

What is Spillers horse feed and how does it fit into your horse's feeding plan?

Spillers horse feed is one example of a branded approach to **horse feed** that aims to support different needs across *maintenance, performance, weight gain, and weight loss*. Rather than thinking only in terms of a single bucket of feed, it helps to view feed as part of the full **nutrition** plan, alongside **forage**, water, turnout, exercise and overall management.

A sound feeding plan starts with the horse's **bodyweight**, temperament, workload and current **condition**. A horse doing light hacking may need a simple ration built around grass, **hay** or **haylage**, with little or no added **concentrates**. A competition horse may need more carefully balanced energy, [low starch performance feed](#) **protein, vitamins** and **minerals**. Spillers horse feed ranges can be used in both cases, but the right choice depends on the horse's *digestibility, energy levels* and how much forage is already in the diet.

Many horse owners in the UK look for **horse feeding advice uk** that follows a **forage-first** approach. That means forage should form the base of the diet, with feed added only when needed to fill gaps in energy, nutrients or palatability. A well-managed feeding plan can also support **gut health**, which matters whether the horse needs more stamina or simply steady condition.

Some Spillers horse feed products are designed as **complete horse feed**, meaning they aim to provide a balanced ration when fed at the recommended amount. Others are better suited as a **supplement** or as part of a mixed diet. That distinction matters: a complete feed is not always the best answer for every horse, especially if the horse already eats plenty of forage or is prone to gaining weight easily.

Types of horse feed: how to decide between balancer, mix, cube and fibre

There are many **types of horse feed**, but the clearest way to compare them is by purpose. The main options include a **balancer**, a **mix**, **cubes**, **pellets**, **mash** and fibre-based feeds. Each has a different profile for starch, sugar, protein and fibre, which affects digestibility and how the horse uses the ration.

A **balancer** is usually a highly concentrated feed with a modest feeding rate. It is often used when forage is good quality but lacks certain nutrients, or when the horse needs vitamins and minerals without extra calories. This can suit easy keepers, native types and horses in light work. A balancer can also help support condition without providing too much starch or sugar.

A **mix** is a more traditional feed, often designed to be palatable and energy-dense. It may contain cereals and other ingredients that provide digestible energy for horses needing more fuel. A mix can be useful for performance horses, but it should be selected carefully if the horse is prone to excitability or needs a low-starch diet.

Cubes and **pellets** are popular because they are simple to measure and usually give consistent intake. Cubes can be helpful for horses that prefer a structured texture, while pellets are often chosen for neatness, uniformity and the ability to deliver nutrients in every mouthful. Both can be part of a complete horse feed or a straighter, more targeted ration.

Mash is often associated with hydration, warm feeds and improved palatability. It can be useful for older horses, poor eaters or horses recovering from work, though it should still fit within the overall diet. A fibre-based mash

may support gut health and help increase fluid intake, but it should not be used simply because it feels “lighter” unless the full nutrient profile suits the horse.

When people inquire about a **horse feed mix recipe**, they often intend the way to combine ingredients carefully at home. That can be done, but it demands much more than stirring together oats and chaff. A home-made ration must still supply vitamins, minerals, digestible energy, protein and fibre in the right proportions. Commercial **horse feed companies** invest a great deal of time fine-tuning these factors, which is one reason many owners prefer a branded feed rather than building a ration from scratch.

Selecting between feed types should always start with the horse’s workload, body condition and forage intake. If the horse already takes in enough energy from hay or haylage, a balancer may be enough. If more fuel is needed, a mix or a complete feed may be more appropriate. If the horse needs a calmer, fibre-led ration, cubes, pellets or a fibre mash may be better suited.

Horse feeding rules: the ten rules for feeding horses

Good **horse feeding rules** help owners build a practical, repeatable schedule. The **10 rules of feeding horses** below are a practical guide for anyone seeking **horse feed for beginners** guidance.

