The Brooks Hoofbeat

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Spring 2018

BROOKS PERFORMANCE HORSE FEEDS
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Product Description

*NEW! Brooks Senior

Brooks Senior incorporated the latest research and manufacturing technology to help active older horses stay fit, and retirees stay healthy and vibrant.

- ✓ **Enhanced protein level!**
- ✓ **Added fat from flax and rice bran!**
- ✓ **Prebiotic and probiotic!**
- ✓ **Super fibers for digestive health!**
- ✓ **Chelated minerals!**
- ✓ **Natural source Vitamin E and organic selenium!**

See our descriptive information sheet at the end of the newsletter for full specs on Brooks senior.

Loris Epis and Laurie Bishop (Brooks Feeds) at the Can-Am Equine Expo

Lush Grass: Good or Bad?

Lush new spring grass, mature summer grass, and dried autumn grass contain the same basic ingredients–water, vitamins, minerals, protein, starch, and structural fiber among other things—but the proportions of these ingredients are far different depending on season. Spring grass grows very rapidly, containing a large proportion (up to 80% or more) of water. This grass is generally soft and easy to chew because the amount of indigestible fiber is less than in mature grass.

Because there is so much liquid in new spring grass, all the other components are found in lower proportions compared to mature grass, so the horse gets less starch per mouthful of grass than when grazing in the summer. However, because this soft grass is so palatable, horses tend to ingest a larger overall volume of forage, so their intake of all nutrients may actually be fairly similar in spring, summer, and early fall.

Fructans are specially adapted sugars that are found in cool-season forages. Fructans are produced by photosynthesis that occurs in the leaves during daylight hours. During the dark (overnight) phase of photosynthesis, plants use the sugars to grow more leaves and stems. Extra sugars that are not used for growth are stored within the plant tissues. Many cool-season grasses store fructans in the lower two inches of the stem just above the soil line.

Temperatures at night are critical in determining sugar content of the grass blades. If the temperature is not above 40° F (4° C) at night, the plant will not grow, and sugars remain in the leaves in high concentrations. Research has shown that under certain climate conditions and at some growth stages, fructans may reach very high concentrations (as much as 50% of dry matter). Pastured horses relish the sweet taste and will search out and preferentially graze plants with higher sugar content.

The unique chemical structure of fructans prevents breakdown in the stomach and small intestine. For this reason, these easily fermented sugars pass into the hindgut, a situation that leads to rapid production of lactic acid and an accumulation in the hindgut. This accumulation of lactic acid is a direct cause of colic and laminitis in pastured horses.

Virtually all horses are subject to some digestive upsets associated with lush spring pasture. The content of highly fermentable carbohydrates in lush pasture can be overwhelming to the digestive system. Horses and ponies that are overweight with insulin resistance and associated high levels of circulating pro-inflammatory agents produced by fat (equine metabolic

syndrome) are particularly susceptible to pastures with high fructan content. However, many horses are able to handle some amount of pasture turnout if their digestive tracts are allowed time to adapt gradually to the dietary change and if a hindgut buffer is used to help neutralize lactic acid.

How can horse owners minimize the health challenges associated with lush pasture?

- Continue to offer hay even though the grass is growing well. New grass contains a lot of water and little fiber, and horses may crave the fiber found in hay.
- Monitor horses as grass begins to grow in the spring. To allow the digestive system to adapt to lush grass, begin with short periods of grazing and gradually increase time on pasture.
- Check frequently (several times a day) for signs such as warm hooves or horses walking as though their feet may be painful. Horses that have been grazing through the winter and early spring are at somewhat less risk than horses that have been stalled and are suddenly turned out into lush fields.
- Use a grazing muzzle to restrict intake, and consider the use of a hindgut buffer, such as EquiShure®, to neutralize lactic acid.
- Overweight horses, horses with known metabolic problems such as Cushing's disease, and pony breeds may be at increased risk, but any horse may develop problems after grazing lush pasture.
- Spring grass is a known danger, but stressed grasses may store large quantities of fructans during other seasons due to drought, overgrazing, temperature fluctuations, and other conditions. For susceptible horses, there is no safe time to allow unlimited pasture access.
- If grazing horses show signs of problems (colic, warm hooves, reluctance to move because of hoof pain), remove them from the pasture and call a veterinarian.

