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SINCE

HOW TO KEEP HORSES COOL IN HOT WEATHER

AS SUMMER DRAGS ON, HEAT CAN BECOME A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR MANY HORSES.

Sweating is the primary way horses cool themselves. Experts believe that prolonged, consistently high sweat rates can lead to “exhaustion” of the sweat glands. In horses, this may result in anhidrosis, or the inability to produce sweat adequately. It is crucial to address anhidrosis and find other ways to keep horses cool because it can pose a serious health risk to horses in warm climates.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind when trying to keep your horses cool this summer.

FRESH, COOL WATER

Hydration is critical during hot weather, but poor water quality can severely limit your horse's intake. Most horses don't like to drink hot water, so it is best to provide fresh, cool water daily. Dark-colored troughs or buckets placed in direct sunlight will absorb heat and warm the water quickly.

Keep horse water troughs and buckets clean and free of algae to encourage drinking.

Remember, it can be hard to see accumulated algae and debris at the bottom of a dark-colored trough. Another tip: overfill water buckets and troughs to provide moisture for your horse's hooves, especially in dry climates.

SALT AND ELECTROLYTE SUPPLEMENTATION

Feeds do not contain enough salt to meet a horse's daily sodium requirement. Therefore, an additional source of salt is always recommended. At a minimum, a salt block should be available free choice. However, horses are not natural lickers and may not lick enough voluntarily. Top-dressing their feed with 2 oz plain salt per day is a good way to ensure they get enough.

In the “sweating season,” whether due to temperature or workload, salt should be switched to a quality electrolyte. This will supply important minerals like potassium and calcium, in addition to salt, that your horse loses through sweat. The best electrolytes will be mostly minerals, not sugar.

SUMMER HORSE SHELTER

We can all appreciate how much cooler it is under the shade tree in the middle of summer versus being out in the full sun, and your horse feels the same way. If there are no trees in your turnout areas, providing a run-in shed or even a fabric sunscreen as a horse shelter can make a big difference in helping to keep your horses cool.

Horses cool themselves primarily through evaporative and convective cooling. To help them, apply cool baths or use sprinklers to keep your horses more comfortable and to decrease their need to sweat as much. Moving air increases both convective and evaporative cooling. If the breeze isn't blowing, provide a fan to move the air. Some farms even use large golf course fans to keep their horses cool in pastures. Finally, remember it may be more comfortable outside in the sun than inside a stuffy barn with poor airflow.



Augusta Co-op Solutions Duraflex, Bucket, Lime Green, 70 Qt.

Great for cleaning out stalls and other farm cleaning chores. Rope handles that are tucked into molded handle for easy lifting. 70 quart capacity. 21-3/4" long X 25" wide X 17-1/4" high.



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All Horses.

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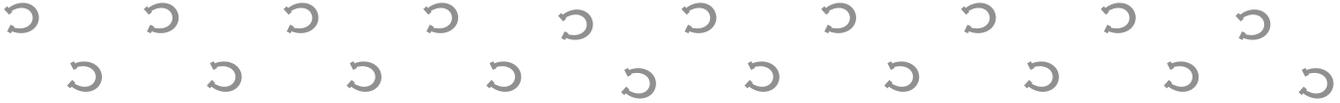
- **Feed-through Fly Control:** Contains ClariFly® Larvicide, a feed additive that passes through the horse and is expelled in the manure, where it helps control house and stable fly populations by interrupting their life cycle.
- **Gastric Support:** Formulated with Outlast® gastric support supplement to support optimal gastric pH.
- **Bloom and Body Condition:** Formulated with Amplify® high-fat horse supplement to maintain body condition, shine and bloom.
- **High-quality Ingredients:** Provides essential nutrients typically missing in forage.
- **Ionophore-free Manufacturing:** Made in an ionophore-free facility.

EXERCISE AND HEAT STRESS IN HORSES

Metabolic heat from exercise is another primary heat source for horses; therefore, it is best to confine strenuous exercise to early morning or later evening hours when ambient temperature and humidity are the lowest. Alternatively, you can give yourself and your horse a break from hard training during the hottest summer months.

To avoid additional heat stress, postpone events such as vaccination, weaning, changing barns, moving horses between groups, etc. If any of these events must occur during the hottest days of summer, try to do them during the coolest hours of the day.

Even though summer can be a sweaty, uncomfortable time, these tips can help your horse stay healthy and happy year-round.



PALATABILITY: ARE YOUR HORSES PICKY EATERS?

