

Building a FODDER SYSTEM to feed livestock

Finding simple ways, to make your products go further is something very important to our family. We have hundreds of animals on our homestead and needed to find a better way of feeding them.

With fodder, we can quadruple our feed output for our animals just by sprouting trays of wheat seed for 8 days and quadrupling the amount of feed we get out of each bag for our animals. A 50 pound bag of seed can yield 200+ pounds of sprouted fodder.

Growing our own wheat fodder (wheatgrass) was an easy way to add additional feed to our animals while saving a bit in our budget.

We have been extremely successful growing wheat, barley and oats (although oats tend to be a bit harder to grow.) You can pick up recycled wheat, recycled barley and recycled oats at your local feed store. We purchase our recycled wheat from Warren's in Chino Valley. I have found that their wheat seems to grow best for what I am needing.

Here are the things that you need to get started:

1. 8 trays (\$1 plastic shoeboxes work for starting. We use both those and heavy duty black planting trays)
2. Shelf to hold trays (we have a metal shelf for one set and a PVC homemade shelf or the other set)
3. Drill with drill bit to drill holes in bottom of trays
4. Water collection bucket
5. Pitcher or large jar. (or optional water pump and fixtures)
6. Bag of wheat, barley or oats (recycled are best)
optional: additional types of seeds, black oil sunflower seeds or Austrian winter peas.

In order to make a successful system, you need to make sure that the water can flow through each tray and fall to the next tray down in a waterfall effect. The collection tray is at the bottom to collect all of the left over water that you can then recycle into your garden or other plants.

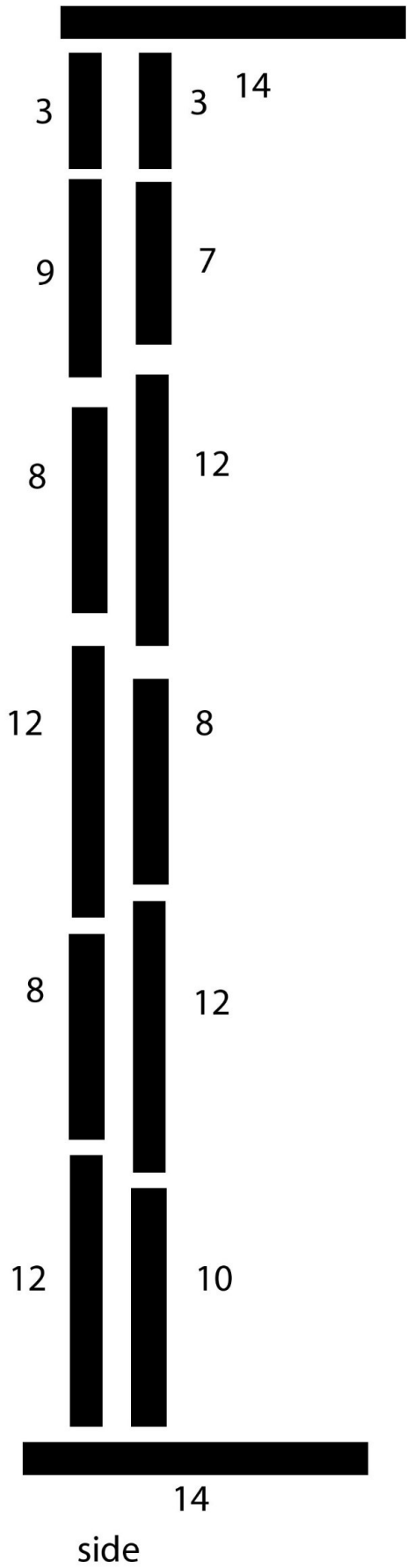
Here is a link to one of our posts on our website:

<http://krisandlarry.com/2014/12/05/update-on-fodder-our-system-is-working-great-2/>

Mother Earth News has a GREAT list of how much fodder that you need to per animal:

<http://www.motherearthnews.com/homesteading-and-livestock/sprouted-fodder.aspx>

- Horse: 2-3 percent of their body weight in fodder; 1.5% body weight in dry hay
- Beef Cow: 2-3 percent of their body weight in fodder; barley straw ration
- Dairy Cow: 3-5 percent of their body weight in fodder; barley straw ration
- Sheep: 2-3 percent of their body weight in fodder; hay ration
- Goat: 2-3 percent of their body weight in fodder; mineral and hay rations
- Dairy Goat: 3-5 percent of their body weight in fodder; mineral and hay rations
- Alpaca: 2-3 percent of their body weight in fodder; hay ration
- Pig: 2-3 percent of their body weight in fodder
- Rabbit: 3-5 percent of their body weight in fodder; hay ration for roughage
- Chicken: 2-3 percent of their body weight in fodder; grit and calcium supplements



- 4 x 3"
- 2 x 9"
- 2 x 7"
- 6 x 8"
- 8 x 12"
- 2 x 10"
- 10 x 26"
- 4 x 14"
- 8 x "L"
- 20 x "T"

