

The background of the slide is a repeating pattern of stylized green leaves and branches on a light green background. A dark green rectangular box is centered on the slide, containing the word "GRAIN" in white capital letters. A small, solid green rectangle is positioned at the top center of the dark green box.

GRAIN

Types

- Concentrate Feed - any mixture of grains, cereals, and minerals used to supplement a horse or pony diet (Weight gain, growth, energy, etc)
- Complete Feed - a fortified grain/forage mix that is formulated with high quality fiber sources to raise the total percent fiber in the feed, so that reduced hay **feeding** can be done safely. Some fiber sources in complete feeds include alfalfa, beet pulp, and soy hulls
- Ration Balancing Feed - a very nutrient dense **feed** that is meant to be fed in very small amounts
- Supplement - anything fed to a horse in addition to a natural diet of forage
- Treats – “healthy” snacks. Apples, Carrots..... Donuts, bagels, popsicles

Product Name

- Reflect the intended use of the feed
- Look for key words:
 - Breeding & Growing
 - Maintenance
 - Senior
 - Performance
 - Active
 - Special Need (Gastric, Advantage, Low-Starch etc)
 - etc

Purpose Statement

- Describes the species and the class of animal it is intended for
- Key words:
 - Equine
 - Breeding
 - Maintenance
 - Lactation
 - Growth

Feed Format

- The way the feed is presented
- Pelleted
- Textured
- Extruded

Pelleted

- Recipe of grains, hays, or beet pulp
- Chopped into fine particles
- Heated in a conditioning machine
- Pushed through a pelleting machine with predetermined hole sizes for pellet size

Textured

- Typically some sort of recipe of a variety of grains, hay, or beet pulp
- Chopped into small particles and mixed together
- When molasses is added, it is referred to as “sweet feed”
- Once mixed, textured feed typically goes through a conditioning chamber to increase the moisture content

Extruded

- process in which feed is cooked under high pressure with high temperatures for a short time. This causes the feed to expand.
- Once cooled, the product hardens
- Product is then broken up into small nuggets
- The heating process breaks down the feed structures, making the nutrients more available
- Very low moisture content, so stays fresh longer

Guaranteed Analysis

- Crude Protein, Crude Fiber, Crude Fat (%)
- Minimum and maximum percentages of calcium
- Phosphorus, Copper, Zinc, Selenium, Vitamin A, etc
- All nutrients guaranteed on the tag are potentially subject to testing by regulatory agencies to determine whether the tag guarantees are accurate

Ingredient List

- Listing may include individual ingredients (e.g. oats, rice bran, etc.) and/or collective terms (e.g. grain products or processed grain by-products)
- In most states, the feed manufacturer determines the ingredient terminology
- However, some states require individual ingredients on horse feed labels
- Some horse owners feel an ingredient list including ingredients means the manufacturer is “locking” or “fixing” the feed formula, while collective terms indicate the feed formula is using “least cost” formulation

Feeding Directions

- Horse feed manufacturers formulate feeds to be fed at a specific range of feeding rates
- When a product is not fed according to the directions, the full nutritional benefits of that feed may not be realized and the feed will not perform as intended

Net Weight of the Feed

- How much feed is in the bag
- Aids in calculating cost or longevity

Manufacturer's Name and Address

- Know who your manufacturer is
- This allows for the consumer to be able to contact the manufacturer with any questions or concerns
- Many companies have equine nutritionists on standby just for this reason