



EQUINE LIFE

PREMIUM HORSE FEED
FOR EVERY LIFE STAGE

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Horse Talk

Dear Valued Customer:

This month's Horse Talk focuses on Yearlings and how to ensure deliver of quality nutrition for proper growth. Last month we discussed the performance horse and Feeding for the Need. Just as it is important with the Performance Horse it is equally important to ensure that your are supplying the right amount of Digestive Energy (DE) and Protein for your growing horse.

Additional terms you will need to know when reading this article: Mcal is an abbreviation for Megacalorie, which is a term to describe caloric levels. DE or digestive energy, as mentioned above, is the difference of the energy (calories) in the feed minus the calories lost in the manure or the calories that are absorbed by the horse.

Please call me if you would like to set-up an appointment to discuss your horse(s) nutritional needs in more detail or with any questions. Thank you for your continued business,

Jim Elias

Jim Elias
Equine Nutrition & Sales

PROPER NUTRITION FOR YEARLINGS:

You have a young horse and know that proper nutrition is critical to growing horses. How can you be sure you are feeding your Yearling correctly?

Let's assume you have a 12-month old Yearling weighing about 715 pounds. The body conditioning of this horse is good. The horse is not thin, not fat, but looking like a one-year old growing horse. You expect this horse to grow to a mature weight of about 1100 pounds. Depending on several conditions, this horse will eat about 2% to 3% of his/her body weight per day or about 17-24 pounds of air-dried feed (hay and grain combined). You are striving for a moderate growth rate of about 1.1 pounds per day weight gain.

The caloric requirements for this animal are about 19-24 Mcals per day (more calories for Yearlings being exercised daily). The protein requirements are 1.9 pounds to 2.4 pounds of pure protein per day depending upon exercise level. Your goal is to supply these two most important nutrients, calories and protein, to your Yearling along with a balanced mineral and vitamin profile. (Reference Horse Talk May 2003 for a discussion on Feeding for the Need).

Hopefully, you have decent hay, early bloom Timothy or a mixed Alfalfa hay, for your Yearling. Good quality hay is higher in calorie and protein levels. Early bloom Timothy should have about .8 Mcals of DE per pound and test about 8.6% Protein. A good mixed legume grass hay will test higher in both nutrients.

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Horse Talk *continued*

So, now you know that:

- the approximate total consumption per day, both hay and grain, should be about 22 pounds.
- the calorie requirement is about 23 Mcals per day.
- the protein requirement is about 2.4 pounds per day.
- the calorie content of your early bloom Timothy is about .8 Mcals per pound.
- the protein content of your early bloom Timothy is about 8.6%.

A good goal is to feed at least one-half or more of the total feed intake in the form of forage. If you can get an intake of 12 pounds of your early bloom Timothy per day, you will be supplying 9.6 Mcals of energy and 1.03 pounds of protein. Ten pounds of a good quality 14% grain mix with an energy level of 1.4 Mcals per pound will supply the balance of protein and energy needed to meet the above requirements.

Other things to consider:

- Horses, like people, metabolize differently. Some Yearling horses will need more feed, some less.
- A good Alfalfa/grass mixed hay will have a higher protein and calorie content vs. Timothy hay and would be a better option as the grain portion of the ration could be lowered.
- Nutrient requirements of larger breeds are higher.
- Your goal should be for a slow and even growth rate. You do not want "fat" Yearlings.
- Higher fat feeds are better for Yearlings vs. high starchy feeds and less intake may be necessary. Plus high fat feeds lower insulin response, which may reduce instances of DOD.
- If you are feeding poor quality hay, you need to take another look at your program. Is a better quality hay available? If not, you may need to adjust your grain ration to be sure your Yearlings are getting the necessary nutrients for proper growth.

Refer to the table below for more detail.

EQUINE NUTRITION REQUIREMENTS*

*according to the National Research Council, Nutrient Requirements of Domestic Animals

YEARLING HORSE IN TRAINING				YEARLING HORSE NOT IN TRAINING			
Nutrient	Total	REQUIREMENT BASIS		Nutrient	Total	REQUIREMENT BASIS	
			Percent				Percent
Dry Matter Intake	20.3	lb/day	2.84 % of BW	Dry Matter Intake	14.9	lb/day	2.08 % of BW
Digestible Energy	24.4	Mcal/day	1.20 Mcal/lb	Digestible Energy	18.9	Mcal/day	1.27 Mcal/lb
Crude Protein	1,100	grams/day	11.92 %	Crude Protein	850	grams/day	12.60 %
Lysine	46.4	grams/day	0.50 %	Lysine	35.9	grams/day	0.53 %
Calcium	37.5	grams/day	0.41 %	Calcium	28.9	grams/day	0.43 %
Phosphorus	20.7	grams/day	0.22 %	Phosphorus	16.0	grams/day	0.24 %
Magnesium	7.1	grams/day	0.08 %	Magnesium	5.5	grams/day	0.08 %
Potassium	23	grams/day	0.30 %	Potassium	18	grams/day	0.30 %
Sodium	9.2	grams/day	0.10 %	Sodium	6.7	grams/day	0.10 %
Sulfur	13.8	grams/day	0.15 %	Sulfur	10.1	grams/day	0.15 %
Iron	461	mgs/day	22.7 mg/lb	Iron	337	mgs/day	22.7 mg/lb
Zinc	369	mgs/day	18.1 mg/lb	Zinc	270	mgs/day	18.1 mg/lb
Copper	92.3	mgs/day	4.5 mg/lb	Copper	67.4	mgs/day	4.5 mg/lb
Manganese	369	mgs/day	18.1 mg/lb	Manganese	270	mgs/day	18.1 mg/lb
Iodine	0.9	mgs/day	0.05 mg/lb	Iodine	0.7	mgs/day	0.05 mg/lb
Cobalt	0.9	mgs/day	0.05 mg/lb	Cobalt	0.7	mgs/day	0.05 mg/lb
Selenium	0.9	mgs/day	0.05 mg/lb	Selenium	0.7	mgs/day	0.05 mg/lb
Vitamin A	14594	IU/day	717.6 IU/lb	Vitamin A	14594	IU/day	981.7 IU/lb
Vitamin D	7380	IU/day	362.9 IU/lb	Vitamin D	5395	IU/day	362.9 IU/lb
Vitamin E	738	IU/day	36.3 IU/lb	Vitamin E	539	IU/day	36.3 IU/lb

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.