



RACING / HARNESS EQUINE FEEDING GUIDE



WORKLOAD	PRODUCT SCHEDULE							
	HIGH PERFORMANCE MUESLI	HORSE MUESLI	HORSE CUBES	HORSE PELLETS	PONY MUESLI	PONY MAINTENANCE CUBES	PONY CUBES	CLAYTONS PELLET
None/Spelling		✓	✓				✓	✓
Light		✓	✓				✓	✓
Moderate		✓	✓					
Heavy	✓	✓	✓					
Very Heavy	✓	✓	✓					

Examples of workloads that would fit into the above categories.
As a guide only, many other combinations of work may fit into these categories.



EXERCISE CATEGORY	STAGE OF TRAINING
Light	Beginning of training/breaking
Moderate	Moderate increase in work intensity and distance
Heavy	Fast work introduced along in conditioning work
Very Heavy	Fast work on a regular basis and racing



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USEFUL INFORMATION

FEED INTAKE:

Work on a typical intake of around 10kg fed per day for amateur racehorse or standard bred. Match the energy intake to workload by adjusting the concentrate to roughage ratio according to work level and body condition eg. in early work 3 to 4kg concentrate with 6 or 7kg hay and chaff will suffice, moderate to heavy work may need 5 and 5 while very heavy exercise will often need 6kg concentrate and 4kg roughage to maintain body condition and performance.

Regular weighing (weekly) is the most accurate way of assessing if the feeding program is supporting the training regime however common sense is also pretty useful ie: if the horse is fat and not coping well reduce the energy intake, if it is lightening off too quickly increase the supplied energy (feed more concentrate or just more feed if it is eating well).

Horses have quite a narrow body weight range for optimal performance so when they are performing well try and maintain that body condition.

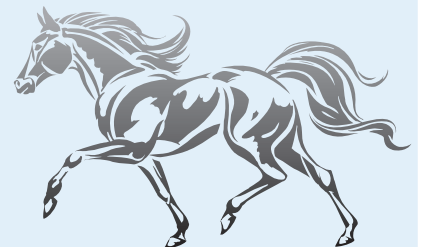
FEEDING FREQUENCY:

Horses by nature spend a large part of their day feeding and continuously secrete gastric acid. It makes sense then to avoid prolonged periods when no feed is available and preferably hay or pasture should be available at all times. Concentrates are normally split over two to three meals a day but can be fed as one meal if the starch content does not exceed the ability of the small intestine to digest it. Based on typical starch levels in concentrates, 3kg per feed will be quite safe for a 500kg horse in normal circumstances.

INTRODUCING NEW FEED:

Feeding is learned behaviour and horses become accustomed to tastes and textures they experience when they are young growing animals. Major changes in feed type need to be introduced slowly in many cases to avoid rejection eg: horses reared on mixed grain feeds simply may not recognise pelletised feed and should be swapped over gradually (the reverse is also true).

High starch or high fat feeds should be introduced over a period of about a week if they represent a major change. Swapping between different brands of similar feeds is not normally an issue from the view of intestinal health but there may be an individual preference shown depending on the ingredients used.



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