

Plan and implement suitable diets for horses

Overview

This standard is about planning and implementing suitable diets for horses.

You will need to understand the effects of different nutrient groups on the horse's body, and identify how these can be provided to horses that have differing needs. This involves comparing the nutritional content of feedstuffs and formulating rations for horses in varying levels of work, at different stages of life and with specific nutritional needs. You will need to be able to recognise common dietary problems seen in horses resulting from poor nutrition or an unbalanced diet. Implementation of safe and efficient feeding regimes is also incorporated.

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

You will need to ensure the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horses, at all times.

Plan and implement suitable diets for horses

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the nutritional needs of the horses in your care taking into account their life stages, levels of work and any specific requirements
2. plan suitable diets and produce feeding plans for horses, which provide the required nutrients
3. evaluate, select and source suitable nutritional feedstuffs to meet the requirements of the feeding plans
4. implement and monitor procedures for the storage and rotation of stocks of feedstuff
5. ensure that the facilities, supplies, equipment and any other resources required to implement the feeding plans are available
6. communicate effectively with those involved with the implementation of feeding plans
7. monitor the implementation of the feeding plans and review and revise rations in response to the horse's health, wellbeing and performance
8. identify the signs of an unbalanced diet
9. select and implement appropriate hygiene and bio-security measures and ensure they are maintained
10. ensure waste is disposed of safely and correctly
11. establish and maintain dietary and nutritional records
12. assess hazards and control the risks to horses, yourself and others in connection with this activity

Plan and implement suitable diets for horses

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the function of nutrient groups including carbohydrates, fibre, protein, fat, vitamins, minerals (macro and micro minerals) and water
2. the requirements for different nutrient groups by horses of varying ages, types, levels and types of work including breeding, and those with special dietary requirements
3. the importance of body scoring a horse and how to do this.
4. how to weigh a horse using a scientific formula, weigh tape and a weighbridge
5. the range of factors that must be accounted for when compiling a dietary ration
6. how to formulate a ration for horses at different life stages, for different types of horses, for horses undertaking different levels and types of work including breeding, and for those with specific dietary needs
7. the different feeds available for horses, their nutritional content, and those allowed under the regulations of competitive governing bodies
8. the use of and types of commercial feed balancers, supplements and additives available to horses, quantities required, benefits and the adverse effects if fed incorrectly
9. the importance of establishing and maintaining dietary and nutritional records
10. the importance of reviewing and revising rations for horses to ensure their objectives are continually met
11. the signs of an unbalanced diet including horses that are overweight and underweight and experiencing physiological and metabolic conditions linked to an unbalanced diet
12. the causes and prevention of a range of physiological and metabolic conditions linked to an unbalanced diet
13. how to alter feeding rations for horses in reaction to changing dietary needs such as alteration in work load, changes in behaviour, a change in condition or disease
14. the importance of maintaining clear communication with those involved with the implementation of feeding plans.
15. the importance of the correct storage of horse feed, hygiene and bio-security measures in relation to feeding horses and how this can be achieved
16. how different types of waste should be disposed of
17. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

Plan and implement suitable diets for horses

Scope/range

Calculating rations for horses:

- present health, condition and weight of the horse
- type of horse, age and height
- amount and type of work undertaken (including horses kept for breeding)
- temperament of the horse
- management regime in which the horse is kept
- type of yard and management (this might impact on feeds purchased, economics, feed storage and handling)

Glossary

Physiological and metabolic conditions connected with diet:

- under-feeding
- over-feeding
- laminitis
- colic
- azoturia
- anaemia
- diarrhoea
- dehydration
- electrolyte loss
- choking
- respiratory problems

Plan and implement suitable diets for horses

Developed by	Lantra
Version Number	1
Date Approved	January 2017
Indicative Review Date	January 2021
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating Organisation	Lantra
Original URN	LANEq416
Relevant Occupations	Equine Manager
Suite	Equine
Keywords	equine; horse; diet; rations