WHEN CHOOSING A HORSE FEED FOR YOUR ENTIRE BARN, YOU PROBABLY CONSIDER COST, STORABILITY, PELLETTED VS. TEXTURED, STARCH AND SUGAR CONTENT, AND MAYBE EVEN SPECIAL ADDITIVES.

While these considerations are vitally important, palatability should also be included on your list. If your pickiest-eating horses won't eat, you may lose time and money, while risking the health of the horse.

YOUR HORSE: FOODIE OR FINICKY?

Everyone knows a foodie- that person who enthusiastically tries new food and finishes every bite on the plate. While some horses fit the "foodie" description, not all horses are as open-minded. Finicky eaters will turn up their nose if the taste and texture isn't just right.

BUT I DON'T WANT TO EAT THAT...

Horses are extremely sensitive to the taste and texture of feeds. Encouraging horses to maintain their appetite is critical to a feeding program that supports overall health and condition.

When choosing a feed to appeal to all the horses in your barn, palatability ultimately affects more than you think:

- **Nutrition:** A highly-palatable feed ensures every horse eats a balanced diet at every feeding.
- **Economics:** When horses eat every morsel, you ultimately save money and eliminate the need for expensive supplements and time-consuming mixing to fulfill nutrient requirements.
- **Convenience:** Choosing a highly-palatable feed designed for any life stage makes it easy to feed an entire barn without compromising nutrition.

THE PROOF IS IN THE RESEARCH

When choosing a feed for your entire barn, consider the reformulated Purina® Strategy GX® – a highly-palatable, research-backed product designed for all life-stages and performance levels while providing gastric support in an easily-stored, pelleted form.

Every horse is unique and so is their nutrition. Finding the right horse feeding program is paramount to helping your horse perform and feel the best. Find the right feed for your horse with our Feed Finder Tool.

Kelly Vineyard, M.S., Ph.D.

Augusta Co-op Solutions Purina, Strategy Pro Formula GX, 50 lbs.

Designed for all ages and lifestyles. One diet. Multiple lifestyles. Strategy® GX Professional Formula horse feed is as simple and as complex as that. Simple, because the perfected-over-time formula provides 100% of the required protein, vitamins and minerals for a wide variety of horses in your barn, when fed as directed.* While there will always be individual horses with specialized nutrition and management needs, Strategy® GX meets the nutritional needs of the vast majority of horses with a single formulation. So even when your horses are in different stages of breeding or development and varying levels of performance, Strategy® GX delivers complex, balanced nutrition in a simplified feeding program. Complex, because over the past 12+ years, Purina Animal Nutrition Center researchers have fed Strategy® GX almost 20,000 times in feeding trials and research studies to optimize palatability, growth, exercise performance, and manufacturing quality. The results and resulting optimizations make Strategy® GX the unbeatable formula it is today.



SKU - 66547



FIVE TIPS TO MAINTAIN IDEAL BODY CONDITION IN PERFORMANCE HORSES

THE OUTSIDE APPEARANCE OF A HORSE CAN BE AN INDICATOR OF OVERALL HEALTH AND WELLBEING ON THE INSIDE.

A shiny hair coat, strong muscle tone, sound hooves and ideal body condition reflect a robust, healthy horse that is ready to work. Health and nutrition are vital in helping performance horses consistently be at the top of their game, especially in events requiring repeated runs in a single day or working hard several days in a row.

Horses cannot sustain top level performance in less than top level condition. Help ensure performance horses are maintaining ideal body condition by asking these five questions:

IS THE FORAGE HIGH-QUALITY AND AVAILABLE IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES?

It's not uncommon to find hay and pasture that appears to be of good quality but actually aren't. Test your hay and pasture grass to learn the nutrient content and digestibility.

Horses themselves can often tell you about your hay quality, too. When the quality and digestibility of hay goes down, the amount a horse eats will also go down. If your horses are not eating all their hay, you are either feeding too much or the hay isn't great quality.

IS MY HORSE PROPERLY TAKING IN, CHEWING AND SWALLOWING BOTH FORAGE AND FEED?

Observe your horse eating forage and feed. You may find that while taking in food, your horse may not be chewing and/or swallowing it. This is especially common in older horses with poor dentition. The horse appears to be eating well, but the forage or feed is actually balling up in the cheeks and then being dropped on the ground. Your veterinarian should evaluate any indication of dental problems.

AM I FEEDING THE RIGHT TYPE OF CONCENTRATE FOR MY HORSES' LIFESTYLE?

