

**Table 1. Daily Nutrient Requirements of Horses Based on mature weight of 1000 to 1200 lbs**

	Daily Feed Per Horse lbs.	Digestible Protein lbs.	Total Digestible Nutrients lbs.	Calcium grams	Phosphorus grams	Vitamin A Int'l. Units*
400 pound weaning - (age about 6 months)	11 to 12	1.0 to 1.2	8.0 to 9.0	33.0	21.0	12,000
600 to 700 pound yearling	13 to 14	1.6 to 1.8	9.0 to 10.0	33.0	21.0	16,000
800 to 1000 pound 2 year old	15 to 16	1.3 to 1.5	10.0 to 11.4	17.0	17.0	25,000
1000 lb. mature idle horse - (less than 1 hour riding daily)	16 to 17	0.6 to 0.8	6.0 to 8.1	12.0	12.0	8,000
1000 lb. horse - light work - 1 to 3 hours riding daily	16 to 17	0.8 to 1.0	8.0 to 11.0	24.0	21.0	18,000
1000 lb. horse - medium work - 3 to 5 hours riding daily	19 to 20	0.9 to 1.1	11.0 to 14.0	24.0	21.0	18,000
1000 lb. horse - hard work - more than 5 hours riding daily	22 to 23	1.2 to 1.4	14.0 to 17.0	24.0	21.0	18,000
1000 lb. breeding stallion (moderate breeding)	20 to 22	1.6 to 1.7	13.0 to 15.0	60.0	40.0	32,000
1000 lb. bred mare - light work	18 to 20	1.1 to 1.3	10.0 to 12.0	24.0	24.0	24,000
1000 lb. lactating mare	28 to 30	1.9 to 2.1	18.0 to 20.0	40.0	40.0	40,000

\* Horses can use carotene to produce Vitamin A at the rate of 400 International Units of Vitamin A from 1 mg. of carotene

Your 4-H horse project offers an opportunity for you to learn how to balance a ration. To accomplish this, you must be accurate in your addition, multiplication, division and subtraction. You will be working with percentages, so be sure and watch decimal placings.

You can use Nutrient Requirement Tables in two ways: (1) to check the ration being fed to see if it is balanced, and (2) to formulate an adequate ration for your horse.

Follow this procedure in checking through the example ration and in working out a ration for your horse on the blank sheet.

- 1) Determine the age, weight and type of work your horse is doing.
- 2) Fill in Section 3 of the enclosed work sheet from Table 1, Daily Nutrient Requirements of Horses.
- 3) List available feeds in Section 1 of your work sheet, giving attention to each column. If you have actual analysis on your feeds, use these. If not, take average analysis from Table 2.
- 4) Weigh the amount of each feedstuff being fed daily. If a mixed feed is being used, you can either find out the amount of each feed ingredient that is in the mixture or use analysis of the mixture from the feed tag.

5) Multiply each figure in Section 1 by the pounds fed daily (Section 2, column 1). Record the results in the appropriate columns of Section 2 on your work sheet.

6) Add the columns in Section 2. This gives the total amount of each nutrient in your horse ration.

7) Check these totals against the "Daily Nutrient Requirements" listed in Section 3 of your work sheet. If the "requirement" is more than the totals in your ration, you will know that your ration is inadequate. Your next step is to find a feed ingredient that is a good source of the deficient nutrient and either substitute this new feedstuff for one you are now using or add this new ingredient to your horse ration. After doing this, you should refigure your totals to be sure other nutrients are not out of balance. Excesses of some nutrients can interfere with use of others in addition to being a waste of feed and money. For example, excess calcium can prevent complete utilization of phosphorus in a ration.

