

How does Spillers horse feed and how does it fit into the feeding plan for a horse?

Spillers horse feed is an example of a branded approach to **horse feed** that aims to address different needs across *maintenance*, *performance*, *weight gain*, and *weight loss*. Rather than thinking only in terms of a single bucket of feed, it helps to view feed as part of the full **nutrition** plan, alongside **forage**, water, turnout, exercise and overall management.

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A good feeding plan starts with the horse's **bodyweight**, temperament, workload and current **condition**. A horse doing light hacking may need a simple ration built around grass, **hay** or **haylage**, with little or no added **concentrates**. A competition horse may need more carefully balanced energy, **protein**, **vitamins** and **minerals**. Spillers horse feed ranges can be used in both cases, but the right choice depends on the horse's *digestibility*, *energy levels* and how much forage is already in the diet.

Many horse owners in the UK look for **horse feeding advice uk** that follows a **forage-first** approach. That means forage should form the base of the diet, with feed added only when needed to fill gaps in energy, nutrients or palatability. A well-managed feeding plan can also support **gut health**, which matters whether the horse needs more stamina or simply steady condition.

Some Spillers horse feed products are designed as **complete horse feed**, meaning they aim to provide a balanced ration when fed at the recommended amount. Others are better suited as a **supplement** or as part of a mixed diet. That distinction matters: a complete feed is not always the best answer for every horse, especially if the horse already eats plenty of forage or is prone to gaining weight easily.

Kinds of horse feed: how to select between balancer, mix, cube and fibre

There are numerous **types of horse feed**, but the best way to compare them is by purpose. The main options include a **balancer**, a **mix**, **cubes**, **pellets**, **mash** and fibre-based feeds. Each has a different profile for starch, sugar, protein and fibre, which affects digestibility and how the horse uses the ration.

A **balancer** is usually a concentrated feed with a small feeding rate. It is often used when forage is high quality but lacks certain nutrients, or when the horse needs vitamins and minerals without extra calories. This can suit easy keepers, native types and horses in light work. A balancer can also help support condition without providing too much starch or sugar.

A **mix** is a classic feed, often designed to be palatable and energy-dense. It may contain cereals and other ingredients that provide digestible energy for horses needing more fuel. A mix can be useful for performance horses, but it should be selected carefully if the horse is prone to excitability or needs a low-starch diet.

Cubes and **pellets** are popular because they are straightforward to measure and usually give consistent intake. Cubes can be helpful for horses that prefer a structured texture, while pellets are often chosen for neatness, uniformity and the ability to deliver nutrients in every mouthful. Both can be part of a complete horse feed or a straighter, more targeted ration.

Mash is often associated with hydration, warm feeds and improved palatability. It can be useful for older horses, poor eaters or horses recovering from work, though it should still fit within the overall diet. A fibre-based mash may support gut health and help increase fluid intake, but it should not be used simply because it feels “lighter” unless the full nutrient profile suits the horse.

When people inquire about a **horse feed mix recipe**, they often mean how to combine ingredients carefully at home. That can be done, but it requires much more than combining oats and chaff. A home-made ration must still cover vitamins, minerals, digestible energy, protein and fibre in the right proportions. Commercial **horse feed companies** devote a great deal of time balancing these factors, which is one reason many owners prefer a branded feed rather than building a ration from scratch.

Choosing between feed types should always start with the horse’s workload, body condition and forage intake. If the horse already takes in enough energy from hay or haylage, a balancer may be enough. If more fuel is needed, a mix or a complete feed may be more appropriate. If the horse needs a calmer, fibre-led ration, cubes, pellets or a fibre mash may be better suited.

Rules for feeding horses: 10 key rules for feeding horses

Practical **horse feeding rules** help owners create a practical, repeatable plan. The **10 rules of feeding horses** here are a practical framework for anyone wanting **horse feed for beginners** advice.