Horses in different stages of life and with different levels of activity will have different nutrient and caloric requirements. Choosing a high-quality feed that fits your horses' age and activity level can help ensure nutritional requirements are being met.

AM I FEEDING ENOUGH?

Feeding by the "scoop" rather than by weight, often makes it easy to overestimate the amount of feed you are providing. Weighing your feed with a scale will help. Additionally, be sure to consult the feeding directions on the feed bag or tag. Most feeds are formulated to be fed at a minimum daily amount needed to provide the basic nutrients and calories an easy keeper requires.

If you are feeding less than that amount, all the protein, vitamin and mineral needs of your horse likely won't be met, even if they were maintaining adequate body condition. In those cases, a more concentrated ration balancer is the best choice.



Fit not Fat:
4 nutritional questions to ask

- 1** **Is the forage I'm providing of high quality?**
Test your hay & pasture grass to learn the nutrient content and digestibility.
- 2** **Is my horse properly taking in, chewing and swallowing both forage and feed?**
Your veterinarian should evaluate any indication of dental problems.
- 3** **Am I feeding the right type of feed for my horses' lifestyle?**
Greatness is achieved from a diet complete with calories, essential amino acids, fatty acids, vitamins and minerals.
- 4** **Am I feeding the right amount of feed and forage?**
Weigh your feed with a scale and consult the feeding directions on the feed bag or tag.



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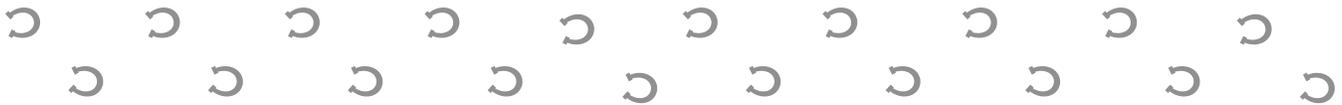
AM I FEEDING THE RIGHT TYPE OF FEED FOR MY HORSES' LIFESTYLE?

Weight gain and bloom are achieved not only through calories but also from providing a diet complete with essential amino acids, fatty acids, vitamins and minerals. All these nutrients play a role in hair coat, muscle tone, hoof quality, immune function and over-all appearance and health.

Purina® horse feeds are formulated to support the calorie and nutritional demands of performance horses.

- Strategy® Professional Formula GX: Meets the nutritional needs of the vast majority of horses with a single formulation.
- Omolene® 200: Provides steady energy to fuel top performance for horses in competition, broodmares and yearlings.
- Omolene® 400: A complete feed with built-in forage for breeding and competition horses.
- Omolene® 500: Includes balanced fat, fiber and whole grain soluble carbohydrates support sustained performance for hard-working and endurance equine athletes.
- Ultium® Competition: Seamlessly “blends” three fuel sources into a smooth, “steady” stream of energy for top performance horses.

Whether you prefer sweet feeds or pelleted rations, these products are designed to provide the calorie and nutrient level needed to support weight gain and bloom.



HAY PRICE CALCULATOR APP

Buy hay the smart way! Many horse owners purchase hay by the bale. However, the more economical way to purchase and compare different hay types is to calculate the price per ton. The Hay Price Calculator app helps hay buyers in calculating price per ton and provides cost comparisons of small square, large round and large square bales. Hay buyers simply select the bale type, enter in the bale weight and price per bale, and the Hay Price Calculator app calculates price per ton, allowing the buyer to compare and choose the most economical hay. Hay buyers should also take into consideration hay quality when determining economics.



The app is available for use with Android and Apple, products and costs \$0.99.



HARD COOLERS

YETI® Tundra® and TANK® coolers are the stuff of legends. They're built for whatever Mother Nature throws their way, which is surprisingly a long list of incredibly dangerous creatures and weather patterns. But no sweat — these outdoor coolers are more than up for the challenge. From the backcountry to the BBQ get-together, your YETI Tundra or TANK is ready for any and every outdoor adventure.



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SMALL BUT ESSENTIAL: VITAMINS AND MINERALS YOUR HORSE NEEDS

VITAMINS AND MINERALS MAKE UP ONLY A SMALL PORTION OF THE EQUINE DIET BY WEIGHT, BUT THEIR IMPORTANCE TO OUR HORSES' HEALTH IS ENORMOUS.

WHAT VITAMINS AND MINERALS DOES YOUR HORSE NEED?

