JELLY  ROLLS  --  WHAT ??

07-17-16
Have you and your family taken an opportunity to drive through any part of the more rural or farming community during the previous months ??? If you have, I will venture a guess that you've observed several areas with large "Jelly Rolls."

I was introduced to this term, "Jelly Rolls," a few years ago. The term being un-familiar, caught me way off guard. After a short time, I had to throw in my hat and ask the lady "just what are you trying to describe as I do not understand the term." She informed me the fields around her house were full of them. She then reminded me of a snack cake of past years -- a flat piece of  cake covered by a layer of jelly rolled into a round snack cake. These round bales of grass hay reminders me of those cakes. OH, now I understand. She was just interested in how the farmer's made 'em

I have observed several gras hay fields in various stages of harvest. The young grass full of green leaves to grass fully mature with many brown leaves and seed heads. The highest quality and most nutritious is the grass full of green leaves, the fully mature grass is lower in nutrition and energy and will require more feeding for cattle to get the required nutrition.

Farmers were harvesting these grasses by various methods:  cycle bar mowers, hay-bines, and disc mowers. Following mowing, the grass remains on the ground a few days for drying. This creates a very pleasant odor or smell.

Some farmers use "teeters" shortly after mowing to stir or fluff the hay to promote quicker drying. I have observed several farmers teeting hay that was already very dry to the feel, my thoughts were, rake the hay for baling instead of teeting.

These farmers have used various types of rakes to form wind-rows for baling.  The really old side-delivery rake, the roll bar rake, the ground driven wheel rake, the v-rake, and  a newer model rotary rake were being used to prepare wind-rows for baling. These rakes were gathering the hay into rows.

The balers being used ranged from small square balers ( bales weighing 40 to 60 pounds ), large square balers ( bales weighing 800 to 1000 pounds ), small round balers ( bales weighing 700 to 800 pounds ), and large round balers ( bales weighing 1100 to 1200 pounds ).

These rakes and balers were from all brands and colors of equipment.

Following baling some farmers leave the round bales in the fields a few days allowing the hay to go through a heat period, but the square bales are hauled to the barn as soon as possible to keep them dry.  Thus reducing the possibility of fire when these round bales are stored in a barn.  However, several farmers gather these bales and store them outside in a bale yard in preparation for feeding their cattle during the winter months when grass doesn't grow enough for cattle feed.

Just remember those "Jelly Rolls" when you see these bales of grass hay or cattle feed. Those cows may enjoy the snack cakes when the snow files this winter.

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1- [We Are Farmers](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/we_are_farmers.docx)
2- [A new Agriculture](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/new_agriculture.docx)
3- [Tennessee's Beef Cattle Herd](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/tennessee_beef_herd.docx)
4-[Our Calves Lifecycle](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/our_calves_lifecycle_10-2015.docx)
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