

BUILD A BALANCED DIET IN 5 EASY STEPS

STEP
1

PROVIDE PLENTY OF FORAGE

Fibre forms the foundation of all good horse diets. A horse needs to eat at least 2 kg fibre /100 kg of bodyweight each day, from a variety of fibre sources.

OUR PICK + Rhodes grass hay + Native grass hay
+ Lucerne hay + Grass hay (NSC <12%)



TIP: If your horse only has access to poor quality pasture and hay, try adding some lucerne hay.



STEP
2

IF EXTRA 'COOL' ENERGY IS NEEDED ADD HIGH CALORIE FIBRE

These add energy and diversity of fibres to the diet. Only feed these if your horse does not maintain weight or have enough energy for work on pasture &/or hay alone.

OUR PICK + Beet Pulp
+ Lupin Hulls



TIP: Beet pulp and copra meal need to be soaked prior to feeding.



STEP
3

IF EVEN MORE ENERGY IS NEEDED ADD HIGH CALORIE FEEDS

Only feed these feeds if your horse does not maintain weight or have enough energy for work on forages (pasture &/or hay) PLUS high calorie fibres (above).

OUR PICK + Lupins + Cold-pressed oils + Oilseeds
+ Copra Meal (eg. canola /linseed oil) + Extruded grain



TIP: Keep hard feeds small. 0.5kg per 100kg body weight (2.5kg for a 500kg horse) should be the maximum amount fed in one meal.



STEP
4

FEED ENOUGH QUALITY PROTEIN

All horses need good quality protein. But horses with an especially high protein demand are: horses in work, growing horses, broodmares in late pregnancy & early lactation.

OUR PICK + Soybean Meal + Lucerne hay, chaff or cubes
+ Full fat soy + Lupins



TIP: If your horse has a high protein demand but does not receive good quality pasture &/or hay OR a complete feed that contains good quality protein, you'll need to add a protein source to your horse's diet.



STEP
5

BALANCE THE VITAMINS & MINERALS

Vitamins & Minerals are essential for optimal health and vitality!

OUR PICK + Digestive VM

TIP: If you feed a fortified hard feed but not at the full rate, OR If you don't feed a hard feed or supplement at all, consider feeding a vitamin & mineral supplement plus a little chaff.



You can find some **example diets** on P2.

CASE STUDY 1

'POPPY'

Height: 17hh

Weight: 640 kg

Age: 10 years old

Workload: Novice to Elementary dressage. Ridden 5 days/week. Competes twice/month.

Access to Pasture: Daytime only. Stabled at night.

Goals: Supply enough energy to perform.

Challenges: Prone to gastric ulcers.

1. FORAGE

Poppy has access to pasture & teff hay but does not maintain weight on this alone.

2. HIGH CALORIE FIBRE

To top up energy and diversify Poppy's high energy fibre intake, let's add beet pulp to her diet.

3. HIGH CALORIE FEEDS

To further top up Poppy's intake of energy, we can add lupins.

4. QUALITY PROTEIN

Poppy needs more quality protein in her diet. Let's add lucerne hay (& the lupins will also help).

5. VITAMINS & MINERALS

Poppy is not fed a fortified hard feed or supplement. We'll feed her Digestive VM at the full rate.

POPPY'S NEW DIET

8 hours access to green, mainly kikuyu pasture
+ 4kg teff hay*
+ 1.5kg lucerne hay*
+ 600g lucerne chaff
+ 250g beet pulp
+ 500g lupins
+ 130g Digestive EQ
+ 85g Digestive VM
+ 40g salt
+ free choice salt
* (feed hay in a slow feeder overnight)

CASE STUDY 2

'BOB'

Height: 16.1hh

Weight: 550 kg

Age: 8 years old

Workload: OTTB. Ridden 1-2 days/week. Competes once to twice/month in grade 1 pony club & showjumping.

Access to Pasture: 24hr access to diverse pasture.

Goals: Gain weight.

Challenges: 'Hot' behaviour.

1. FORAGE

Bob has access to pasture but does not maintain weight on this alone, so let's add lucerne hay.

2. HIGH CALORIE FIBRE

Bob's pasture contains a nice diversity of species so we won't add any extra high calorie fibres.

3. HIGH CALORIE FEEDS

To top up Bob's intake of energy, we'll add some extruded, grain-based hard feed.

4. QUALITY PROTEIN

The lucerne hay and extruded hard feed we're adding to Bob's diet will provide enough protein.

5. VITAMINS & MINERALS

Bob won't be fed the hard feed at the recommended rate, so we'll top up with Digestive VM.

BOB'S NEW DIET

24/7 access to paddock of diverse but quite short green pick
+ 6kg grass hay
+ 2kg lucerne hay
+ 600g 50/50 Chaff
+ 1.1kg lupins
+ 200g full fat soybean
+ 200ml linseed Oil
+ 130g Digestive EQ
+ 70g Digestive VM
+ 30g salt
+ free choice salt

CASE STUDY 3

'BONGO'

Height: 14.1hh

Weight: 420 kg

Age: 20 years old

Workload: Not in work (retired).

Access to Pasture: 24hr access to poor quality pasture.

Goals: Fix mineral deficiencies (esp. Phosphorus).

Challenges: Hard to keep weight on.

1. FORAGE

Bongo has access to pasture but does not maintain weight on it alone. Let's give him some lucerne hay.

2. HIGH CALORIE FIBRE

To top up Bongo's high calorie fibre intake, we're going to add beet pulp.

3. HIGH CALORIE FEEDS

To further top up Bongo's calorie intake, we're adding a Senior Feed to his diet.

4. QUALITY PROTEIN

To add some more quality protein to Bongo's diet, let's also give him some lucerne chaff.

5. VITAMINS & MINERALS

We'll top up with Digestive VM & add Monosodium Phosphate to correct the phosphate deficiency.

BONGO'S NEW DIET

24/7 access to ankle height dry pasture
+ 4kg lucerne hay
+ 300g lucerne chaff
+ 250g beet pulp
+ 200g full fat soybean
+ 130g Digestive EQ
+ 60g Digestive VM
+ 40g Dicalcium Phosphate
+ free choice salt

CASE STUDY 4

'LOLLY'

Height: 15.3hh

Weight: 500 kg

Age: 15 years old

Workload: Ridden 1-2 days/week.

Access to Pasture: 24hr access to green, diverse pasture.

Goals: Meet mineral & vitamins without added calories.

Challenges: Runs off the smell of an oily rag.

1. FORAGE

Lolly has access to pasture and (easily) maintains weight on this alone.

2. HIGH CALORIE FIBRE

Lolly's pasture contains a nice diversity of species so we don't add any high calorie fibres.

3. HIGH CALORIE FEEDS

Lolly does not need more calories, so we'll skip this.

4. QUALITY PROTEIN

Lolly grazes nice green pasture and has low protein needs but we'll add a little chaff to feed with her Digestive VM.

5. VITAMINS & MINERALS

Lolly is not fed a fortified hard feed or supplement. We'll give her Digestive VM at the full rate.

LOLLY'S NEW DIET

24/7 access to paddock of green pasture ankle height
+ 300g lucerne chaff
+ 130g Digestive EQ
+ 60g Digestive VM
+ free choice salt