

More Information

This pamphlet is one in a series written, in conjunction with the Newfoundland Pony Society, on the care of Newfoundland Ponies. Further information can be obtained from these pamphlets; from the many magazines and books on horse care; from your Regional Veterinarian; and from knowledgeable horse people in your area.

Links

Newfoundland Pony Society:

www.newfoundlandpony.com

For more information, please contact your Regional Veterinarian, the Newfoundland Pony Society or the Animal Health Division.

Other information pamphlets are available online from the Department of Natural Resources at:

www.nr.gov.nl.ca/agric/

Publication: HA 00-007
Last Revised: March 2010



Department of Natural Resources
Animal Health Division
P.O. Box 7400
St. John's, NL
A1E 3Y5

t 709.729.6879
f 709.729.0055

animalhealthdivision@gov.nl.ca



Nutrition of the Newfoundland Pony: Feeding Practices



Introduction

Nutrition is an important component of animal husbandry. The body condition, health and performance of your Newfoundland Pony are influenced largely by your feeding program. This pamphlet is the second of two dealing with nutrition. The first was on nutritional requirements.

Feeding Practices

A balanced equine diet is comprised of 5 essential components: water, energy, protein, minerals and vitamins.

The components of an equine feeding program are roughage (hay or pasture) and concentrate (grains or pelleted feeds). A mature pony that is not being worked can maintain good body condition on moderate quality roughage alone, if he is consuming 1-2 % of his body weight per day. If there are additional nutritional demands such as with the working pony or in a harsh climate, the requirements would increase. If the energy and protein requirements cannot be met with a roughage only diet, then a concentrate can be added.

The growing foal, nursing mare and late pregnant mare all have increased energy and protein requirements. To meet these demands, the roughage should be of high quality and an adequate amount of a high protein concentrate fed.

Free choice water and a mineralized salt block should be provided with all feeding programs.

Quality of Feed

Pasture

A grass and legume pasture offers a good supply of nutrients and a long grazing season. There should be minimal weeds present; the more weeds, the poorer the quality. Quality decreases if the pasture is allowed to grow tall and over-mature. Likewise, if pasture is very short due to overgrazing, there will be insufficient roughage available.

Activity Level	Lbs Concentrate /100 lbs BW*	Lbs hay / 100 lbs BW*
Light Work	0.5	1.25 – 1.5
Moderate Work	1.0	1.0 – 1.25
Intense Work	1.25 – 1.5	1.25 – 1.5

**BW = Body Weight*

Hay

Hay should be harvested from good quality pasture and before flowering occurs. Hay should be free of mold, which can be toxic, and dust, which can cause respiratory problems. Generally, hay of high nutritive value is green in colour, free of weeds, dust and mold, and without blooms or flowers.

Grain

The grain should also be free of mold and dust, and stored in low humidity to prevent spoilage. The energy and protein content should be available from the supplier.