By Kentucky Equine Research Staff

Customer testimonials

“This mare spent the winter outside during the daylight with shelter from wind and wet, she was inside in a stall at night. No clothing, just her own fur. She was fed good quality grass/legume hay (she's not pregnant). By late January I could tell she would be a little bit ribby by spring unless she had a few extra calories through the cold months. (I add that this mare would be skipping about and kicking the barn down if she had too many sugary calories) Brooks Feeds has an interactive website, and nutritionist at hand to advise on an appropriate ration. I filled out the forms on the website, and the next morning I had a message from their nutritionist with a recommendation. I was so impressed. We put Willow on a small meal of Brooks' **All Phase 20,** with a top dress of **Flax Appeal**. This I mixed with beet pulp and fed once a day. This photo taken May 9th. She has a little winter fur to lose, but is balanced, not fat, not thin, and shiny as a new coin.
Thank you Brooks Feeds!”
Jean Abernethy

“We have used Brooks Feed exclusively for our horses for many years, and always see results in the horses' weight, performance, coat condition and over-all health. Brooks' representative Laurie Bishop is always helpful, very knowledgeable and will assist you with any questions or concerns you may have. To us, it is important to work with people that are as passionate as we are, and we are very proud to have Brooks and Laurie as a part of our team!"
Jean-Francois Santerre and Eira Engzell
Santerre Show Stables

Product Description

KPP's Contribute

The anti-inflammatory properties of omega-3 fatty acids support every system in your horse's body, including the immune system, reproductive system, inflammatory process, nervous system, bone development, and cardiovascular system. Contribute's unique concentrated formula provides a blend of both marine and plant sources of omega-3 fatty acids for complete coverage.

- ✓ **Add omega-3 fatty acids to your horse's diet**
- ✓ **Guaranteed ratio of 8:1 omega-3 to omega-6 fatty acids**
- ✓ **1 oz provides over 10 g of omega-3 fatty acids**
- ✓ **Helps bring your horse's omega-3 level into balance**
- ✓ **Highly palatable and stabilized**
- ✓ **Provides alpha-linolenic acid from flax plus EPA and DHA from fish oil**

For more information visit:
http://brooksfeeds.com/pdf/products/Contribute.pdf

KPP and KER products are available through Brooks dealers. A complete list of our dealers is available: http://brooksfeeds.com/dealers.php

Kentucky Performance Products, LLC

Kentucky Equine Research®
World Leaders In Equine Nutrition

What Foals Eat When: The First Days, Weeks, Months

"The foal appears to make feeding the second priority after breathing," is a common quote among veterinarians and equine nutritionists. Indeed, a foal is driven to stand within an hour of birth and nurse within two hours.

"A foal's most important meal is that first milk, colostrum, that is packed with infection-fighting, life-saving antibodies and other goodies like protein, energy, and vitamins," confirms Clarissa Brown-Douglas, Ph.D., nutritionist for Kentucky Equine Research (Australia).

But what comes after that first suckle? How do you know your foal is nursing enough (or too much) and growing appropriately? When should "real feed" be introduced?

First Days and Weeks

- The mare's colostrum will be replaced by milk within about 24–36 hours. Generally, a foal weighing 110 lb (50 kg) will consume approximately 15 liters of milk daily.
- In the first few days of life, a foal can nurse as frequently as every 10 minutes, but that usually decreases to once per hour within the first month.
- A healthy mare's milk provides all of the energy and nutrients a foal needs to support rapid, but steady, growth.
- Foals often nibble at grass or the mare's rations, and they can even be seen eating the feces of adult horses. Both behaviors are normal.

The Next Few Months

- Foals learn to eat hay and concentrates. If foals are on pasture, it might take them longer than if they spend part of every day in a stall observing the dam. This might involve creep feeding.

"Creep feeding allows pre-weaning adaptation to a post-weaning nutritional program as well as other benefits. It involves providing a nutrient-dense product designed to meet the demands of a young, growing horse. The feed is not suitable for adults and is therefore placed in a bin or enclosure that only the foal can access," explains Brown-Douglas.

Again, ensuring a steady rate of growth to maximize skeletal health is imperative during this period. This is easily achieved by regular weighing of the growing foal, using electronic scales if available or a weight tape around the horse's belly.

