



Baileys Horse Feeds/BEF Futurity 2010

Factsheet 10

**Nutrition and feeding
Presented by Baileys Horse Feeds**

Feeding Youngsters for Future Success

Feeding your youngster to look right on the day not only enhances your chances of a favourable evaluation but should be seen as an investment in his or her future ability to achieve success.

Early Days

For evaluation day, a foal needs to look his best but without compromising his growth or development. The suckling foal cannot digest grass or cereals efficiently until about three months of age so the dam's diet is of critical importance and the quality of her milk will have a direct effect on his growth rate and condition. Nutritional help is available though, if the foal is not doing as well as he might or, indeed, doing too well. For those under three months of age and needing extra condition, Baileys' milk-based Foal Creep Pellets will provide calories to promote weight gain plus a balance of other nutrients which are required for bone growth and tissue development. For the top heavy or rapidly growing foal, calorie intake may need controlling but not at the expense of supporting nutrients which can be provided by the unique vitamin and trace mineral supplement, Foal Assist, or low calorie Stud Balancer.

Going it Alone

Once weaned and being prepared for in-hand presentation, a balanced diet remains essential to encourage even growth rates, muscle tone and condition ("good condition" does not mean "fat"). Good-doers may get all the calories they need from forage but this should be supplemented with Stud Balancer to provide the quality protein, vitamins and minerals they need to support growth. ½ to 1lb of Baileys Outshine high oil supplement may be added for head-turning coat shine, especially coming out of the winter when coats are changing. For those needing help maintaining condition, Baileys Prep Mix is an excellent non-heating solution, providing the necessary additional calories and a nutritional profile specially formulated for the growing youngster. Where the recommended quantity of Baileys Prep Mix would provide too many calories, like Baileys' other stud feeds, it may be fed in reduced amounts and topped up with Stud Balancer to maintain nutrient levels.

The Future

The well-grown, well-muscled youngster should better withstand the rigours of being prepared for work under saddle. Whilst the three or four year old may have all but reached his adult height, his body will still be maturing and needs the nutrients for this as well as to fuel increased work. Vitamins and minerals remain essential as they are crucial to bone and tissue integrity at a time when any problems could affect the horse's athletic future. Any compound feed must be fed at recommended levels to ensure there is no nutritional shortfall and, like all Baileys Stud and Performance feeds, should contain chelated minerals which are more easily absorbed and utilized by the horse's body. Horses fed less than it says on the bag should have their rations topped up with Stud Balancer, as should any doing more work than their feed is formulated to support. The aim, whether for sales, competition or simply the field or barn, should be for a well-muscled youngster with ribs you may not see but can certainly feel and keeping the diet balanced should help produce a strong, healthy adult with a bright future.

Further information

Baileys Horse Feeds on 01371 850247 (option 2), visit www.baileyshorsefeeds.co.uk or ask any Baileys nutritional adviser at one of the Futurity evaluations where advice will be on hand for each Futurity participant at the vetting stage.

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