



Horse Care Info Sheet

Feeding a Forage-based Diet

Why forage-based?

A forage based diet does not rely on grains for the horse's nutritional needs. It decreases the horse's risk of ulcers, colic, colitis, laminitis, and more. The risk of stereotypies are decreased, and diets are generally more affordable.

Creating a forage-based diet:

1. Select forage that best meets the needs of you and your horses
2. Add a ration balancer to meet vitamin and mineral needs
3. Add supplements if any gaps are identified in your horse's nutritional need



How to balance a forage-based diet:

- Feed high quality forage, and have your hay tested to learn what your hay may be lacking
- Feed a ration balancer according to feed tag directions
- Work with an equine nutritionist to determine your horse's needs and if any supplementation is required
- Store hay off the ground & in dry conditions
- Pasture management maximizes the value of grass.
- Provide loose salt (salt blocks alone may not meet the horse's requirements)
- Provide clean water 24/7
- Consult with your veterinarian if your horse has any conditions that may impact their nutrition

Learn more about nutrition and forage by taking our short course, [Introduction to Forage](#), and our 12-week online course in [Equine Nutrition](#)!