

BENCHMARK NEWS



GREETINGS

The change of seasons for horse owners can, depending on your circumstances, bring excitement, anticipation, and plenty of reward for effort. Many of you in the southern states will be embarking on a competition season, while our northern friends will be looking forward to a spell over the hotter summer months. The breeders among you will be experiencing the euphoria of a much-anticipated foal arrival or sadly dealing with disappointment that is too often part and parcel of horse breeding.

On a personal level, I have much to be grateful for. After a gap of three years, in September I was fortunate to be able to visit my UK based family and connect with my four young grandchildren, one for the first time as she was born during COVID times. Being able to experience this was a real joy and one that I do not take for granted.

I was also fortunate to watch my son Tim and daughter-in-law Jonelle compete at the world-famous Burghley Horse Trials and then at the World Eventing Championships in Pratoni, where they helped New Zealand win a bronze medal and Tim also taking the individual bronze. To cap this off, just last

week Tim and Jonelle made number 1 & 2 in the FEI World Event Rider Rankings, making history as the first married couple to achieve this. The final day of show jumping at Pratoni was the most exciting and tense day of equestrian sport that I have ever seen. If you get the opportunity to watch the replay on FEI TV, I thoroughly recommend it.

There is much to look forward to at Benchmark.

There is real excitement around the long-awaited return of Equitana in Melbourne in November. The organisers must be commended for holding strong after two COVID enforced postponements. These delays come at a real cost, so I am sure that the hype around this year's event and strong ticket sales, will be a tonic to the Equitana crew. We are excited about being able to meet with many of you face to face for the first time. Please visit us and share your Benchmark story, or if you can't make it ask your friends to visit us. Most of our team of Territory Managers from throughout the country will be attending over the four days.

Our site is No. 312 in the Epsom Pavilion.

We understand the importance of having a reliable supply of feed for your horses. We are sincerely sorry if you are one of the many Benchmarkers who have struggled to source feed from their usual feed retailer.

I am pleased to say that the stock and supply situation has improved markedly and will continue to do so over the next few weeks. While there will still be the odd outage in the short term, this is becoming more isolated as deliveries level out and all stockists receive their orders.

Our feedmill partner is currently undertaking new projects to improve and streamline production, increase raw material storage, and enhance manufacturing efficiencies. These investments will help us meet the growing demand for our feeds.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can at Equitana. Please introduce yourself. You are all incredibly special to us.

For the love of horses.
with kind regards,
Colin Price



Image of 'PL Babylon' courtesy of Katrina Lodge, Paperbark Lodge

JOIN OUR BENCHMARK HORSE COMMUNITY on Facebook!

Our Benchmark group is for like-minded horse enthusiasts to share stories and ask each other for feedback and information about their Benchmark experience. We also love getting your before and after photos and just photographs in general!



Testing for Trypsin Inhibitor Activity

Soy hulls, the highly soluble outside shell of the soybean, are the hero ingredient in all our feeds. While Trypsin Inhibitors can cause issues with protein utilisation in poorly processed soybean meal, this is not usually associated with the soybean hull.

Despite this, as part of our quality assurance program at Benchmark, we regularly test our feeds for trypsin inhibitor activity. Test results are reviewed by our nutrition consultant Dr Mark Barnett to ensure that our feeds meet industry standards.

Here is a copy of the latest test results for Perfect Mash conducted by Symbio Laboratory in Brisbane, along with Dr Barnett's comments on the test results. You may find them interesting.

Client	Benchmark Horse Feeds	Job Description	General Chemistry
Certificate Number	B1199211 [R00]	Order Number	---
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Analytical Results			
Client Sample Description			BMPM
Client Sampling date/time			---
Compound/Analyte	LOR	Units	B1199211/1 Results
Chemistry General Tests			
CF039 - Urease Activity			
Urease Activity*	0.01	pH Difference	0.05
CF037.5H DE - Horses			
CF003.1 - Determination of Crude Protein by Combustion			
Protein	0.1	%w/w	10.7
CF004.1 - Determination of Crude Fats and Oils by Soxhlet			
Fat	0.1	%w/w	3.3
CF005.1 - Determination of Moisture Content by Air Oven			
Moisture	0.1	%w/w	12.0
CF007 - Determination of Ash Content by Muffle Furnace			
Ash	0.1	%w/w	7.3
CF038.1 - Determination of Crude Fibre by Refluxing			
Crude Fibre	0.1	%w/w	26.9
CF037.5H - Digestible Energy for Horses			
Digestible Energy DWB#*	0.1	MJ/kg	9.0
Digestible Energy DWB#*	0.1	MJ/kg	10.2

Analysis Location
All in-house analysis was completed by Symbio Laboratories - Brisbane.

