

Grass - Is It The Ideal Feed?

At last the rugs are off and the horses are enjoying the sun on their backs whilst they munch on grass. But is that the ideal feed? Working out energy, protein and fibre intake at grass is difficult. Horses can be monitored by condition scoring and weigh taping and also by their performance. Other nutrients also influence the general health and performance of the horse but are less easy to monitor. Minerals are key in the immune system, stamina, skin and hoof quality, fertility - in fact in every aspect of the functioning of the animal. It is important to provide for your horse's needs in order to get the best out of it whether competing at an advanced level, enjoying summer hacking or breeding.

Pasture management, particularly appropriate liming of grazing fields can have a very beneficial effect on the mineral supply to your horse. Even at its best your grass is unlikely to supply the ideal mineral balance to give your horse the best support.

Many horses are not fed or are on significantly smaller feeds in the summer yet still need their mineral supply balancing. Selection of a balancer or powdered supplement depends on your own management system. For those not getting a daily bucket feed, a pasture lick can be a great way of supplying horses with a daily mineral supplement. A Pasture Balancer Block can be left with a group of grazing animals all the time allowing them to top up on their mineral and vitamin requirements throughout the day helping make them ready for anything when you are ready to have some fun.

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