



EquiFeed

Is your horse getting the best feed?

A horse must be fed a balanced diet to stay healthy and perform well. An optimal hay- or silage-based diet is often difficult to achieve; after all, forage varies from batch to batch, meaning you never really know exactly what your horse is eating. But with forage analysis, you will have insight into the quality of the forage – and, if necessary, you can then supplement the feed with concentrate or supplements. EquiFeed allows you to give your horse the best possible diet.

Optimising feed for a horse or pony is quite a challenge. Horses have a special digestive system with a small stomach that is geared up for small bits of feed throughout the day. Most of this food is broken down after the stomach, in the cecum and large intestine by intestinal bacteria, earning horses the title of hindgut fermenters.

It is important to keep the intestinal bacteria active with plenty of fibre. This fibre is found primarily in roughage such as grass, hay, and silage. As a rule of thumb, a horse should get at least 1.5% of its body weight in dry matter from roughage daily to meet its fibre needs. In addition to fibre, the feed must also contain sufficient energy, minerals and trace elements for a healthy horse to develop and perform well.

Balanced feeding

Research shows that as many as 60% of all equine health problems are related to inadequate nutrition. An unbalanced diet for your horse can also set training back by several weeks. In the long run, feeding too little energy causes muscle breakdown and weight loss in the horse, while feeding too much energy causes the horse to become overweight.

High quality forage fulfils most of your horse's basic needs. By analysing the forage, you can adjust and balance the diet based on the results. Your horse's need for energy or digestible protein, for example, is largely based on its weight and the amount of work it performs. Based on the forage composition, you can integrate concentrate or supplements exactly as needed. This alone just makes a big difference in monthly feed costs.

Taking your own sample

EquiFeed, Eurofins' forage test specifically for horses, provides accurate insight into the composition of roughage. You can easily and quickly take a feed sample yourself.

- Request the available packages and the sampling package at customerservice.agro@eurofins.com.
- Read the clear instructions for taking the sample.
- Within 10 working days after Eurofins Agro Testing in Wageningen has received the sample, you will receive a clear analysis report via email, detailing the composition of the roughage.
- Use this to determine exactly by how much you need to supplement the roughage with concentrate or a supplement.

When should forage be analysed?

- When a new batch of roughage arrives, either when purchased or 4 to 6 weeks after harvesting the hay from your own land.
- If you are a wholesaler or dealer selling roughage to horse owners.
- If you would like to feed a balanced and appropriate diet to your horse, keeping your horse healthy and fit.
- If you would like to take your training to the next level by better supporting your horse with quality forage.
- If you have a horse with health problems.
- If you are the owner of a horse with insulin resistance, prone to laminitis or suffering from another metabolic-related disease.
- If you have broodmares or growing horses that you would like to support.
- If you own a horse with high energy or digestible protein needs.
- If you have a boarding stable or equestrian centre with a wide range of different horses and/or ponies with different needs.

Learn more or request a sampling kit

Contact Eurofins Customer Service via email: customerservice.agro@eurofins.com.

