

Title	Describe digestion in horses, determine feed requirements and provide a balanced feed for horses		
Level	4	Credits	5

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: describe digestion in horses and the importance of preventative health; determine feed requirements of horses, assess and select feed formulations, and provide a balanced feed for individual horse requirements; and feed a horse as an individual and identify feeding and health problems.
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Classification	Equine > Equine Care
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 Legislation relevant to this unit standard includes but is not limited to:
 - Health and Safety at Work Act 2015; and any subsequent amendments.
- 2 Definition

Workplace procedures are the documented policies and practices for safety and procedures within a particular workplace, and are consistent with the Code of Welfare: Horses and Donkeys (2018) available at <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/11003-horses-and-donkeys-code-of-welfare>.
- 3 For the purposes of assessment:
 - evidence for the practical components of this unit standard must be supplied from the workplace.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Describe digestion in horses and the importance of preventative health.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Describe the components of the digestive tract in terms of their function.

Range	mouth, pharynx, oesophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine.
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1.2 Describe the similarities and differences between digestion in ruminants and monogastrics.

Range stomach capacity, rate of passage of food, site of digestion of roughage.

1.3 Describe features of the digestive tract in terms of the implications for practical feeding of a horse.

Range features of the digestive tract include – gut bacteria specific to individual feed, gut bacteria change gradually, small stomach, rapid digestion, hind gut digestion, large production of saliva, offset jaw, continuous feeding pattern.

1.4 Describe the importance of preventative health for horses.

Range parasite control, teeth, general gut health.

Outcome 2

Determine feed requirements of horses, assess and select feed formulations, and provide a balanced feed for individual horse requirements.

Range broodmare, lactating mare, weanling, yearling, mature horse on maintenance, mature horse in light work, mature horse in medium work, mature horse in heavy work;
evidence of five is required.

Performance criteria

2.1 Determine feed requirements for horses in terms of protein, energy, roughage, calcium, and phosphorous in accordance with workplace procedures.

2.2 Assess and select feed formulations according to individual horse requirements in accordance with workplace procedures.

2.3 Assess and select forms of roughage in accordance with the needs of the horse and local availability in accordance with workplace procedures.

Range pasture, meadow hay, lucerne hay, oaten hay, baleage;
evidence of three is required.

2.4 Calculate quantity of feed according to the requirements of the horse in accordance with workplace procedures.

Range age and developmental requirements, body weight, body condition, work requirements, temperament, pasture quality.

2.5 Assess and adjust the calcium (Ca), phosphorous (P) and protein ratios within acceptable limits for the class of horse in accordance with workplace procedures.

- 2.6 Determine any deficiency of essential nutrients, vitamins and minerals, and provide additives or adjust feed in accordance with workplace procedures.

Range includes but is not limited to – selenium, water, salt, energy, protein; vitamins B1, B12, D, E, K.

Outcome 3

Feed a horse as an individual and identify feeding and health problems.

Range may include but is not limited to – sales horse, spelling racehorse, broodmare, racehorse; evidence of three is required.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Introduce the daily feed in a manner which ensures maximum utilisation by the horse in accordance with workplace procedures.

- 3.2 Manage feeding in accordance with the individual needs of the horse in accordance with workplace procedures.

Range introduction of feed, horse's individual likes and dislikes, feeding habits, temperament, environment, response to feeds, change in behaviour, access to sunlight, metabolic responses, age and developmental requirements, seasonal pasture availability; evidence of eight is required.

- 3.3 Describe why practical feeding should reflect natural feeding patterns of horses in terms of the health of the horse in accordance with workplace procedures.

- 3.4 Identify health problems associated with feeding and implement a course of action taken which is best for the horse in accordance with workplace procedures.

Range health problems may include but are not limited to – colic, laminitis, tying up, choke, ulcers, osteochondrosis dessicans (OCD), overweight/underweight; evidence of three is required.

Planned review date	31 December 2025
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	28 October 1994	31 December 2022
Review	2	23 October 1996	31 December 2022
Review	3	24 June 1998	31 December 2022
Review	4	25 September 2003	31 December 2022
Review	5	18 July 2008	31 December 2022
Review	6	28 May 2020	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference

0018

This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact the Primary ITO standards@primaryito.ac.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.