CT
- OCTOBER 17
All Stars Academy Arena Cup
Seneca, Poolesville, MD
- Poloween!
Franklin, Nashville, TN
- OCTOBER 19-NOVEMBER 6
Gen. Georges S. Patton Jr. (-1-2)
Two Wishes, Lockhart, TX
- OCTOBER 21-NOVEMBER 1
USPA Bronze Cup (12)
New Bridge, Aiken, SC
- Constitution Cup (0-6)
Wagener, Wagener, SC
- OCTOBER 21-25
Tackeria Invitational
Grand Champions, Wellington, FL
- OCTOBER 22-NOVEMBER 5
Western Challenge (12-16)
Houston, Houston, TX
- OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 1
Gen. S. Brown
Willow Bend, Little Elm, TX
- OCTOBER 24-25
USPA Sportsmanship Cup
Two Wishes, Lockhart, TX
- Middle School League
Gardnertown, Newburgh, NY
- USPA Mardi Gras Cup
New Orleans, Folsom, LA
- OCTOBER 28-NOVEMBER 1
USPA Masters Cup (8)
New Bridge, Aiken, SC
- OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 1
Fall Classic
Grand Champions, Wellington, FL
- OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 1
Middle School League
Lakeside, Lakeside, CA
- Arena Challenge Cup (0-6)
Rancho Naranjo, Santa Teresa, NM
- Retro Classic
New Orleans, Folsom, LA
- NOVEMBER 1-30
National Twenty Goal (16-20)
North America Cup (16-20)
Grand Champions, Wellington, FL
- NOVEMBER 6-7
National Arena Amateur Cup (0-3)
Legends, Kaufman, TX
- NOVEMBER 6-8
Fall Plates
Grand Champions, Wellington, FL
- NOVEMBER 7
Mixed adults tournament
Mountain View, Charles Town, WV
- Scottsdale Polo Classic
WestWorld, Scottsdale, AZ
- NOVEMBER 7-8
National Arena Amateur Cup
Orange County, Silverado, CA
- Governor's Cup (0-6)
New Orleans, Folsom, LA
- Middle School League
Yale, Bethany, CT
- Middle School League
New Bridge, Aiken, SC
- NOVEMBER 11-17
U.S. Open Women's Handicap (10-12)
Texas Women's Open (18-20)
Houston, Houston, TX
- NOVEMBER 12-26
Arena Adm. Chester Nimitz
Texas Military, Poteet, TX
- NOVEMBER 13-15
Arena Sportsmanship Cup
Arena Congressional Cup
Legends, Kaufman, TX
- Pedro Morrison Memorial
Grand Champions, Wellington, FL
- NOVEMBER 14-15
Congressional Cup
New Orleans, Folsom, LA
- Middle School League
Buffalo, Wainfleet, Ontario
- NOVEMBER 14-21
Wellington Open (20)
Grand Champions, Wellington, FL
- NOVEMBER 20-27
USPA National (20)
Grand Champions, Wellington, FL
- NOVEMBER 20-29
Arena Challenge Cup (2-8)
Yale, Bethany, CT
- NOVEMBER 21-22
USPA Teddy Roosevelt Cup
Texas Military, Poteet, TX
- Middle School League
Houston, Houston, TX
- NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 3
National Delegate's Cup (4-8)
Houston, Houston, TX
- NOVEMBER 29
Legends of Polo C. Gracida Memorial
International Cup
Grand Champions, Wellington, FL

Note: All dates are subject to change. "USPA" refers to tournaments sponsored or sanctioned by the United States Polo Association.