

Nutritional history form – Horse

This nutritional history form, completed by you, allows us to assess the current diet and make any recommendations to fully balance and optimize the ration.

A fully calculated and balanced dietary advice costs € 120 euro (VAT excl.).

Step-by-step plan: what information do we need?

- step 1: take pictures of your horse(s), the pasture and the roughage
- step 2: measure the chest girth / length of your horse
- step 3: determine your horse's body condition score
- step 4: weigh all feeds using a scale (no scoop sizes, but in kg)
- step 5: consult your personal veterinarian*
- step 6: complete this form
- step 7: mail everything to dienstpaardenvoeding@ugent.be

** the Horse Nutrition Department will only provide nutritional advice, preferably after a general examination/ health check by your veterinarian*

Details of owner

Name + first name:

Address:

Phone number:

Mobile:.....

E-mail:

Details of referring veterinarian

Name + first name:

Address:

Phone number:

Mobile:.....

E-mail:

Details of horse

Name:

Breed:

Date of birth:

Sex:

Chest girth (see below): cm

Length (see below): cm

Recent weight / estimated weight of your horse (see below): kg

BCS (body condition score) of your horse (see below): out of 9

Why are you asking for nutritional advice?

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a/ Current diet of the horse

Please list below the brand, product name (if applicable) and quantities of ALL feed products and supplements your horse is currently receiving.

1. Concentrate (weigh with a scale; no scoop sizes)

Brand / variety	Quantity per meal	Number of meals	Fed since
<i>EXAMPLES</i>			
<i>Cavalor Strucomix Original</i>	<i>1 kg</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>May 2020</i>
<i>Pavo Nature's Best</i>	<i>1,5 kgs</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Oct 2021</i>
<i>Lannoo Fibermix</i>	<i>600 grams</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Jan 2022</i>

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What is the maximum number of meals you can give your horse per day? *E.g. only 1 meal a day or are there multiple meal moments?*

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2. Roughage (weigh with a scale, e.g. use a hanging scale / pull spring)



Brand / variety	Quantity per meal	Number of meals	Fed since
<i>EXAMPLES</i>			
Haylage**	4 kgs	3	June 2022
Carrots	0,5 kg	1	2016
Beetroot pulp	0,2 kg	2	May 2020

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**If you use haylage: is this haylage very wet, or is this average haylage with a moisture percentage of around 30%?

How is roughage provided?

- ☐ on the ground
- ☐ in a rack
- ☐ in a hay net / slow feeder
- ☐ other:.....

3. Supplements (weigh with a scale; no scoop sizes)

Brand / variety	Quantity per meal	Number of meals	Fed since
<i>EXAMPLE</i>			
Pavo BiotinForte	20 grams	1	Sept 2023
Cavalor OilMega	50 ml	2	Oct 2022
St Hippolyt Semper Min	60 grams	1	December 7 th , 2023

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b/ Housing and activity levels

Where is your horse accommodated? *E.g. on a breeding farm, in a private stable, in a sports stable, in a (large/small) riding school, at home*

How is your horse accommodated?

- ☐ Always in a box, bedding:
- ☐ Always on pasture (24/24, 7/7)
- ☐ Alternately on pasture and in a box,

number of hours on pasture :

bedding box:

Does your horse have company?

- No, horse is on its own
- Together with other horses, how many?.....
- Together with other animals (sheep/goats/cattle/...):

State of the pasture? (*please attach an overview and detail photo*)

- Bare
- Moderate amount of grass
- Rich pasture

Is there MAPLE on the pasture? ☐ no ☐ yes

➔ Note that during the autumn period, maple poses a risk of atypical myopathy!

Type of activity?

- No activity at all
- Recreational, discipline:
- Sport at regional level, discipline and class:
- Sport at national level, discipline and class:
- Sport at international level, discipline and class:

How many days of activity per week?

How many hours of activity per day?

How many minutes of step?

How many minutes of trot?

How many minutes of gallop?

How many minutes of jumping?

c/ Medical info

Does your horse have (had) any medical problems? *E.g. history of colic, diarrhea, laminitis, muscle issues...*

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Is your horse currently taking medication? If so, which?

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When was the last time your horse underwent a dental examination?

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Was this dental examination carried out by ☐ your veterinarian ☐ the equine dentist?

Was the horse sedated for this examination? ☐ no ☐ yes

d/ Miscellaneous

Do we need to take other factors into account when making nutritional advice?