**Table 2. Average Nutrient Content of Feeds**

<b>Feed</b>	<b>Digestible Protein %</b>	<b>Total Digestible Nutrients %</b>	<b>Calcium grams per lb.</b>	<b>Phosphorus grams per lb.</b>	<b>Carotene mg. per lb. ‡</b>
<b>Concentrates</b>					
<b>Rolled Oats</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>0.41</b>	<b>1.95</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Corn No. 2</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>0.09</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>Rolled Milo</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Rolled Barley</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>80.0</b>	<b>0.41</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Wheat Bran</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>5.90</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>Wheat</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>1.86</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>Soybean Oil</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>78.0</b>	<b>1.27</b>	<b>2.77</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Linseed Meal</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>1.60</b>	<b>3.20</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Molasses</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>53.7</b>	<b>3.35</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Roughages</b>					
<b>Timothy</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>10.0</b>
<b>Oat Hay (green)</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>47.3</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>14.0</b>
<b>Wheat Hay</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>14.0</b>
<b>Smooth Brome</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>1.18</b>	<b>16.7</b>
<b>Crested</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Kentucky Blue</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>20.0</b>
<b>Prairie Hay</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>2.80</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>14.0</b>
<b>Clover-Timothy</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>6.1</b>
<b>Alfalfa</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>6.60</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>16.8</b>
<b>Ladino Clover</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>6.20</b>	<b>1.60</b>	<b>73.1</b>
<b>Red Clover</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>44.3</b>	<b>6.13</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>16.7</b>
<b>Mixed Grass</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>2.65</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>9.0</b>
<b>Reed Canary</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>0.82</b>	<b>7.0</b>
<b>Oat Straw</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>0.0</b>

‡ Convert Carotene to International Units of Vitamin A by multiplying by 400

## BALANCING HORSE RATIONS - WORK SHEET

Animal Mature Horse Weight 1050 Age 7 Work Classification Medium

## Section 1

## Composition of Feeds

3 to 5 hours  
riding daily

Feed	Digestible Protein %	T.D.N. %	Calcium grams per lb.	Phosphorus grams per lb.	Vitamin A International Units per lb. of feed
<u>Timothy</u>	<u>4.6</u>	<u>51.0</u>	<u>1.04</u>	<u>0.91</u>	<u>4000</u>
<u>Barley</u>	<u>10.6</u>	<u>80.0</u>	<u>0.41</u>	<u>2.13</u>	<u>—</u>
<u>Molasses</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>53.7</u>	<u>3.35</u>	<u>0.36</u>	<u>—</u>

## Section 2

## Quantity of Nutrients in Feeds Being Used

Feed	Lbs. fed	Digestible Protein lbs.	T.D.N. lbs.	Calcium gm.	Phosphorus gm.	Vitamin A I.U.
<u>Timothy</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0.55</u>	<u>6.1</u>	<u>12.5</u>	<u>10.9</u>	<u>48000</u>
<u>Barley</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0.53</u>	<u>4.0</u>	<u>2.1</u>	<u>10.7</u>	<u>—</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>17</u>	<u>1.08</u>	<u>10.1</u>	<u>14.6</u>	<u>21.6</u>	<u>48000</u>

## Section 3

**Daily Nutrient Requirements**  
(Based on air-dry feed containing 90 percent dry matter)

Size and Use of Horse	Lbs. fed	Digestible Protein lbs.	T.D.N. lbs.	Calcium gm.	Phosphorus gm.	Vitamin A I.U.
<u>1050# Mod. Work</u>	<u>19 to 20</u>	<u>0.9 to 1.1</u>	<u>11.0 to 14.0</u>	<u>24.0</u>	<u>21.0</u>	<u>18000</u>

## Section 4

## Balancing Ration and Meeting Requirements

Total from Section 2	<u>17</u>	<u>1.08</u>	<u>10.1</u>	<u>14.6</u>	<u>21.6</u>	<u>48000</u>
Ration deficiency	<u>1 to 3</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>0.9 to 3.9</u>	<u>9.4</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Supplement <u>Molasses</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1.6</u>	<u>10.1</u>	<u>1.1</u>	
Balanced ration	<u>20</u>	<u>1.08</u>	<u>11.7</u>	<u>24.7</u>	<u>22.7</u>	<u>48000</u>

## BALANCING HORSE RATIONS - WORK SHEET

Animal \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Work  
 Classification \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 1

### Composition of Feeds

Feed	Digestible Protein %	T.D.N. %	Calcium grams per lb.	Phosphorus grams per lb.	Vitamin A International Units per lb. of feed

### Section 2

### Quantity of Nutrients in Feeds Being Used

Feed	Lbs. fed	Digestible Protein lbs.	T.D.N. lbs.	Calcium gm.	Phosphorus gm.	Vitamin A I.U.
<b>Total</b>						

### Section 3

### Daily Nutrient Requirements (Based on air-dry feed containing 90 percent dry matter)

Size and Use of Horse	Lbs. fed	Digestible Protein lbs.	T.D.N. lbs.	Calcium gm.	Phosphorus gm.	Vitamin A I.U.

### Section 4

### Balancing Ration and Meeting Requirements

<b>Total from Section 2</b>						
<b>Ration deficiency</b>						
<b>Supplement</b>						
<b>Balanced ration</b>						

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