

Plan diets and implement feeding regimes for horses

Overview

This standard involves planning diets and implementing feeding regimes for horses. You should be able to identify the dietary requirements of horses and decide the quantity of feed required. You will also need to deal with any necessary supplements to the diet and special dietary requirements. It is essential that your work identifies any necessary changes in dietary requirements and allows for changes in the ration.

You will need to be fully aware of the importance of animal health and welfare and health and safety in connection with this activity.

You will need to be able to recognise hazards and assess risks in the workplace.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. identify the nutritional dietary requirements for horses and plan their diets, including forage, concentrates and water
2. establish the quantity and frequency of feeding
3. specify any necessary supplements or additives to the diet
4. identify and record special dietary requirements
5. implement feeding regimes that take account of the feeding policy and the horse's requirements, and allow for changes in the rations
6. adapt rations to meet changes in the horse's dietary requirements and to optimise the health and wellbeing of the horse
7. monitor and maintain the health and safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horse, during the activity

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the factors that can affect the planning of diets and feeding regimes for horses
2. the effects of availability, seasonality and costs on diets and feeding regimes
3. the dietary requirements for horses: forage, concentrates and water
4. the types of feed, feed preparation and hay alternatives
5. the types of dietary additives or supplements and the reasons for their inclusion in the diet
6. the diseases and illnesses that require special diets
7. the anatomy and function of the digestive system
8. the reasons for using different systems of feeding
9. the importance of evaluating the actions taken when dealing with any problems in planning diets and implementing feeding regimes for horses
10. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

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Scope/range

Feeding regimes:

- normal husbandry
- special dietary requirements

Dietary requirements:

- forage
- concentrates
- water
- supplements and additives

Planning feeding rations, taking into account:

- current good practice
- the horse's body weight
- the horse's condition
- level of work
- type and temperament (including tired, sick or fussy horses)

Planning effective feeding regimes taking into account:

- availability of feed and forages
- seasonality
- costs and feed and forages

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Glossary

Factors affecting diets and feeding regimes:

- body weight
- age
- reproductive state
- condition
- level and type of work
- type and temperament of the horse
- tiredness
- sick and fussy horses
- feeding policy

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