

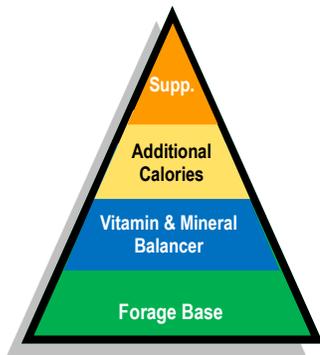


Feeding Horses



Nutrition Program for Horses of all Ages

Feeding Horses



Forage Base

Forages, in the form of hay or pasture, should be the majority (and the foundation) of your horse's diet. Horses are herbaceous grazing animals that are designed to continually graze (up to 17-18 hours per day). Horses will voluntarily consume 1.5-3.1 percent of their body weight per day in forages (on a dry-matter basis), with the average being 2% and lactating mares needing the highest amount (NRC, 2007). Typically, the higher the quality of hay or pasture (in terms of maturity, digestibility, and protein and sugar content), the more horses will have a preference for it (and the more calories they will consume), and vice versa. In many cases, forage alone, will meet or exceed the horse's protein, fiber, and energy needs. Consequently, it may be necessary to restrict the amount of high-quality forages, particularly nutrient dense hays and lush green pastures, that a horse has access to in an effort to prevent excessive weight gain and obesity. In these cases, the idea is **not** to "starve" horses of forage, but to **replace** the high calorie forages with lower-quality (lower-calorie) hay without reducing the total pounds of forage offered. The best way to gauge if your hay or pasture is providing enough (or too much or not enough) protein and calories is to get it tested by a forage lab and to simultaneously (and frequently) assess your horse's body condition. Body condition scores (BCS) can be assigned to horses on a range from 1 (poor/emaciated) to 9 (obese).

Vitamin & Mineral Balancer

Because the majority of the horse's calories should and will come from their forage source, many horses, particularly those that are "easy keeper" body types or have a sedentary lifestyle (receiving < 3 hours of exercise per week), may only require a vitamin and mineral-based forage balancer to meet their total dietary needs and may not need any additional calories provided in the form of "concentrated" grain mixes. Ranch-Way offers vitamin and mineral forage balancers in three different forms: free-choice loose mineral or mineral blocks (*Ranch-O-Min 1011 Horse Blocks*) and pellets (*Vital Edge Pelleted Mineral*). These products are intended to balance forage and meet or exceed the horse's NRC requirements for vitamins and minerals. Horses that are consistently a BSC of 5 or higher can be well-maintained on a forage + vitamin and mineral balancer feeding program alone, and be healthier for it. Always offer free-choice access to plain white salt.

Additional Calories

Additional calories, which can be provided by "concentrates" such as oats, grain mixes, or formulated pellets or texturized feeds, should only be offered if a horse has inadequate body condition (BCS < 5) and the forage source is not providing adequate calories. Horses may need additional calories, beyond what the forage can provide due to (but not limited to) stress, temperament, elevated work or training regimen, lactation, growth, or difficulty chewing (often associated with age). Additional calories in "concentrate" feeds are derived from a combination of ingredients that provide extra carbohydrates, fat, and protein. Ranch-Way offers a wide assortment of branded horse feeds that are formulated to meet the dietary needs of horses when fed at the recommended feeding rates indicated on the label. When Ranch-Way's horse feeds are fed at the recommended amounts, then the vitamin and mineral balancer can be omitted. Conversely, if Ranch-Way's horse feeds are offered at a rate **less** than what is indicated on the label, then a vitamin and mineral balancer (as mentioned above), should continue to be offered (typically at a reduced rate) to appropriately balance the nutrients offered in the total diet. Ranch-Way's branded horse feeds are *All*American*®, *Defiance*®, and *Santero*®.



Supplements

Most supplements for horses are intended to provide a small amount (small feeding rate) of a highly concentrated amount of a specific nutrient (such as extra protein, fat, amino acids, Vitamin E or probiotics) to be used only as needed to address specific needs at certain times. Not all horses require supplements, and not all supplements need to be offered continually. Ranch-Way's *Star*Shine*® supplement line is designed to address very specific dietary needs and should be fed according to label instructions. Use the chart on the back of this page to determine if there is a *Star*Shine*® supplement that would be beneficial for the health and well-being of your horse.



A Feed for Every Need...



