



Diet Recommendations for Horses with Muscle Loss

Condition

Unlike many other conditions found in horses, muscle loss or atrophy is predominantly controlled through diet. Muscle loss/atrophy can be caused by many things, including poor diet, neuromuscular conditions or advancing age.

Nutritional Management of the Condition

The two main nutritional components to optimum development and sustaining of muscle is: 1) the amount and balance of essential amino acids provided in the diet and 2) the presence of available calories in the form of hay, grain or fat in order to optimize muscle development and performance. The National Research Council has developed the amount of crude protein required for growth and development. Protein is made up of components called amino acids. Providing adequate amounts and a proper balance of these essential amino acids is the key to successful muscle development and performance.

Dietary Recommendations – Mature Idle Horses

Horse's Weight	Hay RFV < 100	Special Needs™ Supplement	Grain*
400-700 lbs	8-14 lbs	1 scoop daily	0-2 lb
700-1000 lbs	14-20 lbs	2 scoops daily	0-4 lb
1000-1300 lbs	20-26 lbs	3 scoops daily	2-6 lb
1300-1600 lbs	26-32 lbs	4 scoops daily	3-8 lb

Dietary Recommendations – Horses in Training

Horse's Weight	Hay RFV < 100	Special Needs™ Supplement	Grain*
400-700 lbs	10-17 lbs	1 ½ scoops daily	1-3 lb
700-1000 lbs	17-25 lbs	3 scoops daily	2-4 lb
1000-1300 lbs	25-33 lbs	4 scoops daily	3-7 lb
1300-1600 lbs	33-40 lbs	5 scoops daily	4-9 lb

* An alternative source of fat based calories would be Progressive Nutrition Envision Classic®
1 lb of Envision Classic® replaces on average 3 lbs of grain

For More Information

Since the nutrient contribution of hay is very important, it may be necessary to analyze hay nutrient content in order to assess the amount of grain or fat required to optimize muscle development. To learn more or get details on forage analysis and diet formulation, call (888) 239-3185 or email customerservice@prognutrition.com.