

FAST, EFFECTIVE WEIGHT GAIN

Maintaining a horse's condition is often difficult. Factors ranging from age, illness, performance, metabolism, environment, etc. can all play a part in a horse's weight.

While there are a myriad of supplements that claim rapid weight gain, it takes more than adding incremental feed or a supplement to the diet to ensure weight gain and maintain it.

To that end, several years ago we developed a weight gain strategy and program, it's on the last page of our Horse Feed Brochure. This document is intended to supplement that information with greater detail to ensure your success.

Weight gain may be required in a variety of situations: a rescue, a senior, increased work load, recovery from illness, etc. Irrespective of the need for weight gain, the process for putting weight on remains the same.

Prior to adding incremental calories to the diet, it is critical that the following issues be evaluated and addressed before weight gain can occur.

- 1.) **CHEWING.** Does the horse have the ability to chew hay? Teeth, jaw alignment, saliva production should be evaluated. If there are clumps of hay falling from the horses' mouth, found on the ground or in the water trough or undigested hay in the manure—the horse is not processing hay effectively and a different type of feed may need to be utilized as the base diet for the horse. An equine dentist should be able to assist in evaluating/correcting teeth issues.
- 2.) **PARASITES.** Ensuring that parasites are not responsible for stealing the horse's nutrition is critical. It may be necessary to do deworm with different wormers to eliminate all parasites.
- 3.) **CORRECT CALORIES FOR TARGET WEIGHT.** Before adding incremental calories, you need to know how many calories the horse should have at their optimal weight. This information can be found at the NRC website for horse nutrition and we have calorie tables available on the King website on the Resource page for horses.
- 4.) **DIGESTIVE PERFORMANCE.** Micro flora imbalances in the gut, damaged villi in the intestines may all contribute to the horses' ability to break down feed and uptake nutrition. Prior to (or at the same time) as adding incremental calories to the diet, the gut should be optimized. We recommend 1 pound of Dr. Cheeke's YQ+ daily for 30 days. (Based on a 1,000 lb weight).
- 5.) **INCREMENTAL CALORIES.** Now we can add incremental calories. There are many choices here, but for the fastest, most efficient and cost effective weight gain, it makes sense to utilize a calorie dense feed supplement. We recommend Ultra 20/20. At a calorie busting 1700 calories per lb, we suggest adding 1 –2 # per day to the diet (based on 1,000 BW) until desired condition is reached.
- 6.) **ROUGHAGE.** To ensure optimized gut motility, we recommend free feeding grass hay until the desired weight/condition is achieved.

Over the years, we have seen tremendous results with the program, typically in 4-6 weeks..

BEBOP.



STORMY.



After just 30 Days
Sunny is looking and feeling
SO MUCH BETTER!