	Vitamin & Mineral Balancers		Formulated Horse Feeds - Additional Calories								
			All*American® Horse Feeds					Santero®	Defiance® Series		
	Vital Edge Pelleted Mineral	Ranch-O-Min 1011 Horse Mineral	Mare & Foal 16	ShowFlake 12	Performance 14	Complete	Senior	Santero	Sound Starch	Sound Starch Senior	Hi Fat Senior
Available Sizes	50 lb. bag	15 lb buckets 50 lb. bags 20 lb. blocks	50 lb. bag	50 lb. bag	50 lb. bag	50 lb. bag	50 lb. bag	50 lb. bag	50 lb. bag	50 lb. bag	50 lb. bag
Feed Form	Pellets	Loose Mineral, Blocks	Pellets	Textured Sweet Feed	Pellets, Textured Sweet Feed	Pellets, Wafers	Sweet Pellets	Textured Grain Mix	Pellets	Textured Sweet Feed	Textured Sweet Feed
Purpose	for all horses	for all horses	for mares in last trimester and lactation and foals (up to 2 years old)	for maintenance or performance athletes	for performance athletes	for maintenance	for weight gain and maintaining aging horses	for weight gain and performance athletes	for maintenance, athletes and horses with metabolic imbalances*	for maintaining aging horses and aging horses with metabolic imbalances*	for aggressive, safe, weight gain and supporting elderly horses
Daily Feeding Rates	Adults = 1 lb** Foals = ½ - 1 lb Ponies = ¼ - ½ lb	Adults = 3-4 oz Foals = 1 - 1½ oz Ponies = 1 - 1½ oz	Pregnant Mares = up to 4-6 lbs*** Lactating Mares = up to 8 lbs Foals = up to 1-1.5% of BW	Maintenance = up to 5 lbs*** Athletes = 5-6 lbs	Light Work = up to 6 lbs*** Heavy Work = 6 - 10 lbs	Adults = up to 7-15 lbs***	Maintenance = up to 5 lbs*** Weight Gain = 6-10 lbs Seniors = ~15-20 lbs	Maintenance = up to 5 lbs*** Athletes = 5-12 lbs	Maintenance = up to 5 lbs*** Athletes = 5-8 lbs	Maintenance = up to 5 lbs*** Weight Gain = 6-10 lbs Seniors = ~15-20 lbs	Weight Gain = 6-10 lbs Seniors = ~15-20 lbs
Protein & Fat %¹	12 / 3	n/a	16 / 6.5	12 / 4	14 / 6.5	13 / 3	13 / 5	13 / 7.5	14 / 7	14 / 8.5	14 / 10
Calories, DE Mcal/Lb²	0.90	n/a	1.1	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.3
Sugar & Starch (NSC)^{1,3}	6.7%	n/a	16.7%	47.9%	37.6%	24.2%	24.5%	37.9%	12.7%	9.9%	12.2%



Star*Shine® Supplements				
26% Protein Pellets	EquiBloom OmegaPack	AminoPack	ProbioPack	
Available Sizes	10 lb buckets 25 & 50 lb. bags	10 lb buckets 50 lb. bags	10 lb buckets 50 lb. bags	
Feed Form	Pellets	Mini Pellets	Meal	
Purpose	milk-based protein booster for foals	high in fat to enhance body condition for all horses	amino acids to enhance and support muscle for all horses	probiotic cocktail to encourage feed intake and weight gain
Supplement Amount	Varies 4 - 8 oz	Varies 2 oz to 1 lb	4 oz	4 oz
Product Feature #1	Milk Protein	25% Fat	10 essential Amino Acids	Yeast Cultures
Product Feature #2	B-Vitamins	Omega-3 from flaxseed	Octacosanol from Wheat Germ	Digestive support
Product Feature #3	Probiotics	Omega-6 from rice bran	Promotes Muscle	Bio-MOS®



Footnotes & Reference:

*Designed to support healthy metabolic function in those horses with a history of metabolic imbalances caused by irregular glucose and insulin levels due to sensitivity to sugar and starches in the diet. This feed may help manage obesity and metabolic conditions such as Insulin Resistance (IR), Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS), and chronic laminitis. For the most effective results, it is advised that horses with a metabolic condition be on a comprehensive diet that is low in sugars and starches (to include the hay and other grain supplements) in conjunction with an exercise program that facilitates weight loss.

**The recommended feeding rate of Vital Edge Pelleted Mineral should be adjusted based on the horse's body weight; a 1-lb daily feeding rate will meet the nutrient requirements of an average 500 kg (1,100 lb) adult horse. Also, if other fortified feeds are being offered as a source of additional calories, then the feeding rate of Vital Edge should be lowered in correspondence. For example, if half the of the recommended feeding rate of ShowFlake 12 (i.e. 2.5 lbs instead of 5 lbs) is offered to a maintenance horse, then half of the Vital Edge should be fed along with it (i.e. ½ lb instead of 1 lb) to adequately meet the horse's needs.

***Feeding below the recommended feeding rate will fall short of meeting the horses dietary needs for vitamins and minerals. If feeding less than the amount recommended, then it is advised that either Vital Edge Pelleted Mineral or Ranch-O-Min 1011 Horse Mineral be offered along with the feed to meet the horse's total dietary nutrient requirements for vitamins and minerals.

¹Protein, Fat, and NSC values are reported on an as-fed basis as would be indicated on the label.

²Calories are reported as Megacalories (Mcal) of Digestible Energy (DE) per pound of feed on a dry-matter basis. The values reported are formula-derived or are based on sample analysis conducted by an independent commercial lab (Equi-Analytical Laboratories, Ithaca, NY).

³Sugar and starch, or total non-structural carbohydrates (NSC), values are reported on an as-fed basis and are derived from sample analysis conducted by an independent commercial lab (Equi-Analytical Laboratories, Ithaca, NY) and/or are formula-derived. NSC = water soluble carbohydrates (includes mono, di, and polysaccharides) + starch (as defined by NRC, 2007).