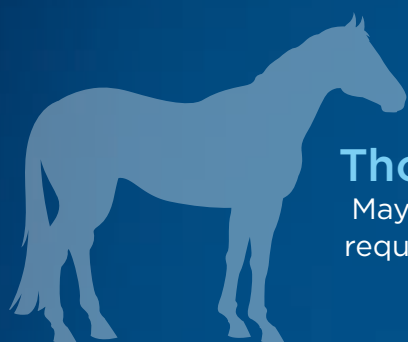




- SEASONAL CARE -

Preparing for Winter

Your horse's daily nutritional requirements will change in the winter. The cold weather puts extra demand on a horse's metabolism, and more energy is required for day to day activities. Many horses will need additional feed for maintenance, conditioning, and work.

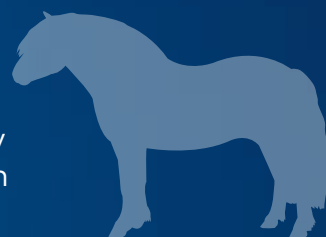


Thoroughbreds

May be poor doers and require extra calories to maintain condition.

Ponies

Manage well in winter and rarely need a change in management.



Monitoring

To avoid winter weight loss start monitoring your horse's weight at the end of summer and into Autumn. This will help you notice if they begin to lose condition. If you have access to weigh scales or a weigh tape, use them once a week and record your measurements to monitor changes. Alternatively, watch your horse's body condition carefully.

Use the Barastoc Body Condition Score and check and record their condition score on a weekly or fortnightly basis to ensure that you notice even small changes before they start to become a problem

You can find this tool and others under the 'Resources' section of our website:
barastochorse.com.au



Remember that your horse does not need to be in "show condition" all winter

horses come first



- SEASONAL CARE -

Preparing for Winter

Top Tips for Winter Forage

- ✓ Forage should be the basis of all horse's diets
- ✓ Each horse should consume at least 1.5% of their body weight in pasture and/or hay daily.
- ✓ If pastures are low, then supplementary hay will be required.
- ✓ Pasture or grass blends are a good choice for most horses.
- ✓ Cereal hays (oaten) and legume hay (Lucerne) contain more energy than grass hay.
- ✓ Well-made grass/clover or grass/lucerne mixes can be great for horses in winter.
- ✓ Look for plenty of leaf, and soft wispy stems, as this shows that the hay was harvested at the time when the nutrient composition was at its peak.
- ✓ Always ask your hay supplier for a nutrient analysis, so you know what you are feeding.

Management

Some horses are unable to maintain condition on forage alone and need the increased energy density of grain.

Look for complete feeds that are fully balanced and have enough supplementary minerals and vitamins. High fat feeds can also be great in the cold weather for preventing weight loss. Fat contains 2 ½ to 3 times the energy of grain and is a great way of increasing calories in the diet without feeding large amounts.

Did you know?

Good fat sources are vegetable oils, sunflower seeds (25-30% fat) and rice bran (15-20% fat)

Topping up your horse's fibre intake with beet pulp such as SpeediBeet is a great way to add safe energy to the diet.