- **1. Put forage first.** The diet should be built around forage such as hay or haylage whenever possible.
- **2. Feed according to bodyweight.** The amount of horse feed should match the horse’s weight, not estimating.
- **3. Match feed to workload.** A horse in maintenance benefits from a different ration from one in performance work.
- **4. Keep changes gradual.** Any new feed should be added slowly to protect digestion and gut health.
- **5. Avoid too much starch.** High-starch diets can be problematic for some horses, especially if energy levels need to stay even.
- **6. Check the label.** Always read ingredients, feeding rate and nutrient content before buying.
- **7. Balance forage and concentrates.** Concentrates should support forage, not replace it.
- **8. Feed in smaller meals when needed.** Large meals can be harder to digest efficiently.
- **9. Watch condition regularly.** Body condition score and performance will show whether the ration is suitable.
- **10. Keep water available.** A horse cannot use feed properly without access to clean water.

A straightforward **horse feeding chart** can aid beginners follow the logic behind these rules. For example, a horse in light work may need mainly forage plus a balancer, while a harder-working horse may need forage plus a more energy-dense feed. The chart should be tailored to suit individual bodyweight, season, turnout, age and digestibility.

These rules are also a reminder that horse feeding is not just about adding more feed. Sometimes the right answer is better hay, more forage, improved routine or a different product form. The best approach is always the one that protects the horse’s condition without overloading the ration.

How much horse feed should you give?

The right amount depends on the horse's bodyweight, workload, forage intake and the type of feed being used. A **horse feeding chart** is a practical starting point, but it should never replace observation. A horse that looks too lean, overly energetic, or too fleshy may need the ration adjusting.

A **overweight horse feed horse feed calculator uk** can help estimate requirements, especially if it allows you to enter bodyweight, [fibre concentrated horse feed](#) exercise level and forage intake. These tools are helpful for planning, but they still rely on accurate input. If you do not know the horse's actual bodyweight, use a weigh tape as a rough guide and confirm changes by monitoring condition over time.

For **horse feed for beginners**, the simplest rule is to begin gradually and review often. Begin by working out how much hay or haylage the horse eats, then decide whether the diet needs a balancer, a complete feed or more energy from concentrates. Feed manufacturers often suggest a minimum amount needed for the product to function as a **complete horse feed**, so check the bag carefully before reducing servings.

As a broad guide, a horse that is in maintenance may need only forage plus a low-rate balancer, while a horse in performance work might need a fuller ration. If the horse is gaining weight too easily, lower energy-dense feeds before cutting forage too sharply. If the horse is losing weight, increase the forage supply first, then consider a more suitable feed with better digestibility and calorie density.

It is also important to note that different feed forms have different feeding rates. A balancer may be fed in small quantities, while a mix or complete feed may be fed at several kilograms a day depending on the product and the horse. Always use the product-specific guide and adjust gradually. That is one reason **horse feed advice uk** often stresses that there is no one-size-fits-all amount for every horse.

What is the cost of horse feed?

Horse feed cost varies widely depending on the feed type, brand, nutrient density and feeding rate. The question **how much does horse feed cost** is not only about the price of a bag, but also about how long that bag lasts and whether the feed is designed to be used at a low or high rate.

For example, a balancer may appear expensive per bag, but because the daily serving is small, the cost per day can be reasonable. A complete feed may cost more per bag but replace several separate products, making it easier and sometimes more economical overall. By contrast, a cheaper feed that needs a large daily amount may end up costing more over time.

Different **horse feed companies** market their products differently. Some focus on performance nutrition with specific protein and energy content. Others emphasise fibre-led diets or products for easy keepers. Comparing brands fairly means checking not just the headline price, but also the feeding rate, nutrient density, and whether the feed is intended as a complete horse feed or just part of a ration.

When budgeting, remember that forage is part of the overall cost too. Hay and haylage can make up a large share of annual feeding spend. If forage quality is strong, a smaller amount of concentrate feed may be needed. If forage quality is limited, more support from compound feed may be required. In that sense, the cheapest bag is not always the best value. The right diet is the one that maintains condition, supports performance and suits the horse's bodyweight without waste.

How to read a horse feed label and compare products

To assess feeds properly, you need to read the label. This is where many owners start to see the difference between products from **horse feed companies**. A good label should provide the ingredient profile, feeding rate, analytical constituents and whether the feed is a **complete horse feed** or a complementary one.

