

## **Press Article Published - Northumberland Gazette on 9th October, 2017**

New healthy products for horses to launch Ralph Thompson, managing director of Silvermoor Haylage, with Gillian Marshall, chief executive of the Entrepreneurs' Forum. Picture by Neil Denham BEN O'CONNELL Email Published: 15:00 Monday 09 October 2017 A north Northumberland equine company is launching two new products next month with the support of a grant from a rural funding scheme. The LEADER programme grant, worth a total of £76,140 and amounting to 40 per cent of the total project, has helped Silvermoor Haylage, based near Alnwick, to develop new healthy alternatives for horses, set to launch in November. Silvermoor Swingers will be the first swinging forage block on the market. Current blocks available can be consumed at a fast pace or contain excess sugar which is bad for a horse's diet and can result in harmful habits and health conditions. The hanging, swinging element of this new creation means that the horse will be able to graze, continually consuming small portions of feed over longer periods of time. The Silvermoor Treatsies range was created to provide healthy treats for horses which are low in sugar and starch. They come in two flavours, turmeric and chamomile, and are made from natural ingredients. Managing director Ralph Thompson said: "Adding Silvermoor Swingers and Treatsies to our current product range will enhance and strengthen our current offering. "We've applied for a patent for Swingers as it will be the only hanging forage block on the market, which we're extremely proud of." Silvermoor Haylage is also one of 12 businesses taking part in the inaugural Entrepreneurs' Forum Scale-up Leader's Academy, which is a 50-hour programme. Spread over 12 months, the Academy has been designed for business owners who are running high-growth companies and want to scale up at a faster rate through the programme's workshops, coaching, mentoring and learning sessions.

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