Vitamins and minerals, referred to as micronutrients, make up only a small portion of the equine diet by weight, but their importance to our horses' health is enormous. Micronutrients are involved in many key body processes, including muscle function, bone health, hormone signaling, digestion, acid-base balance, and much more.

Each micronutrient plays a significant role in a horse's health, and no individual micronutrient is more crucial than the next, says Wendy Pearson, PhD, assistant professor in equine nutrition and physiology at the University of Guelph, in Ontario, Canada, "except if there is a dietary deficiency, then that one will be the most important."

Let's dive deeper to learn about these micronutrients and find out when supplementation might be necessary.

WHAT MICRONUTRIENTS COULD YOUR HORSE BE MISSING?

Horses synthesize some micronutrients in their hindguts. In reality, the horse itself isn't making these nutrients; the diverse bacterial colonies that reside within the large intestine are. This symbiotic relationship between the horse and the microbial population produces several nonessential micronutrients—nutrients the healthy horse typically does not need to obtain from diet—including B vitamins, vitamin K, biotin, folate, and cobalt. Horses not eating enough dietary forage or those under stress, however, might require supplementation.

Then there are the micronutrients our horses must receive from their diets, termed essential micronutrients. Many horses can receive adequate micronutrients from a diet of quality forage and fortified ration balancer or commercial feed. However, in some cases our horses have different micronutrient needs based on workload, management, and/or life stage than what we provide in a standard diet. Below we will outline some of the most commonly deficient vitamins and minerals in the modern equine diet.

CALCIUM AND PHOSPHORUS FUNCTION

Calcium and phosphorus are the two most abundant minerals in the horse's body, and they work closely together. They're also two of the most important components in the formation and maintenance of healthy bones and teeth, making them vital elements of the diet, particularly for growing horses. The skeletal system provides not only structural support for the body but also a place to store calcium, which is involved in many other functions, including muscle contraction.

Horses must consume calcium and phosphorus in adequate quantities as well as in the correct ratio. We typically discuss calcium and phosphorus together as a ratio due to their close relationship within the body and because phosphorus intake tightly regulates calcium absorption. Consuming less calcium than phosphorus can impede this absorption, which is why equine nutritionists recommend a minimum ratio of 1:1 of calcium:phosphorus.

WHEN TO SUPPLEMENT

Calcium or phosphorus deficiencies are the most common mineral deficiencies in horses. Horses that are growing, pregnant, lactating, or working require higher levels of calcium and phosphorus than adult horses at maintenance. This is due to the increased calcium and phosphorus requirements for bone development and maintenance.

Though the minimum calcium-to-phosphorus ratio is 1:1, the National Research Council (NRC) recommends a ratio of 2:1, which happens to be the ratio of calcium to phosphorus found in bone. Researchers have found that a ratio of up to 6:1 is safe in horses. You can determine this ratio by looking at the calcium and phosphorus on your feed tag and via a hay analysis. Most hay varieties contain more calcium than phosphorus, with legume hays such as alfalfa containing the highest levels.



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All Horses.

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Key Features & Benefits:

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- **Gastric Support:** Formulated with Outlast® supplement to support gastric health & proper pH.
- **Balances Omega Fatty Acid Ratios:** Stalled horses consuming Omega Match™ ration balancer and hay for 11 weeks developed circulating omega fatty acid ratios similar to horses on green pasture.
- **100% Natural Source Vitamin E Plus a Full Supplemental Level of Biotin:** Formulated with only a natural source of Vitamin E. When fed as directed, supports optimal Vitamin E levels and provides 15 mg biotin to support hoof growth and repair.
- **All The Goodness of Pasture Without the Guilt:** Controlled starch & sugar formula with no molasses that results in minimal glucose and insulin response to feeding.
- **High in Fat & Fiber, High-quality Protein + Individual Amino Acids:** Inspired by the protein content and quality of fresh pasture.



AUGUSTA CO-OP SPRAYING SERVICES

Focusing on small agricultural pasture applications.

At Augusta Cooperative Farm Bureau, Inc., we know the importance that spraying services can play in maintaining the health and beauty of your property; and because of that, we offer our clients a full range of options in spraying applications.

Many property owners are unaware of just how critical it is to properly protect their pastures and property from weeds until it's too late; but by being proactive with treatments applied on a regular schedule, those hazards can often be prevented and eliminated. With our team's knowledge and specialized equipment, Augusta Co-op will achieve optimal results.



SERVICES

WEED CONTROL

Regular applications of herbicides will help keep volatile weeds under control. Fence row spraying is also available.

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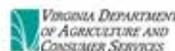
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