



EQUINE LIFE

PREMIUM HORSE FEED
FOR EVERY LIFE STAGE

Manufactured by  Moyer & SON INC.

Horse Talk

Dear Horse Enthusiast,

In the last issue of **Horse Talk** we discussed grains, including corn and oats, that are used in horse feeds. Grains supply a lot of calories or energy needed by the horse. They have their place in the ration, however, they are high in carbohydrates and should be used in regulated amounts to prevent starch overload in the horse. This month's issue will focus on protein and its importance in the horse's diet.

If you have any questions concerning this material, please feel free to call me on my cellular phone at 610-216-0364 or in the office at 800-345-0419.

Sincerely yours,

Jim

Jim Elias
Equine Nutrition/Sales

PROTEIN

Proteins are made up of building blocks called "amino acids". Protein contains 22 amino acids; some are "essential" to your horse's diet. These essential amino acids must be supplied in the form of feed to the horse, both hay and grain. The horse has the ability of make some essential amino acids in the lower gut by the bacteria that reside in the cecum and large colon. The "non-essential" amino acids are those that the body can produce in the tissues. All animals require amino acids. Several years ago it was determined that the amino acid "lysine" was the most limiting amino acid in the horse. Correct amino acid intake is especially critical for your growing animals.

The horse's body (minus water) contains about 80% protein. Protein is found nearly everywhere in the horse, including the blood, hoofs, hair and muscle tissues. Mixed feeds and pellets must state the protein guarantee on the labeling. The trick is to balance the hay with the feed intake to achieve the correct total protein intake.

Horses require different levels of GRAMS OF PROTEIN intake per day. You can state that a total ration must be "X" percent protein, but a more accurate way of expressing the protein requirement is in GRAMS PER DAY. You can access the National Research Council's (NRC) 1989 recommendation for protein online at <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/9825.html>. When arriving at the site, click on NRC MODEL SOFTWARE. The software is free, the download only takes a few seconds, and the directions are easy to follow. Access this site to find the exact requirements for protein for your horse according to their age group and level of work. New NRC guidelines should be published in 2005. But for now, the current guidelines are relatively accurate and provide important information concerning protein and caloric requirements.

Horse Talk *continued*

The most common source of protein used in horse feeds is SOYBEAN MEAL. De-hulled soybean meal contains about 48% protein, but has nearly no fat. The fat (oil) is extracted from the bean and sold to the food industry (salad oils, etc.). Equine Life uses some soybean meal and also TOASTED SOYBEANS. Toasted soybeans contain all of the fat that nature provides in the bean. They are a very palatable addition to your horse's diet. The horse cannot digest "raw soybeans"; the soybeans must be cooked first.

Linseed meal had been used as a source of protein but does not have the amino acid profile present in soybean meal. Linseed meal is actually ground flax seed, and it is a tremendous source of omega 3 fatty acids, which is very healthy for your horse. However, linseed meal is now sold without the valuable fat, and is not normally used in horse rations.

Equine Life offers Omega Flax supplement, which is ground flax with all the oil present. This is a great supplement that only costs about 25 cents per pound and you only need to top dress ½ pound per day. Our customers that have used this supplement have expressed great satisfaction with the results. If you would like more details on our Omega Flax supplement or a free sample, give me a call.

NOT FEEDING ENOUGH PROTEIN (OR LYSINE)

Inadequate protein or lysine intake has many negative effects including: poor growth in young animals, poor hoof growth, bad hair coat, muscle tissue loss, and reduced feed intake.

EXCESSIVE PROTEIN INTAKE

On the other side, too much protein is a waste of money. Horses must drink more water to get rid of the nitrogen in the protein. This results in wet and smelly stalls as the extra protein, that is eliminated in the urine, is high in urea.

MORE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENTS

- **NO MEDICATION** - Several months ago we made the decision to become a **MEDICATION FREE** feed company. We mix no medications in any of our products, so you are sure that your feed will contain no "carry over" medication from one batch of feed to another. In the past several years there have been sad stories in the feed industry about horses dying from a carry over of Bovatec (trade name for Lasalocid). Bovatec is used to improve feed efficiency in cattle and also to prevent coccidiosis in sheep and turkeys.
- **NO MEAT SCRAPS** - We also made the decision to use **NO ANIMAL PROTEINS** in any of our feeds including ruminant protein, swine protein, poultry protein and poultry fats. Our feeds are produced from vegetable sources. No meat scrap of any kind is permitted in our facility.

We take these extra precautions because of our dedication to providing premium horse feed to our customers for every stage of their horses' life.

I am always available to answer any questions you may have regarding Equine Life Premium Horse Feed. I can be reached at 800-345-0419, ext. 2208 or via E-mail at equinelife@emoyer.com.