Report Comments
Protein calculation factor is 6.25 unless otherwise stated.

Hi Colin,

I have reviewed the results you sent me, and they look fine. The analysis from Symbio came in well within the industry range of between 0.02 to 0.20. Note that less than 0.02 urease activity denotes over-cooking of the soy product, causing major protein denaturing and extreme loss of nutrient quality.

Based on a correlation equation developed by leading researchers in Brazil (Baltazar & Otalora, 2012) with a 95% correlation between urease activity and trypsin inhibitor concentrations in soy products (this means it is very accurate). The formula is:

- Trypsin Inhibitor Concentration = $(0.1224 + \text{Urease Activity}) / 0.0738$

With the sample you analysed (Urease activity = 0.05), this equates to an estimated Trypsin Inhibitor concentration of 2.34 mg/g of protein or 0.23% (i.e., less than one-quarter of a percent).

Bottom line - Your product is very safe relating to Trypsin inhibition and unlikely to cause any issue relating to poor protein digestion and absorption.

Regards,
Dr Mark Barnett (PhD)



MELOFEED antioxidant and performance support



The rapid rise in popularity of Perfect Mash and Super Fibre Mash with horse owners is largely results driven. Horses thrive and bloom on these feeds. A real contributor to this effect is the inclusion of two highly effective antioxidants, Melofeed® and Alkosel®. To my knowledge we are the only feed company in Australia to include Melofeed®

We asked the good people at Lallemand, the suppliers of these fine products, to provide us with some technical information. Below is a summarised version, the full version is available on our community page.

MELOFEED IS A UNIQUE PREMIXTURE OF FEED ADDITIVE DESIGNED TO FIGHT AGAINST OXIDATIVE STRESS

MELOFEED is a freeze-dried melon juice concentrate naturally rich in Superoxide Dismutase (SOD = min. 2.6×10^6 IU/kg) and catalase (both primary enzymes of the antioxidant defense system).

MELOFEED is the unique marketed source of natural vegetable SOD, exclusively distributed by Lallemand for animal nutrition applications. SOD is the only enzyme to have dismutating superoxide activity.

MELOFEED is manufactured by Bionov from a proprietary variety of melon (Cucumis melo L.), non GMO, containing guaranteed high levels of SOD.

MELOFEED WORKS IN SYNERGY WITH ALKOSEL^{R397} TO IMPROVE ANTIOXIDANT DEFENSES

- Reactive Oxygen Species ($O_2^{\cdot-}$, OH^{\cdot}) are highly reactive oxygen-based biochemical components, produced during physiological processes, such as cellular respiration and immunity. These ROS play many important roles in cellular signaling and functioning. However, when ROS are produced in excess, they induce oxidative stress and damages to cell components (lipids, proteins, DNA).
- A primary antioxidant enzymatic chain (Superoxide Dismutase (SOD), catalase, glutathione peroxidase), turns the ROS into less harmful molecules (H_2O_2). The SOD ingested by MELOFEED is able to induce endogenous expression of the 3 antioxidant enzymes (SOD, catalase and glutathione peroxidase): MELOFEED has powerful antioxidant effects by stimulating the overall first line of antioxidant defense.
- Organic selenium (ALKOSEL^{R397}), as a cofactor of glutathione peroxidase, potentiates the effect of MELOFEED by acting at the step transforming H_2O_2 into H_2O and O_2 .
- The combination of MELOFEED and ALKOSEL^{R397}, which act as first lines of antioxidant defense, is therefore of primary interest in the prevention of ROS formation and in the reduction of oxidative stress.

MELOFEED

Stimulates antioxidant defenses

Promotes tissue antioxidant defenses (increased SOD, GSH-Px and catalase endogenous synthesis).
Improves cell resistance to oxidative stress (red blood cells less susceptible to oxidative stress-induced hemolysis).

Supports fertility

Increases the percentage of fertilized mares and fertilisations per estrus.
Improves the number of estrus (+ 15%), embryos and foals (+ 63%) per mare.