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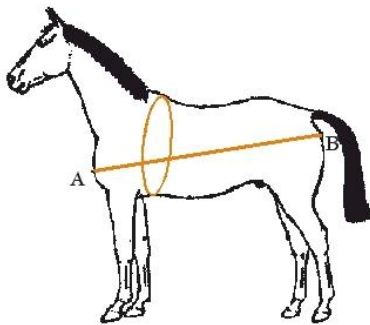
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Please also provide us with the following

1. **Photos** of your horse(s): a front view, side view (neck side without mane), rear view and if possible also a top view. Additional photos of the pasture, stabling, roughage (hay / haylage /...) and the like are also always welcome so that we can get a complete picture of the current situation.

2. We ask for your horse's **body weight**. If you do not have your horse's recent weight, you can use the formula below to estimate your horse's body weight. You can use an ordinary tape measure, where you (1) measure the chest girth by applying the tape measure just behind the withers around the belly and (2) measure the length from the shoulder to the end of the buttock (A to B). If you enter

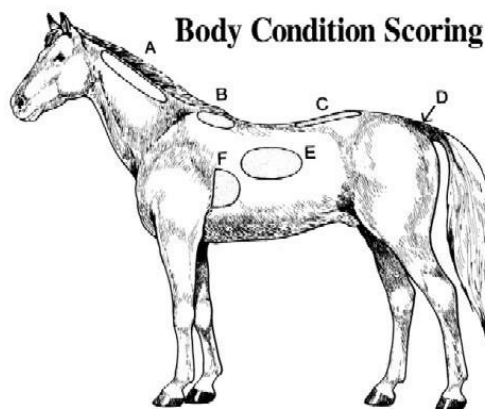
both values in the following formula, you can thus calculate the current body weight:



$$[\text{chest girth (cm)} \times \text{chest girth (cm)} \times \text{length (cm)}] / 11.877 = \text{body weight (kg)}$$

In order to obtain the best possible estimate, we always recommend taking the measurement 3 times. Please also write down your measurement results, as you can use them to further monitor your horse's weight.

3. We ask you to assign a **body condition score** (from 1 to 9) to your horse(s). This system assigns a number to the amount of fat accumulation in 6 different places on the body: under the mane (A), behind the shoulder (F), near the ribs (E), withers (B), back (C) and tail base (D). You can assess this fat accumulation by visualization and palpation.



CHARACTERISTICS OF BODY CONDITION SCORES

Body condition score	Neck	Withers	Back	Tail base	Ribs	Shoulder
1 Extremely lean	bone structures easy to feel, no fat deposits palpable	bone structures easy to feel	spinous processes protrude clearly	tail base protrude clearly	ribs clearly visible	bone structures easy to feel
2 Very lean	bone structures vaguely discernible	bone structures vaguely discernible	spinous processes palpable, transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded	tail base palpable	ribs visible	bone structures vaguely discernible
3 Lean	accentuated	accentuated	spinous processes are no longer palpable	tail base palpable but individual vertebrae no longer visible	slight covering with fatty tissue but ribs are still visible	accentuated
4 Slim	not overly thin	not overly thin	slight ridge along spine	degree of protrusion depends on physique, some fatty tissue palpable	vague outline distinguishable by eye	not overly thin
5 Average	merges smoothly into chest	rounded over spinous processes	flat (no thickening or elevation)	fatty tissue around tail insert begins to feel spongy	indistinguishable to the naked eye, but easily felt	merges smoothly into chest

6 Medium round	fatty tissue begins to develop	fatty tissue begins to develop	slight thickening along spine possible	fatty tissue around tail base feels soft	fatty tissue over ribs feels spongy, but ribs can be felt	fatty tissue begins to develop behind the shoulder
7 Too round	fat deposits at neck level	fat deposits at withers	slight thickening along spine possible	fatty tissue around tail base feels soft	individual ribs palpable, but noticeable padding with fatty tissue between ribs	fat deposits behind the shoulders
8 Fat	noticeably thickened	filled with fat	thickening along spine	fatty tissue around tail base feels very soft	ribs hard to feel	area behind shoulder filled with fatty tissue
9 Obesity	excess fatty tissue	excess fatty tissue	very distinct thickening along spine	excess fatty tissue at tail base	generous fatty tissue present over the ribs	excess fatty tissue

Source: Henneke et al. Equine Vet J. (1983) 15 (4), 371-2.