



THE PRODUCT, CARE AND SERVICE GUIDE FOR PEOPLE WHO LOVE HORSES

HORSE JOURNAL™

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FEED-QUALITY SURVEY: WITH ONLY 4 OF 65 COMPANIES RESPONDING

QUESTION	BLUEBONNET FEEDS www.bluebonnetfeeds.com 800-365-2456	KING FEEDS www.king-brand.com 800-253-7346	Southern States www.southernstates.com 804- 281-1000	Triple Crown www.triplecrownfeed.com 800-451-9916
Where is your feed available?	U.S., Mexico, parts of Central America Available by truckload anywhere in continental USA. Sold regionally in TX, OK, LA, MS, AR, MO and NM.	California.	Majority of states east of the Mississippi River and Missouri.	USA, Japan, some Caribbean Islands.
Is your feed a set formula?	Yes, but we do adjust them when we improve them.	Yes	Yes, except for Select, which has specific ingredients listed on the feed tags.	Yes
Do you list all ingredients on the label in order from most to least, by amount?	Yes for major ingredients, i.e. grains, protein ingredients, etc. Minor minerals, vitamins, etc. are grouped together in their respective orders for clarity to the consumer.	Yes	Yes	Yes
What preservatives are used in your feeds?	Natural organic acids (primarily propionic acid) to kill existing mold spores. These acids are found naturally in the digestive tract.	We utilize two options, a natural (mixed tocopherols, rosemary oil, ascorbic and citric acid, lecithin) or ethoxyquin.	Organic acids. Used in all textured/pelleted horse feeds.	Primarily propionic acid for mold; citric acids for native yeast.
Where are your feed's vitamins and minerals actually manufactured?	U.S. We have toured the manufacturing plants of many of our vitamin mineral suppliers and always request a source list. We know many of our suppliers personally and know that they manufacture under strict standards here in the USA.	Numerous sites, both domestic and foreign. I know who I purchase from. I do not purchase on the "open market," and I have a very short list of suppliers. I know that these suppliers pre- and post-assay all incoming ingredients.	North America and Europe. For minerals, we purchase from global suppliers that provide written assurances of quality and purity.	U.S. If they come from other sources, the U.S. based companies we deal with monitor quality or own the plants themselves.
What is the country of origin of byproduct and high protein ingredients in your feed?	U.S.	U.S.	U.S.	U.S.
What is the USDA grade of grains used in your feeds?	USDA Grade #1 or #2.	Barley-#2; Corn #2; Oats-Canadian-40-43 lbs/bu (heavier than USDA #2-38#/bu); Wheat for Feed.	US Grade #2 or better.	Grade #2.
Are finished feed products screened for aflatoxin and other toxins?	Ingredients analyzed for heavy metal and pathogenic bacteria every 3 to 6 months. This hasn't been a problem in general so it hasn't required any more rigorous standard to be put into practice. We screen for heavy metals and have had some pathogenic bacterial scans done.	Yes. Each truck or rail car of an incoming ingredient is visually inspected & representative sample taken, which is retained for 90-120 days. These "lot" samples are sub-sampled, pooled & analyzed on a quarterly basis for basics and minerals. Emphasis is on raw ingredients. Occasional testing of finished feeds to confirm. We don't test for heavy metals, pathogens and mold toxins/ other toxins unless there is a need.	Samples of ingredients and finished feeds routinely tested for quality compliance by an independent laboratory.. Sampling procedures are considered proprietary information.	Sampling and testing procedures are considered proprietary information.
Are all incoming grains, grain products, and byproducts screened for aflatoxin and other toxins?	Yes. The beet pulp comes from human consumption sugar plants. We don't use soy hulls. Wheat middlings are tested from time to time for aflatoxins, but they come from human consumption.	Yes	Yes.	Yes.
Do you use corn to mechanically clean your equipment?	Not typically. Corn sometimes used to clean out pellet mill die. Bluebonnet Super Corn poured directly from triple cleaned finished product bags directly into the pellet mill. This product has gone through all the testing and cleaning procedures previously mentioned.	No. We use wheat for flushing. Flushed material goes into waste.	Corn meal produced from shelled corn that passed mycotoxin-testing procedures is used for flushing equipment. Computerized quality control procedures ensure that flushing material is not used in horse feeds.	Yes; some corn used for flushing. But it is tested for mycotoxins and not used in any feed.
Are your feed bags marked with an expiration or "best used by" date? What is your code for plant and date of manufacture? Where is it located on the bag?	No. Different types of feed stays fresh for different amount of time; freshness also depends on weather/ storage conditions. This makes "best if used by" dating not helpful because it wouldn't be accurate for all conditions and times of the year. The code contains one-inch numbers for date of manufacturing/ shift number for that day.	Includes date of manufacturing. The code is located on the back of the feed tag.	Includes date of manufacturing. Feed tag Five character lot code: 1st letter = manufacturing feed mill, 2nd = year the feed was made, last three digits identify the month/day feed.	No, but we are happy to share the date of manufacturing information with any customer. The code depends on the manufacturing facility; most contain sewn-on feed tags to identify the mill.

Grain and Your Horse

*It's not the price you pay, nor the brand you buy
that makes a feed wholesome and safe.*

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1.) **Start with Good Grains:** We want to see #1 or #2 Grains in our feed. (Lower grade grains are less nutritious and potentially dangerous).

King uses #2 grains.

2.) **Protein:** Milk or whey are highest quality protein supplements and soy is popular because of its high lysine content.

King frequently uses soy as a protein source.

3.) **Fat:** Stabilized whole ground flaxseed with their oils intact are the only readily available source of essential fatty acids at levels similar to the natural diet of grass. We don't like any type of animal fat in horse feeds.

King never uses animal fat. We utilize vegetable oil and fish oil for omega -3, -6 fatty acids.

4.) **Vitamins:** Vitamins aren't stable in a feed mix for long. Most horses need Vitamin E.

King formulas provide balanced vitamin concentrations in accordance with published NRC nutrition guidelines. Degradation profiles are considered when determining concentrations.

5.) **Minerals:** Chelated forms aren't superior to inorganic forms—so don't pay extra for them.

King uses chelated minerals.

6.) **Safety:** The decisions to use preservatives and mold inhibitors in feeds is left to manufacturers. Mixed feeds should be fed within a few months of manufacturing—look for an easy to read date of manufacturing.

King uses natural preservatives, mold inhibitors and binders and has an easy to read date of manufacturing.

“We applaud the four companies who were willing to work with us—as they clearly realize how much it benefits you know what steps they take to protect your horse. If you can reward them with your business, do it.”

Article by Veterinary Editor, Eleanor Kellin, VMD and Contributing Editor Nina Fedrizzi