

# HORSE FEEDING GUIDE



**A feeding support guide to enable  
horse owners to balance and support  
their horses nutritional needs**

- Are you losing precious riding time and money with horse health issues?
- Are you feeling overwhelmed with all the amounts of different feeds for sale, all the glossy product labels that make magic claims?

**Let DL Equine formulate an individual feeding programme for your horse, which results in you only buying the feed your horse needs for preventative nutrition.**

**Giving you back control over your horses' health and your money!**

**At DL Equine you will receive 'real world' advice backed by up to date scientific research.**

**Contact today for a 10% discount on any DL Equine nutrition programme.**

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## 1 Can I feed all my horses the same thing?

- Every horse is an individual. Each horse has unique needs that require individual attention.
- Once we understand these, we can then ensure they are not only getting the type of food that they need, but also the right amounts.

Some important and easily done health checks include:

- Tracking your horses' weight and body condition score.
  - You can't manage what you don't measure!
- Weighing your feeds not by scoop but by g and kg.
  - This way you know exactly how much of each ingredient your horse is getting.

## 2 Should I be feeding the same feed all year?

There are many potential changes that we need to consider when it comes to diet. These include:

- Pasture
- New Owner / New home
- Season
- Exercise
- Travel
- Breeding

Adjusting feed in accordance with your horses needs ensures they are maintaining condition and have the correct amount of energy and nutrients for the work they are doing.



### **3 I hear a lot about gut health. Is this something I need to consider?**

**Gut health is really important!**

**The microbes that live in the gut affect nearly all bodily functions in some way.**

**Basic “Gut 101” measures include:**

- **Feeding lots of fibre (forage).**
  - **This helps prevent gastric upsets (gut ulcers, colic, dehydration and weight loss).**
- **Horses require a minimum of 2% bodyweight per day in forage**
- **Feeding a probiotic in times of stress (to help keep healthy gut populations alive!)**

### **4 What can I feed my horse without heating up his behaviour?**

**High energy super fibres for cool energy and conditioning are the way forward here. These include:**

- **Soybean hulls**
- **Lupin hulls**
- **Sugar Beet Pulp (beet pulp has same amount of energy as Oats, but it is low in starch and wont cause gut ulcers and unwanted behaviour)**
- **You can also feed cool fats such as vegetable oil for energy**





## **5 What types of feed is good for helping to build muscle, condition and topline?**

What your horse requires is good protein that contains essential amino acids such as in feeds like:

- Copra
- Soybean Meal
- Lupin

Read more about protein [here](#)

## **6 How much grain should I feed my horse?**

- The grain component of each feed (cooked/ extruded grains and concentrates) should comprise less than 2 kilograms per meal for an adult horse
- Grains contain a lot of starch and the horses gut is only designed to cope with digesting small amounts of starch at any one time
- Large amounts result in gastric upset and potentially colic and ulcers

## 7 Do I really need to feed a mineral supplement?

All horses require some minerals supplementation to prevent health issues, and maintain optimum health.

Some common things to consider include:

- Hoof problems? We want to ensure they are getting the correct amount and ratio of copper and zinc
- Horse a bit hot? We need to address the correct issue:
  - For example, magnesium will not help behaviour caused by high sugar grass - here cut back on the grass access and increase exercise
  - If magnesium supplementation is required due to low pasture levels feed one type of magnesium supplement not multiple -
    - Start before Spring/Autumn flush and stop after a period of @3 months, excess Magnesium will be excreted in the urine after a short period of time
- Don't feed multiple mineral supplements as this will unbalance the delicate mineral amounts and their ratios required in the horse's body
- Even a horse not working, on pasture alone, will still require some minerals supplemented to prevent health issues

## 8 Other feed room tips

- Salt:
  - Your horse always requires salt (sodium and chloride) make sure they have free access at all times
- If you're supplementing to prevent ryegrass staggers, ensure the supplement is based on the appropriate active ingredient (bentonite or clay based) to actually pick up the lolitrum b toxin
- Have your pasture analysed so you know exactly what your horse is eating
- Always have fresh water available to prevent dehydration and colic



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Provide them with optimum health from a  
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designed specifically for them!**

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