



# SPORT & LEISURE 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         | ✓                       | ✓            | ✓           |               |             |                        |            |                 |
| 2 Year Old in Work |                         |              |             | ✓             |             |                        |            |                 |
| Pony No Work       |                         |              |             |               | ✓           | ✓                      |            | ✓               |
| Pony Working       |                         |              |             |               | ✓           | ✓                      | ✓          | ✓               |
| No Grain Required  |                         |              |             |               |             |                        |            | ✓               |

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 | DESCRIPTION   | TYPES OF EVENTS  |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Light             | 1 - 3 hours per week; 40% walk, 50% trot, 10% canter  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreational riding</li> <li>Beginning of training programs</li> <li>Show horses (occasional)</li> </ul>  |
| Moderate          | 3 - 5 hours per week; 30% walk, 55% trot, 10% canter, 5% low jumping, cutting, other skill work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School horses</li> <li>Recreational riding</li> <li>Beginning of training/breaking</li> <li>Show horses (frequent)</li> <li>Polo</li> <li>Ranch work</li> </ul> |
| Heavy             | 4 - 5 hours per week; 20% walk, 50% trot, 15% canter, 15% gallop, jumping, other skill work     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ranch work</li> <li>Polo</li> <li>Show horses (frequent, strenuous events)</li> <li>Low-medium level eventing</li> <li>Race training (middle stages)</li> </ul> |
| Very Heavy        | Various; ranges from 1 hour per week speed work to 6 - 12 hours per week slow work              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Racing (Quarter Horse, Thoroughbred, Standard-bred, Endurance)</li> <li>Elite 3-day event</li> </ul>  |



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## USEFUL INFORMATION

### FEED INTAKE:

As a guide mature horses will consume around 2% of their body weight in feed (dry matter basis) for maintenance. The ratio of grain concentrate to roughage should be adjusted according to body condition, the rate of growth desired and the level of work undertaken. Extreme weather conditions have an impact on energy requirement and also on time spent feeding and need to be taken into account as part of your overall management.

Regular weighing is the most accurate way of assessing the adequacy of a feeding program, however careful observation and body scoring can be a useful guide. Adjust according to what you see – if a horse is fat reduce the concentrate being fed, for individuals showing ribs or with poor top line feed more.

Make sure every horse has free access to the feed. The dominant horses in a group will try to push out the timid ones and get more than their share. If this happens separate out the timid horses or those just not 'doing well' and feed them on a higher level until happy with their 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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