

Emergency Preparation

1. If possible, never leave your animals behind during an evacuation. Animals left behind can easily get injured, lost, or killed. If animals are tied to something, their chance of survival is greatly reduced.
2. If you are unable to take your horses with you, it is crucial to leave as much food and water for them as possible. Put it in multiple places where they can have access to it. If possible, place the food and water in dry areas
3. Identify your horse with either a tattoo or a microchip.
4. Disasters occur without warning sometimes, so you should prepare early, especially since horses are too large to sit in your lap during the drive. Have an emergency evacuation kit ready that includes halters and feed tubs and other necessities that your horse will need. You may want to put a few toys and bedding supplies in the kit to help reduce your horses stress. If you do not prepare early, it may result in leaving your horses behind risking their safety and survival.
5. If you do not have a trailer, make arrangements with a friend, humane society, equestrian center, owner of a private farm to stable your horses until the disaster is over.
6. Have a halter ready for each horse with your personal information on it such as your name, horses, name, phone number, and a second emergency number.
7. Consider the disaster beforehand. Would your horses be safe with you or would they



Basic Tips for an Equestrian

103 Harvest Lane
Haughton, LA 71037
Phone: 318-426-4710



Basic Tips for an Equestrian

- 6 Dietary Requirements for Sound Nutrition
- Nutrient Suggestions
- Feeding Guidelines
- Toxicities
- Deficiencies
- Emergency Preparation





Six Basic Dietary Requirements for Sound Nutrition

1. **Water**
2. **Energy**
3. **Protein**
4. **Vitamins**
5. **Major/Minor Minerals**
6. **Forage**

1. **Water** is the single most important dietary requirement. A horse can survive 25 days without feed, but can only go without water for 5 days.

2. **Energy**- Carbohydrates supplied by forage and grain are the primary sources of energy for horses. Fat is 2.25 times more energy dense than carbohydrates, and can also provide an important source of energy. Just like humans, each horse has an individual energy requirement that is influenced by many factors.
3. **Protein**- Essential for the formation of all body cells, especially muscle, enzymes, blood, hormones, hooves, and hair cells. As a horse matures their need for protein decreases, except with pregnant or lactating mares or performance horses.
4. **Vitamins**- Vitamins are needed in very small amounts to help the animal grow and develop properly. Vitamins are also essential for the health and reproduction in all animals.
5. **Minerals**- Minerals interact with one another so it is important to make sure there is a proper balance. Too much of one mineral might make another mineral deficient. There are more problems associated with mineral excesses than there are mineral deficiencies.
6. **Forage**- Pasture is a horse's natural habitat. If good pasture is not available, hay is the next alternative. It is best to provide good quality hay, green and leafy, and free of dust and mold.

Nutrient Suggestions

You want to make sure your horse receives a proper balance between water, forage and feed. Incorporating nutrients, vitamins and minerals into any feed you purchase may be essential to the health of your horse. Here are a few things to consider:

- **Higher Fat**- Delivers more calories per pound of feed, better weight gain, shinier coat, and improved muscle performance.
- **Yeast Culture**- Increases fiber digestion and improves intestinal health.
- **Organic Minerals**- More readily absorbed and metabolized compared to inorganic minerals.
- **Vitamin E & Selenium**- Critical for optimum function of the reproductive, muscular, circulatory, nervous, and immune systems.
- **Lysine**- Critical for growth, muscle, and tissue development.
- **Biotin**- Improves hoof quality.

Feeding Guidelines

- If you decide to change your feed, take it slow. Make all feed changes gradually over a 7-10 day period.
- Feed good quality hay that is free from dust and mold.
- Most horses should eat between 2-4% of their body weight daily in pounds of hay or other feeds.
- Feed at regular intervals, 2-3 times daily containing no more than 0.5% of their body weight per feeding (5 lbs. for 1,000 lb. horse).
- Prevent your horse from consuming large amounts of grain rapidly.
- Provide free choice access to mineral supplements.
- Feed by weight not by volume. Know the weight of your hay and grain feed.
- Store feed in a dry, well-ventilated area protected from insects and rodents.
- Provide daily exercise or turnout, don't keep your horse in a stall for 24 hours.

Additional Feeding Guidelines



- Allow horses to eat in a natural position from troughs with large bottoms, placed at normal head height or lower.
- In the winter, the amount of feed should be increased by about 10-15% to make up for the body heat losses.
- Provide plenty of fresh, clean, and unfrozen water at all times, except when the horse is extremely hot. Allow the horse a few sips of water every 3-5 minutes until they have properly cooled down.
- Check teeth regularly. Sharp teeth can cause problems with eating and performance.

Toxicities & Deficiencies



Weight Loss- Inadequate feed, bad teeth, parasite overload, heavy metal toxicity, and problems with absorption.

Anemia- Too much or too little iron and deficiency of copper.

Developmental Orthopedic Disease- Excess energy intake or imbalance of Ca, P, Cu, Zn, I, Se.

Rhabdomyolysis- Excess carbohydrate intake, deficient in electrolytes and vitamin E.

Spasmodic Colic- Sudden changes in feed, grain overload, toxic plants.

Impaction Colic- Inadequate water intake, sudden change in feed.

Laminitis- Grain or carbohydrate overload, exposure to toxins.