**VISION**
- Vitamin A

**SKIN, HAIR, HOOVES**
- Zinc
- Copper
- Vitamin A

**DID YOU KNOW**
- "Thyroid function effects coat length and many other hormonal processes."

**THYROID FUNCTION**
- Iodine

**HEART FUNCTION**
- Calcium
- Potassium

**DIGESTION & METABOLISM**
- Magnesium
- Potassium
- Phosphorus
- Vitamin B9
- Vitamin B1

**ELECTROLYTES**
- Sodium
- Chloride
- Magnesium
- Calcium
- Potassium

**WOUND HEALING**
- Zinc

**SMALL INTESTINE**
- Passage of food is 45mins to 2hrs.
- Enzymatic digestion of starch, protein, fats and oils. Minerals are absorbed in small intestine (except phosphorus).

**LARGE INTESTINE**
- Microbes ferment fibre and produce: Vitamin B1, B2, B3, B5, B6, B9, and B12 Vitamin H & K

**BLOOD**
- Calcium
- Iron
- Cobalt
- Manganese
- Vitamin B9 (folic acid)

**GROWTH & REPRODUCTION**
- Manganese
- Selenium
- Vitamin A

**MUSCLE**
- Phosphorus
- Potassium
- Magnesium
- Calcium
- Vitamin A
- Vitamin B1

**DID YOU KNOW**
- "The liver secretes bile into the small intestine, and that Vitamin C is synthesised in the liver."

**BONE & TEETH**
- Copper
- Manganese
- Zinc
- Phosphorus
- Calcium
- Magnesium

**ANTIOXIDANT**
- Vitamin E

**SIGNS THAT INDICATE DEFICIENCY**
- Coat - Faded, dull or excessive length.
- Condition - Poor doer, poor muscling, poor fertility.
- Anhydrosis, puffs, stops sweating.
- Poor performance, lack of energy.
- Splints and bent legs in foals.
- Decreased resistance to infection.
- Degenerative laminitis.
- Seedy toe (White line disease).
- Cracked/crumbly hooves

**Recommended by vets and farriers worldwide**
- Developed for all equine requirements
- Complete all in one supplements
- Vitamins, minerals and salts
- Results you can see
- Exceptional Value

**EQUILIBRIUM**
- Building Better Health

**EQUILIBRIUM AUSTRALIA**
- It’s All In The Balance

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As horse owners, we want the best for our horses. Nothing fills us with greater satisfaction than seeing evidence of optimal health in our horses – gleaming coats, strong hooves, excellent muscling & body condition, bright eyes and a willingness to work.

The question is, how can we accomplish this? Are the best results only achieved by purchasing the most expensive feed items? Is it necessary they contain the newest developed wonder ingredient? Should I be spending all of my time, money and energy individually crafting each horse’s feed with the goal of feeding him the perfect feed, each day of the year? We think not.

For the past 15 years Equilibrium has been working with horse owners to achieve fantastic results using common sense and a practical approach to nutrition.

There are three guiding principles that should form the heart of any feeding program.

1. Selecting appropriate roughage and feeding adequate amounts.
2. Selecting an appropriate vitamin and mineral supplement.
3. Feeding the least amount of concentrates necessary.

**Selecting appropriate roughage:** This can be the real art of feeding horses. Grazing varies from very poor quality mature grasses to lush green regrowth. Hays vary from prime green lucerne or clover hays to stalkly rough bleached lucerne or pasture hays. The best hay is a shedded grassy lucerne hay. The hay should feel soft to touch. Avoid forage sorghum hay and coarse thick stemmed lucerne hay. Prime green lucerne or lush pasture can be as dangerous to a horse’s digestive system as excess grain – too much of a good thing!

**Feeding adequate amounts of roughage:** This is the most important part of the ration and is the most often neglected. Horses will die without adequate roughage. Poor doers respond better to correct roughage selection than they do to concentrates. The bacteria in the large intestine digest the fibre content of the roughage and provide the horse with energy and vitamins. Roughage should make up the largest proportion of the diet and should only be restricted to prevent obesity or in circumstances of extreme athletic performance. Horses evolved grazing for a large portion of the day – eating little and often. Horses need adlib access to roughage. As a guiding principle, if a horse leaves a small amount of hay after a 24hr period has elapsed, it’s a fair indication that the quantity of roughage being given is appropriate.

**Selecting an Appropriate Supplement:** All hays and pastures will have an absolute deficiency or a relative imbalance of essential minerals. Vitamins will also be lacking at some times of the year. These deficiencies may not always be clearly apparent and may show as poor performance, lack of weight gain and muscling, poor growth and muscle development in weanlings and yearlings. It also includes musculoskeletal conditions including splints, locking stifles, osteochondritis dissecans and poor coat and or hoof condition.

There are two issues in mineral supplementation – the absolute level and the balance between all of the various minerals.

Incorrect supplementation can be harmful; for example, supplementation with limestone, calcium carbonate or dolomite to horses fed significant levels of lucerne will have a detrimental effect that may take more than 12 months to become apparent. Equilibrium Mineral Mix and B1 Cool Mix have been formulated with the correct and appropriate balance of supplemental macro minerals, vitamins, trace minerals and salts for horses. The results speak for themselves.

**Feeding Concentrates:** Concentrates include grain, premixed feed and pellets. Most horses do not require more than 4kg of concentrates per day. Horses in hard work (racehorses), will require more, however this should rarely exceed 4kg of concentrates per day. Horse owners should view concentrates as providing energy or protein.

There are a variety of pellets, premixed feeds and grains available on the market that will provide your horse with energy. Protein requirements for horses over three years of age are fulfilled by mixing their hard feed with lucerne chaff. For horses under three years of age and lactating broodmares, we recommend adding one cup of Full Fat Soya Bean Meal to their hard feed.

The four principles of effective and economical feeding:

1. Roughage – Utilise your own pasture when you can, utilise cheaper pasture during times of low pasture availability.
2. Vitamins & Minerals – Top up fluctuating roughage nutritional levels and correct imbalances with a broad spectrum supplement such as Equilibrium Mineral Mix or B1 Cool Mix. For optimal results, these should be used every day.
3. Feed the least energy concentrate necessary – Diets high in concentrated energy sources reduce the ability of bacteria to extract energy from roughage.
4. Protein – Feeding excess protein when it is not required costs extra money and can reduce performance. Lactating mares and growing horses have an increased need for protein.

Remember! The benefits of a balanced diet extend further than a visual appraisal of your horse’s condition – musculoskeletal soundness and hoof health are of vital importance.

Dr Jenene Redding BVSc (Hons)