

STRAW



Did you know?

Straw isn't grown by itself! It is a useful byproduct left after farmers harvest grain crops.



Vocabulary

Straw – the dry stalk left after a grain crop is harvested.

Grain – The seed of crops like wheat, oats and barley

Bale – a bundle of straw or hay pressed tightly together.

Combine – A machine used to harvest grain.

Farm Facts

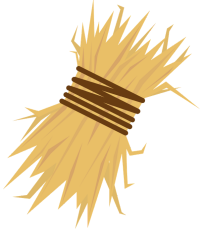
- Straw comes from grain crops.
- A combine harvests the grain.
- The leftover stalks become straw.
- Straw bales can be square or round.
- Straw is often used for animal bedding.

Used For

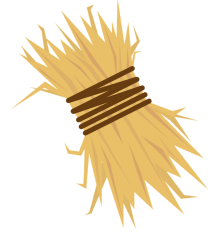
- Livestock bedding
- Garden mulch
- Erosion control

Vermont Facts

- Straw bales can be found on farms, especially where grain crops and livestock are part of the farm.



STRAW



How it's Produced

Source crop: Straw is not a crop itself but instead a byproduct commonly from wheat, oats, barley and rye.

Harvest Season in Vermont: May through August, varies by crop

Sunlight Needs: Full sun (varies by crop)

Soil: Well-drained, fertile soil

Harvest Method: A combine collects the grain and separates it from the stalk; the remaining stalks are gathered, compressed and tied into bales.

Uses

- Animal bedding
 - Livestock
 - Poultry
- Gardening and Landscaping
 - Mulch
 - Soil protection
 - Moisture retention
- Agriculture
 - Erosion control
 - Compost and organic matter
- Other uses
 - Construction
 - Paper products
 - Packaging

Straw vs. Hay

Straw

- Leftover stalks from grain crops
- Usually low in nutritional value
- Commonly used for bedding
- Often yellow or golden

Hay

- Plants grown and harvested as animal feed
- Provides animals with nutrients
- Commonly used as feed
- Often greenish when properly dried

Vermont Agriculture

Vermont's farms produce many different crops and livestock products. Grain crops such as wheat, oats, barley and rye can produce straw as a secondary agricultural product.

After the grain is harvested, the remaining stalks can be collected and baled. Vermont farmers can use straw for livestock bedding, gardening, erosion control and other purposes.

Buying local straw supports Vermont farm families and the state's agricultural economy.