- **1. Put forage first.** The diet should be built around forage such as hay or haylage if possible.
- **2. Feed according to bodyweight.** The amount of horse feed should reflect the horse’s weight, not guesswork.
- **3. Match feed to workload.** A horse in maintenance needs a different ration from one in performance work.
- **4. Keep changes gradual.** Any new feed should be brought in slowly to protect digestion and gut health.
- **5. Avoid too much starch.** High-starch diets can be problematic for some horses, especially if energy levels need to stay steady.
- **6. Check the label.** Always read ingredients, feeding rate and nutrient content before buying.
- **7. Balance forage and concentrates.** Concentrates should support forage, not replace it.
- **8. Feed in smaller meals when needed.** Large meals can be more difficult to digest efficiently.
- **9. Watch condition regularly.** Body condition score and performance will show whether the ration is effective.
- **10. Keep water available.** A horse cannot use feed properly without access to clean water.

A simple **horse feeding chart** can help beginners follow the logic behind these rules. For example, a horse in light work may need mainly forage plus a balancer, while a harder-working horse may need forage plus a more energy-dense feed. The chart should be tailored to suit individual bodyweight, season, turnout, age and digestibility.

These rules are also a reminder that horse feeding is not just about increasing more feed. Sometimes the right answer is better hay, more forage, improved routine or a different product form. The best approach is always the one that protects the horse’s condition without overloading the ration.

How much horse feed should you give?

The right amount depends on the horse’s bodyweight, workload, forage intake and the type of feed being used. A **horse feeding chart** is a useful starting point, but it should not ever replace observation. A horse that looks underweight, too sharp, or too fleshy may need the ration adjusting.

A **horse feed calculator uk** can help work out requirements, especially if it allows you to enter bodyweight, exercise level and forage intake. These tools are useful for planning, but they still rely on accurate input. If you do not know the horse's actual bodyweight, use a weigh tape as a starting estimate and confirm changes by monitoring condition over time.

For **horse feed for beginners**, the simplest rule is to begin gradually and review often. Begin by working out how much hay or haylage the horse eats, then decide whether the diet needs a balancer, a complete feed or more energy from concentrates. Feed manufacturers often suggest a minimum amount needed for the product to function as a **complete horse feed**, so check the bag carefully before reducing servings.

As a broad guide, a horse that is in maintenance may need only forage plus a low-rate balancer, while a horse in performance work might need a fuller ration. If the horse is gaining weight too easily, cut back on energy-dense feeds before cutting forage too sharply. If the horse is losing weight, boost the forage supply first, then consider a more suitable feed with better digestibility and calorie density.

It is also important to note that different feed forms have different feeding rates. A balancer may be fed in small quantities, while a mix or complete feed may be fed at several kilograms a day depending on the product and the horse. Always use the product-specific guide and adjust gradually. That is one reason **horse feed advice uk** often stresses that there is no one-size-fits-all amount for every horse.

How expensive is horse feed?

Horse feed cost can vary a lot depending on the kind of product, brand, nutrient density and feeding rate. The question **how much does horse feed cost** is more than just the price of a bag, but also about how long that bag lasts and whether the feed is designed to be used at a low or high rate.

For example, a balancer may appear expensive per bag, but because the daily serving is small, the cost per day can be competitive. A complete feed may cost more per bag but replace several separate products, making it simpler and sometimes more economical overall. By contrast, a cheaper feed that needs a large daily amount may end up costing more over time.

Different **horse feed companies** present their products differently. Some focus on performance nutrition with specific protein and energy content. Others emphasise fibre-led diets or products for easy keepers. Comparing brands fairly means checking not just the headline price, but also the feeding rate, nutrient density, and whether the feed is intended as a complete horse feed or just part of a ration.

When budgeting, remember that forage is part of the overall cost too. Hay and haylage can make up a large share of annual feeding spend. If forage quality is strong, a smaller amount of concentrate feed may be needed. If forage quality is limited, more support from compound feed may be required. In that sense, the cheapest bag is not always the best value. The right diet is the one that maintains condition, supports performance and suits the horse's bodyweight without waste.

How to understand a horse feed label and compare products

To compare feeds properly, you need to interpret the label. This is where many owners start to see the difference between products from **horse feed companies**. A good label should show you the ingredient profile, feeding rate, analytical constituents and whether the feed is a **complete horse feed** or a complementary one.