"Monitoring body weight every 30 days or so will allow breeders to determine if a steady growth rate is being achieved. Many breeders find the use of growth-tracking software, such as Gro-Trac™ helpful in managing the growth of their young stock," suggests Brown-Douglas.

Weaning (4–6 Months)

Many foals are weaned during this period, although timing of weaning is variable. The large intestines of foals have been developing over the past few months and now contain the appropriate microorganisms needed to ferment forage. Weaning can be stressful. Growth slumps during this period are not uncommon.

By Kentucky Equine Research Staff

BROOKS
Performance Horse Feeds

Proudly Canadian

www.brooksfeeds.com

Brooks Senior

Complete Nutrition For Senior Equines

Textured

Features and Benefits

- ✓ **Enhanced protein level, added fat and balanced nutrition with reduced NSC. Supports senior horses and contributes to more active, healthier and longer lives.**
- ✓ **High quality, digestible fibre sources including beet pulp, soy hulls and alfalfa meal help to ensure a healthy functioning digestive system while adding safe calories for effective maintenance of seniors.**
- ✓ **Stabilized flax meal is a rich source of Omega 3 fatty acids to enrich the hair coat, contribute to healthy hooves, support the immune system and provide anti-inflammatory support. Rice bran is a good source of digestible fibre and fat.**
- ✓ **A proprietary form of Saccharomyces Cerevisiae a prebiotic and a probiotic containing Saccharomyces Boulardi supports a robust population of hindgut microflora for hind gut health.**
- ✓ **Chelated minerals and total vitamin fortification including B Vitamins like biotin, complement what is lacking in forages. At recommended feeding rates no supplementation is necessary. Senior horses are better able to utilize minerals in a chelated form.**
- ✓ ***Brooks exclusive Oxiguard system of natural source Vitamin E and organic selenium synergistically act as effective antioxidants to minimize muscle soreness and fatigue.***

Guaranteed Analysis

Crude Protein (min.)	**14 %**
Crude Fibre (max.)	**20%**
Crude Fat (min.)	**8.0 %**
Calcium (act.)	**.90 %**
Phosphorus (act.)	**.55 %**
Sodium (act.)	**.40 %**
Vitamin A (min.)	**12000 IU/kg.**
Vitamin D (min.)	**1200 IU/kg.**
Vitamin E (min.)	**300 IU/kg.**
Copper (min.)	**50 mg/kg.**
Manganese (min.)	**125 mg/kg.**
Zinc (min.)	**170 mg/kg.**
Iron (min.)	**150 mg/kg.**
Iodine (min.)	**.5 mg/kg.**
Cobalt (min.) * none added	**.5 mg/kg.**
Selenium (min. added)	**.5 mg/kg.**
NSC (reduced)	
Included Nutritional Enhancements	
Biotin	**.35 mg/kg.**
Thiamine	**12.5 mg/kg.**
Riboflavin	**14 mg/kg.**
Omega 3 fatty acids	**1.1%**
Omega 6 fatty acids	**3.9 %**
Lysine	**.9%**
Saccharomyces boulardii	
Saccharomyces cerevisiae	

Ingredients

Soya Hulls, Wheat Shorts, Alfalfa Meal, Extruded corn, Beet pulp, Stabilized flax meal, Rice bran, Soybean meal, Soya Oil, Molasses, Salt, Prebiotic Saccharomyces Cerevisiae, Saccharomyces boulardii probiotic, Limestone, Dical biophos, Natural source Vitamin E, Zinc Sulfate, Manganese Sulfate, Bioplex Equine formula, Copper Sulfate, Choline Chloride, Iron Sulfate, Folic acid premix, Mineral oil, Selenium premix, Sel-Plex 2000 Altech, Niacin, Vitamin B12, Vitamin A, Calcium d-Pantothenate, Riboflavin, Vitamin K, Biotin, Thiamine Mononitrate, Vitamin D3, Biofix(mold inhibiter), Pyridoxine HCL, Endox dry (anti-oxidant), Calcium Iodate.

Brooks Senior is formulated with carefully selected ingredients to ensure maximum palatability, consistency and quality!

Guaranteed Quality ***Ultimate Performance*** ***Industry Leading Research***

Contact your retailer or call 905-985-7992

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