



# Forageplus Balancers

---

**FOR ADULT HORSES, PONIES AND DONKEYS**



Low iron, low  
sugar, high quality,  
filler free

Working together to make a big difference to horses around the world is a passion of each member of our Forageplus team.

**Every horse and every owner matters to us.**

# What to Feed with Forageplus Balancers for Adult Horses

---

To feed our powdered balancers carry them in a concentrate such as a fast soak fibre feed or fast soak beet pulp. Some successful feeds to mix the minerals into are Speedibeet, Allen and Page Fast Fibre, Dengie Alfabeet, high fibre nuts, grass / hay nuts or Coolstance Copra can work well too. If your horse is not laminitic you can also use a small amount (50/100 grams) of wheat bran which will improve palatability.

If you are using the summer versions, linseed is not necessary to provide omega 3 but you may wish to use it for palatability or energy. In winter, we recommend the daily addition of 42 grams of micronised linseed per 220 kg of bodyweight to the winter versions to provide essential omega 3 fat.

## Vitamin E

The Winter Balancers contain optimum levels of vitamin E for adult horses because vitamin E is deficient in winter grass, hay and haylage. If you are feeding the Performance Winter Balancer, this will contain 3000iu of vitamin E per 170 grams. However, some horses in very heavy work or sick horses may benefit from a higher feed rate of 5000iu - 10,000iu per day.

## Salt to Replace Electrolytes Lost through Sweating

Sweating horses need to have electrolytes replaced regularly. The high levels of potassium in forage mean you do not need to worry about this mineral. You also do not need to worry about magnesium as Forageplus Balancers for adult horses are high in this mineral. However, we recommend replacement of sodium and chloride in the form of table, rock or sea salt in a bucket feed after work which causes sweating or any other situation where your horse is producing sweat. We advise 1 x 25 ml to 1 x 50 ml scoop depending upon the size of the horse for each hour of sweating. You should be aware that available levels of both chloride and sodium are affected by levels in the forage eaten and some horses may need more. An analysis of forage would check levels in this situation.



## Feeding for Performance Work

Depending on work load your performance horse may need less energy feed once you start using our balancers as access to higher levels of nutrients will enable the body to work more efficiently. We recommend the use of straight feeds such as oats, alfalfa, beet pulp and wheat bran with our Performance Balancers. However if you wish to feed a concentrate feed with our powdered balancers this is fine but please contact us if you plan to feed more than 1 kg of a commercial concentrate feed with any of our balancers.

If your horse is travelling and competing regularly you may also find benefit in the digestive support products listed on our website.



We stock vitamin E oil as a separate on our website. Contact us if you require any advice on how much additional vitamin E to supplement.

## Feeding Good Doers and Horses Prone to Laminitis

The beauty of feeding minerals and vitamins matched to forage is that you can always be sure your horse is receiving the nutrients it needs no matter how small your bucket feed needs to be. Just use the correct amount of balancer mixed into the bare minimum of feed needed to carry the minerals so your horse eats them. Some people sprinkle the minerals on to the soaked hay or haylage their horse eats over night or through the day. Where a horse has a very reduced appetite you may even have to mix the minerals in water and syringe them in.

Another option if you wish to feed reduced calories to your horse is to try our Forage First Pelleted Balancer. Made from just meadow hay, beetroot powder and our high quality powdered balancer mix, these pellets are convenient and easy to feed off your hand or top dressed on a bucket feed. They are under 10% ESC sugar and starch and contain no molasses, cereals, soya or alfalfa. They are suitable for all horses and ponies including those prone to laminitis. Please check the Forageplus website for more details.

# Tips for Feeding Forageplus Balancers to Fussy Horses

---

Where fussy horses find the addition of some of these minerals a little unpalatable the best thing is to reduce the amounts and then build up until the horses are eating them or to split the amounts into two feeds. It seems that horses are a bit like children trying new foods, they often need to taste the food at least ten times to acquire a taste for the new flavour.

Using tasty feeds as carriers is also useful. Adding a bit of wheat bran (not for laminitic horses though), linseed or flavours like dried mint, fenugreek and powdered liquorice can make them more enthusiastic. Another idea is to crush up an extra strong mint. Sometimes a splash of apple juice, carrot juice, beetroot juice or even a tiny bit of Ribena can help. Just mix it

in roughly once you have mixed the whole feed. A safe but sweet option for horses sensitive to sugar is the natural sweetener Stevia. Some people have had success using a small amount of beetroot powder to tempt a fussy eater, one horse even liked Marmite! We now stock beetroot powder in our web shop.