Begin with the guaranteed analysis. Look at digestible energy, protein, fibre, starch and sugar. A feed higher in digestible energy may suit performance work or weight gain, but it may not suit a horse that needs a calmer diet. A feed with a strong fibre profile may be better for gut health and steadier energy levels.

Then check whether the product is designed as a mix, balancer, cube, pellet or mash. These **types of horse feed** influence palatability and how the horse consumes the ration. Some horses prefer a soft mash, while others do better with cubes or pellets that slow intake and encourage chewing. The texture and form can matter almost as much as the ingredient list.

Look carefully at the feeding instructions. A product may only count as a complete horse feed if the horse receives the recommended daily amount. Feeding less than that can mean vitamins, minerals and protein are no longer fully balanced. This is why **horse feed advice uk** commonly recommends checking whether a product is meant to stand alone or be combined with forage and supplements.

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It also helps to compare how the feed supports the horse's current purpose. A performance ration may prioritise energy and palatability, while a maintenance ration may focus on fibre, minerals and controlled starch. The most useful label is the one that helps you match the feed to workload, body condition and forage availability rather than simply reading marketing claims.

Smart routines for feeding schedules, forage and water

Reliable routines are one of the most essential **horse feeding rules**. Horses do best when meal times are predictable, fibre is available for as much of the daytime as possible, and water is always clean and accessible. These habits support gut health, temperament and overall wellbeing.

A simple routine starts with **forage**. Whether you use **hay** or **haylage**, the aim is to keep the gut working consistently and avoid long gaps without bulk. That is especially important for horses on limited concentrates or those on a more forage-based ration. For many horses, forage should make up the largest part of the diet by far.

Concentrates should be fed in line with the horse's needs, not out of habit. If a horse is in light work, it may not need much more than a feed balancer and forage. If it is in more intense work, the ration may need extra usable energy, protein and minerals. Even then, it is usually better to portion out larger feed amounts into smaller meals where practical.

Water is just as vital as feed. Without enough water, digestion suffers and feed use becomes less efficient. This matters for all horses, but especially when feeding dry rations, cubes. Warm **mash** can encourage intake in some horses, but it should complement, not replace, good water provision.

For **horse feed for beginners**, a straightforward daily structure can be very helpful: forage first, feed according to workload, review body condition every week, and adjust slowly. A basic **horse feeding chart** can keep this process consistent. If the horse's condition changes, revisit the ration before the problem grows. Good feeding is about observation, not just routine.

Frequently asked questions about horse feed and Spillers

What is the best horse feed for a beginner?

The best **horse feed** for a beginner is usually a simple ration based on forage, with a low-rate nutritional balancer or a complete feed if extra nutrients are needed. The best choice depends on bodyweight, workload, condition

and how much hay or haylage the horse already eats. Beginners should keep the ration simple and avoid overfeeding concentrates.

Is Spillers horse feed a fully balanced feed?

Some **spillers horse feed** products are formulated as **complete horse feed**, while others are supporting feeds or balancers. This depends on the specific product and the feeding rate used. Be sure to read the label carefully, because a feed only counts as complete when the horse receives the recommended amount.

How much horse feed should I give my horse each day?

There is not one fixed answer for every horse. Rely on a **horse feed calculator uk** as a starting point, then adjust based on bodyweight, exercise level, forage intake and condition. A **horse feeding chart** can help, but the horse's shape, performance and appetite should determine the final ration.

How much does horse feed cost on average?

Horse feed cost depends on the product type and feeding rate. A bag of balancer may cost more than a basic mix, but it often lasts longer because the daily amount is smaller. Complete feeds can be economical if they replace several separate products. To judge **how much does horse feed cost** fairly, look at cost per day rather than bag price alone.

What is the difference between a horse feed balancer and a mix?

A **balancer** is a concentrated feed that supplies vitamins, minerals, protein and other nutrients in a small amount, often with limited calories. A **mix** usually provides more digestible energy and is often used for horses needing more fuel for performance or weight gain. The right choice depends on the horse's diet, workload and whether the aim is maintenance, condition or performance support.