



# Health Food for Horses

## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter

It's May already and what is the typical start of the main supplementation season. Whether you're in polocrosse season or doing the show circuit. Now is an excellent time to be considering your supplementing options. Shannon discusses Winter Feeding in our health article for this newsletter. If you want us to help you with your supplementation requirements for this season, please contact one of our staff. We are happy to come and see you and assess your situation.



PBA Feeds/Hyfeed will be at Farmfest, Kingsthorpe from 2nd - 4th June. We will once again be joined by Scott Keogh of SK Horsemanship who will be performing daily Horsemanship shows. There will be Farmfest specials on offer and prizes to be won.

### Customer Satisfaction Survey

We are currently conducting an online Customer Satisfaction survey. Customers will receive a link to fill out the survey on email. It is completely voluntary to fill out the survey but for the customers who do, you will receive **2 free bags** off your next order from us. We welcome both positive and negative constructive feedback. If you wish us not to know you filled out the survey, just don't fill out the contact information. We look forward to receiving your responses and improving based on your comments. Thank you in advance for your help.

### Hyfeed Loyalty Rewards Program

Hyfeed has launched its Hyfeed Loyalty Rewards Program. By purchasing Hyfeed Intence, Hyfeed Equimin, Hyfeed Wholesome and Hyfeed Cool Cubes. and collecting the corresponding barcodes, you can collect a variety of gifts. Grab an entry form either from your local produce store or off our website.



**Feed & Supplements  
for all your Equine Needs**



For all your enquiries, please contact our friendly staff  
Phone 07 4633 2266 | Email [office@hyfeed.com.au](mailto:office@hyfeed.com.au)  
[www.hyfeed.com.au](http://www.hyfeed.com.au) | [f](#) Find us on Facebook!





# Health Food for Horses

## WINTER FEEDING Horses By Shannon Godwin BaAppSc GDTL

During the cold winter months, the horse requires additional energy to keep warm and maintain its internal body temperature. Significant energy is used by the horse to maintain its body warmth and cold weather increases the energy needs of a horse by 10-15%.

The growth of pasture is inhibited during the decreased temperatures of winter and paddocks can quickly become depleted of quality natural forage. It is the horse owners' responsibility to provide the equine with a nutritionally adequate diet. Several key factors must be addressed to properly to ensure horses maintain optimum health, condition, exercise or reproductive capacity.

### Water:

- It is essential to provide an adequate supply of fresh, clean water at all times.
- A resting horse in cool weather will require 4 litres of water per 100kg of body weight daily.
- During times of hot weather and hard exercise these requirements will increase to 10-15 litres of water per 100kg of body weight daily.
- Any change in feed intake or decrease in water consumption is often a sign of sickness 24-36hrs before symptoms become apparent.

### Energy:

- A horse requires energy, in the form of chemical energy for muscle contraction, nerve action, body processes, organ function and as heat energy to maintain body temperature.
- Once a horse is required to grow, exercise or reproduce the needs for energy will increase in proportion to the energy expended above normal maintenance requirements.

### Protein:

- is the major structural component of muscles, blood and many other tissues
- A horse needs a daily intake of protein to maintain, grow and repair tissues.
- Extra protein is required for growth, exercise, pregnancy and lactation. Horses recovering from blood loss, heavy worm burdens, severe haemorrhage and stomach ulcers benefit from increased protein in their diet

**Fat:** provides a source of concentrated energy and contains essential fatty acids for skin condition, body functions and muscle and nerve membranes.

### Fibre:

- an adequate intake of fermentable fibre is essential for efficient gut function and nutrient supply for all horses.
- A horse needs at the very minimum 1%-1.5% of its body weight fed as roughage (grass, hay, chaff) in its diet for efficient hind gut function.
- Horses are selective feeders and often mature, stemmy plants in a pasture will be avoided or hard, stalky hay will be rejected as the softer leaves and less mature parts are favoured.



**Queensland U21 Polocrosse Team  
powered by Hyfeed Wholesome at  
Musswellbrook Championship in March**



For all your enquiries, please contact our friendly staff

Phone 07 4633 2266 | Email [office@hyfeed.com.au](mailto:office@hyfeed.com.au)

[www.hyfeed.com.au](http://www.hyfeed.com.au) | Find us on Facebook!





# Health Food for Horses

Continued

**Minerals:** play an important structural and co-factor role in many metabolic processes in the body. A resting adult horse can obtain the majority of its mineral requirements from adequate intake of good quality pasture, or from supplementary hay during periods of poor pasture quality and availability.

**Electrolytes:** have important roles in muscle and nerve action, controlling the acid-base balance, water intake and kidney function.

### **Vitamins:**

- Vitamins are essential for many metabolic processes.
- Vitamins are required in very small amounts, compared to minerals and trace-minerals.
- Deficiencies can occur due to low feed intakes on poor quality pastures.
- Supplementation of certain vitamins in horses with little access to high quality pasture, or those subjected to the stress of training, may be beneficial for optimum health and performance.

Supplementary feeding of pasture fed horses should begin well before horses start to lose condition, with particular attention being paid to aged or young horses, pregnant and lactating mares.

If horses don't have full time access to quality pasture and are given a hard feed each day it is important to ensure that at least 1-1.5% of their body weight is provided in roughage each day to ensure efficient digestive function. The effects of the ration supplied to horses should be carefully observed and adjustments made as necessary to ensure that they are maintaining condition, body weight and well-being. The ration provided should be palatable, economical and formulated to meet the needs of each specific horse. Only good quality feeds should be fed, with care being taken to avoid feeding dusty, mouldy and contaminated feeds.

When supplementing pasture fed horses during times of poor availability and quality, segregate horses by age, condition or use to prevent competition for the feed provided and to improve the efficiency and economy of the supplementary feed.



**Feed & Supplements  
for all your Equine Needs**

## **Get ready for the winter horse sport season with Hyfeed Wholesome!**

Hyfeed Wholesome is a scientifically balanced, extruded feed that provides highly digestible & available energy plus essential minerals & vitamins to meet the needs of the high performance sport horse.



For all your enquiries, please contact our friendly staff

Phone 07 4633 2266 | Email [office@hyfeed.com.au](mailto:office@hyfeed.com.au)

[www.hyfeed.com.au](http://www.hyfeed.com.au) | Find us on Facebook!

