

Diet Recommendations for Easy Keepers



Condition

Overweight horses are often challenging since they must be limited in the amounts they are fed each day because they gain weight so easily. Overweight horses are susceptible to digestive upset due to complications with digestion, absorption or utilization of starch and sugars. In addition, these horses are sometimes affected by other metabolic conditions such as Insulin Resistance or Cushing's Syndrome.

Nutritional Management of the Condition

Management of their total diet is essential. Easy keepers should receive sufficient calories for maintenance, while receiving enough hay to minimize the chance of digestive upset, i.e. colic. The National Research Council has established the amount of forage needed for horses to maintain normal digestive and physiological function. Other nutritional components, such as amino acids, vitamins and minerals, are also necessary for optimal metabolism and health. In most instances, easy keepers can be managed by feeding: 1) grass or mixed hay and 2) providing the low calorie **Special Needs™ Supplement** as their source of essential amino acids, fatty acids, vitamins and minerals to balance their diet. No additional nutrition supplements should be necessary.

Dietary Recommendations – Mature Overweight Idle Horses

Horse's Weight	Hay Starch + Sugar < 15%	Special Needs™ Supplement
400-700 lbs	8-14 lbs	1 scoop daily
700-1000 lbs	14-20 lbs	2 scoops daily
1000-1300 lbs	20-26 lbs	3 scoops daily
1300-1600 lbs	26-32 lbs	4 scoops daily

Dietary Recommendations – Overweight Horses in Training

Horse's Weight	Hay Starch + Sugar < 15%	Special Needs™ Supplement
400-700 lbs	10-17 lbs	1 ½ scoops daily
700-1000 lbs	17-25 lbs	3 scoops daily
1000-1300 lbs	25-33 lbs	4 scoops daily
1300-1600 lbs	33-40 lbs	5 scoops daily

For More Information

With easy keepers or overweight horses, managing the nutrient content of the hay is essential. Since the nutritional value of hay may vary by source, it may be necessary to have the hay analyzed for nutrient content and custom diets developed. To learn more or get details on forage analysis and diet formulation, call (888) 239-3185 or email customerservice@prognutrition.com.