

Here to help y



course HORSES!

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## Waconia Farm Supply Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1, July, 2008

The staff at Waconia Farm Supply, Delano Farm Supply and Elk River Farm Supply would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You". We hope you enjoy this third edition of our quarterly equine newsletter. Watch for future editions on equine nutrition, horse "tips," new products, and industry news.

New product Spotlight

### Feed Tag Myths (Part 2 of 4)

**Myth: The higher the fiber the lower the starch the better for my horse.**

Yes, generally the higher the fiber the lower the starch but is it necessarily better for your horse? That will depend largely on what that source of fiber is. There are many ingredients manufacturers can use to increase the fiber on the tag; some being more digestible than others. For example; soy hulls and beet pulp are excellent sources of fiber for horses that is easily converted to energy. Wheat middlings and oat hulls are largely indigestible and are therefore fillers that tend to give your horse the classic "hay belly" look. If the larger component of your feed is indigestible it will be more difficult for your horse to assimilate the vitamins and minerals that go along with the indigestible feedstuff. Be sure to look at the ingredients on your feed tag and look for the ingredients to be listed instead of lumped into categories ie: plant products, plant protein byproducts, etc... That is the only way to know if that higher fiber content is, indeed, better for your horse.

### Feed Prices—What is Going On???

We've all been experiencing sticker shock when heading to the feed store lately so here are some explanations as to why.

- 1) Ethanol production—One third of our country's corn crop is slated to be used for ethanol in 2008. The US produces about 1/2 of the world's corn and with 1/3 of that total going to be used for ethanol that doesn't leave much for food and animal feed. Since corn is more profitable now, farmers have put more of their land into corn production. Using more land for corn and less for other commodities causes the price of the other commodities to rise as well, i.e.: hay, oats, wheat, soybeans.
- 2) High oil prices drive up the cost of feedstuffs from planting to harvesting to shipping to manufacturing. That's only 4 of the steps that occur from the time the seed is planted to when it becomes consumed by your animal.
- 3) The weak US Dollar can also take part of the blame. Experts speculate that 1/3 of the rising grain prices can be attributed to the US dollar becoming weaker as other currencies are becoming stronger.
- 4) More mouths to feed. China and India are importing more food than ever. They have increased demand for meat which in turn increased demand for grain. It's simple economics: increase the demand while decreasing supply or even sustaining supply and the price will rise.

These are just a few of the issues we face as we try to sustain the high quality of life for ourselves and our animals that we are all used to. We owe it to our animals to keep them on a high plane of nutrition. Talk to your friendly, knowledgeable Equine Specialist to make sure you're providing the essentials without going over the top so even your checkbook can stay balanced!

### Ionophore Free—What it means to you

Ionophores are feed additives used in feeds for their growth promoting effects in ruminants and coccidiostats in poultry. The LD50 (lethal dose where 50% will die) for horses is 2-3 mg/kg whereas cattle are in the 20-34 mg/kg range. Horses with acute ionophore toxicity will exhibit signs 12-24 hours after consumption which include: heart failure, liver failure and death. If exposed to low levels over a period of time it isn't uncommon for horses to die of congestive heart failure even weeks to months after exposure. Waconia Farm Supply cares about the well-being of your horses so much we invested in an ionophore-free facility to manufacture all of our horse feeds. So you can be rest assured your horse's feed will not be contaminated by any feeds that contain ionophores!

#### Upcoming Events:

**July**— Sherburne County Fair

**August**— Customer Appreciation Polo Party  
Carver County Fair

**September**— Trott Brook Horse Trials  
Champ Show

**October**— 2nd Annual Elk River Farm Supply Trail Ride

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**Waconia Farm Supply** is proud to introduce our newest line of horse feeds!

We have teamed up with Connolly's Red Mills to bring your horse the highest quality **cooked** ingredients available in the marketplace.

Why cooked?

Because cooking breaks the starch bonds and makes the feedstuffs highly digestible due to the cooking process. Your horse will be able to assimilate what you're feeding them at a much higher rate allowing you to actually feed less and get more. We all know what happens when undigested starch makes it to the hindgut—colic, laminitis or any other myriad of problems. Since the feed is cooked and the starch bonds are broken the feed gets digested in the foregut where it belongs. As an added measure of safety Red Mills feed is manufactured to order at our ionophore free facility. You can't get much better than that: **fresh, cooked, natural and safe!**

#### Our Equine Specialists:

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