



# Insights From DR. John

**QUESTION:** I'm looking for a horse feed that's low in potassium (K), contains no molasses and is preferably for a senior?

## Dr. J's Response:

We've got two options:

A) Feed KING Equine CarboRaider Senior as total diet; this formula has a K level of 1.0%.

B) Feed KING Equine Low Potassium Pellets along with hay that is low in K content; the Low K pellet formula has a K level of 0.78%. However, to match the low K level in CarboRaider Senior, the K level in the hay needs to be down around 1.2% K.

Given that K levels in different batches of hay can vary widely (1.1% K is the lowest I've seen; 4.3% is the highest K, with the average grass hay around 2.3%), it may be difficult to maintain a supply of low K hay.

The American Association of Equine Practitioners recommends keeping the K level in the total diet below 1.3% K. This means that at 1.0% K in CarboRaider Senior, there's even a little room left to feed a little forage (2-3 lbs/hd/day max) as a "treat".

Therefore, my recommendation would be to go with Option A, since it meets all of the customer's needs (formulated for Seniors, no molasses & low enough in K to meet/exceed veterinarian guidelines).

---

**NOTE:** Tested Potassium Levels for hay samples submitted to Dairy One for the past 10 years have the following ranges:

Legume Hays (alfalfa): 1.8-2.9%    Grass Hays: 1.2-2.5%    Bermuda Hay: 1.2-2.1%  
Oat Hay: 1.1-2.4%

**Dr. John Throckmorton** is King Feeds Formulation Director. He attended U.C. Davis, received his M.S., under Dr. Peter Cheeke, at Oregon State, and his PhD from The University of New England, New South Wales, Australia.