First with the guaranteed analysis. Look at digestible energy, protein, fibre, starch and sugar. A feed higher in digestible energy may suit performance work or weight gain, but it may not suit a horse that needs a calmer diet. A feed with a strong fibre profile may be better for gut health and steadier energy levels.

Then check whether the product is designed as a mix, balancer, cube, pellet or mash. These **types of horse feed** affect palatability and how the horse consumes the ration. Some horses prefer a soft mash, while others do better with cubes or pellets that slow intake and encourage chewing. The texture and form can matter almost as much as the ingredient list.

Look carefully at the feeding instructions. A product may only count as a complete horse feed if the horse receives the recommended daily amount. Feeding less than that can mean vitamins, minerals and protein are no longer fully balanced. This is why **horse feed advice uk** commonly recommends checking whether a product is meant to stand alone or be combined with forage and supplements.

It also helps to compare how the feed supports the horse's current purpose. A performance ration may prioritise energy and palatability, while a maintenance ration may focus on fibre, minerals and controlled starch. The most useful label is the one that helps you match the feed to workload, body condition and forage availability rather than simply reading marketing claims.

Good habits for feeding routines, fibre and water

Consistent habits are one of the most essential **horse feeding rules**. Horses do best when feeding times are consistent, forage is available for as much of the day as possible, and water is always clean and accessible. These habits support digestion, behaviour and overall condition.

A workable routine starts with **forage**. Whether you use **hay** or **haylage**, the aim is to keep the gut working evenly and avoid long gaps without fibre. That is especially relevant for horses on limited concentrates or those on a more forage-based ration. For many horses, forage should make up the largest part of the diet by far.

Concentrates should be fed in line with the horse's needs, not out of habit. If a horse is in gentle work, it may not need much more than a supplement balancer and forage. If it is in more intense work, the ration may need extra digestible energy, protein and minerals. Even then, it is usually better to divide larger feed amounts into smaller meals where practical.

Water is just as important as feed. Without enough water, digestion suffers and feed use becomes less efficient. This matters for all horses, but especially when feeding dry rations, cubes. Warm **mash** can encourage intake in some horses, but it should complement, not replace, good water provision.

For **horse feed for beginners**, a clear daily structure can be very helpful: forage first, feed according to workload, review body condition every week, and adjust slowly. A basic **horse feeding chart** can keep this process consistent. If the horse's condition changes, revisit the ration before the problem grows. Good feeding is about watching, not just routine.

Frequently asked questions about horse feed and Spillers

What is the best horse feed for a beginner?

The best **horse feed** for a beginner is usually a straightforward ration based on forage, with a low-rate feed balancer or a complete feed if extra nutrients are needed. The best choice depends on bodyweight, workload, condition and how much hay or haylage the horse already eats. Beginners should keep the ration uncomplicated and avoid overfeeding concentrates.

Is Spillers' horse feed a fully balanced feed?

Some **spillers horse feed** products are designed as **complete horse feed**, while others are supplementary feeds or balancers. This depends on the specific product and the feeding rate used. Make sure to read the label carefully, because a feed only counts as complete when the horse receives the recommended amount.

How much horse feed should I give my horse each day?

There is no single answer for every horse. Rely on a **horse feed calculator uk** as a starting point, then adjust based on bodyweight, exercise level, forage intake and condition. A **horse feeding chart** can help, but the horse's shape, performance and appetite should shape the final ration.

How much does horse feed cost on average?

Horse feed cost depends on the product type and feeding rate. A bag of balancer may cost more than a basic mix, but it often lasts longer because the daily amount is smaller. Complete feeds can be economical if they replace several separate products. To judge **how much does horse feed cost** fairly, look at cost per day rather than bag price alone.

What is the difference between a horse feed balancer and a mix?

A **balancer** is a concentrated feed that supplies vitamins, minerals, protein and other nutrients in a small amount, often with limited calories. A **mix** usually provides more digestible energy and is often used for horses needing more fuel for performance or weight gain. The right choice depends on the horse's diet, workload and whether the aim is maintenance, condition or performance support.