We have also found that if you mix all the feed ingredients dry, distributing the minerals evenly before you add water to soak the feed this helps palatability. Therefore, we recommend using a fast soak feed to carry the balancer, it just makes it easier to mix everything. Our favourites are any fast soak fibre provider like Speedibeet or Alfabeet, grass nuts, hay pellets or copra. But you can choose anything you or your horse likes.

Don't let your horse make you give up on getting them to eat the minerals. After only a short time of consistently having these levels in their body you will see a difference in hooves and health because our balancers provide, low iron, low sugar, filler free combinations of minerals which have been found through scientific analysis of forage to be deficient time and time again.

Horses have a highly developed sense of smell so using a shallow rather than steep sided feeding bucket can help dissipate the smell of the minerals. Understanding this can also help you to be patient while the horse gets used to the unusual smell of a balancer which is very high in minerals and vitamins because it is so low in fillers.

For those that don't mind a sugar option a small amount of Tate and Lyles Black Treacle mixed with some warm water to make a solution to pour over and roughly stir into the feed is fine. We had to use this in the early days with one of our horses. A couple of teaspoons is fine and will contribute very little sugar because of the small amount so unless the horse is a laminitic don't worry about that.

### **Tips for Mixing the Balancers into Feed**

After putting all the dry ingredients in a bucket add water to make a soup and stir to mix all the minerals, tip the bucket from side to side to stop the minerals sticking on the bottom, once the mixture swells slightly stir and tip again to distribute the minerals evenly. Mixing the minerals well is the secret to getting horses to eat them, if there are clumps in your mixture they will probably turn their nose up at the feed. Experiment with the best mix for your horses in terms of wetness. Some horses prefer a wetter feed, others dryer.

### **Carrying out Forage Analysis**

If after feeding for six months you still feel your horse is not as healthy as you would like, get in touch with us. You may need a more specific approach, using analysis of grass or hay, to balance the minerals in your horse's diet.



# Horse Balancers Matched to Grass and Hay



All Forageplus balancers contain the lowest levels of iron and no added molasses, alfalfa, soya or wheat feed. Combined ESC sugar and starch content is always below 10%. Our balancers contain no fillers and only the highest purity minerals and vitamins. The minerals used are of a high quality to ensure against contamination with heavy metals and enable good absorption rates.

# Scoop Weights for each Balancer

**(amounts to feed can be found on the product label)**

Winter	Summer	Performance	Laminae Plus
1 x 50 ml scoop Approx 45 grams	1 x 50 ml scoop Approx 45 grams	1 x 75 ml scoop Approx 60 grams	1 x 75 ml scoop Approx 65 grams

Hoof Health Summer	Hoof Health Winter	Forage First Pellets
1 x 50 ml scoop Approx 48 grams	1 x 50 ml scoop Approx 48 grams	A standard sized coffee mug 300 grams

Amounts are for an  
average 500kg horse





## Other products from Forageplus

---

### Digestive Support

Supporting your horse's digestive system is key to maintaining overall health and performance. We are the UK stockists of APF products and can advise you on the best nutrition for fore and hind gut health.

### Analysis Services

Our analysis services include forage mineral and nutritional reports. We can also test water quality and field soil balance. We provide you with accurate reports with clear charts to help you determine nutrient needs for your horse. We offer a full support service to advise you on all aspects of equine nutrition and pasture management.

### Amino Acids and Protein

Forage is often short of essential amino acids. We stock a range of products to target supplementation for horses to maintain health, support growth and muscle development and maintain the health of breeding stock and horses in heavy work. These products are particularly relevant for maintaining healthy muscles, skin and hooves.

### Joint Support

Our high strength formula provides your horse with optimum ratios of all the ingredients which have been shown to support healthy and stiff joints.

### Skin Support

Our approach is very helpful to maintain and support itch free skin. Mineral deficiencies in forage when corrected by targeted supplementation will create optimum skin health. We also provide a range of products to help support skin through the challenges of the summer months.

### Young Horse Balancers

Forageplus Forage Focused™ horse feed balancers have been formulated for advanced supplementation of young horses up to the age of 6 and breeding mares. The formulas have been devised using data obtained from scientific analysis of our many samples of forage and optimum levels of minerals as directed by the National Research Council guidelines for growing and breeding mares.



T: **01352 700841 / 01352 757777**

Unit 10, Broncoed Business Park, Wrexham Road, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 1HP  
**enquiries@forageplus.com**    **www.forageplus.com**