Supports recovery and resistance to physical effort

Increases blood resistance to hemolysis: improves muscle cells membrane protection and supports plasmatic antioxidant defenses.
Increases horse resistance to training by decreasing cell membrane permeability (CK as a marker of muscle integrity).



PAPERBARK LODGE
WARMBLOOD SPORHORSES

WE ASKED ONE OF OUR CUSTOMERS - Katrina Lodge why she uses Benchmark Horse Feeds.

Breeding for TALENT, TEMPERAMENT and TRAINABILITY.

I believe in investing in dreams, ideas, and goals! However you define it, my breeding program is certainly a passion project. At Paperbark Lodge, our mares and foals are the result of a mix of careful planning and dreaming. It is hard for me to put into words the passion, dedication, love and thinking we do in order to produce healthy, beautiful, talented babies. In fact I am a little obsessed with the wonder and miracle of new life!

Whilst breeding carries an element of luck and a degree of knowledge, it also relies on an implementation of a plan with a supportive and strong team around you. From vets, to farriers, to feed suppliers and coaches, I make sure the people I surround myself share the same values as me. I don't like to cut corners. I want to do the best I can do. I am super lucky to have a positive thinking team of professionals and friends that are genuinely celebrating when we kick goals yet willing to help problem solve or get their hands dirty when they pick me up off the ground when things don't go to plan.

Benchmark Horse Feeds have been a key player in my team. I switched to Benchmark early on when I saw a feed company hit the market that was producing smart feeds in a simple format. Scientifically sophisticated, yet easy to use. I knew the feed ingredients ticked all the boxes for all stages of breeding for my mares and growth for foals, delivering exactly what it should without complicating feed up time! The results speak for themselves, with my horses absolutely glowing and in top condition.

The lovely bonus I get from using Benchmark is a relationship with a company that is genuinely passionate about its' customers. That offers support to anyone that needs it. That is easy to talk to and ask questions. That shows real integrity. That reciprocates my investment in their product by being available with advice and support

My mares are fed Benchmark Invest and Benchmark Balancer Mash (plus grazing excellent pasture) throughout their pregnancy with rations increased in later stages of pregnancy and whilst they have a foal at foot. Great nutrition is so important for foetal development and milk supply, plus mares need to maintain their own condition whilst meeting the higher energy demands of lactating. The foals blossom before my eyes when the milk bar works well, gaining valuable nutrients via this liquid gold! The foals "creep" feed on the same diet as their mothers until weaning; contributing to the development of strong and healthy bones that I hope will provide them with the basis for a long and active life.




Paperbark Lodge's vision is to breed international quality Warmblood sport horses here in Australia and I am really proud of what I have achieved with my boutique-breeding program to date. For me, it is about quality over quantity and with a number of our foals scoring national champion accolades, winning or placing on the assessment tours in Australia I know I am on the right track.

Because so much of our energy goes into producing these foals, we are determined to raise strong, healthy, young stock - both physically and mentally. That is why all our foals are raised on Benchmark feeds in a herd environment with attention to their nutritional demands, including a worming schedule and regular hoof care. They are also well handled and used to human interaction from the start of their lives. All care and consideration is given to provide our foals the best opportunity to mature into well-balanced and sound horses, with mental and physical longevity. If I do the best I can and invest in their future, I play my part in ensuring their life is a long and good one!

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 [paperbarklodgewarmbloods](https://www.facebook.com/paperbarklodgewarmbloods)

 [paperbark_lodge](https://www.instagram.com/paperbark_lodge)



SOYBEAN HULLS

the healthy alternative for lactating mares & their foals

Dr Mark Barnett (PhD)
Consultant Nutritionist to Benchmark Horse Feeds

A racehorse and a showjumper have very high energy, protein and other nutrient needs to perform at high levels.

But, did you also know that lactating mares, those producing milk over the first few months after the birth of their foals, require just as much or even more nutritional support than these high-level equine athletes.

Lactating mares need plenty of energy, protein and key minerals to feed their foals milk.

DID YOU KNOW...

Milk is mostly water

Mare's milk is about 90% water, with the exception during the first 12 hours parturition (after the foal is born) when it contains the vital colostrum. The remaining 10 to 12% is made up, on average, of lactose (6.5%), protein (2.2%), fats (1.6%), calcium (0.1%), phosphorous (slightly less than calcium), magnesium (0.01%), and very small quantities of potassium, sodium, zinc, copper, iron and the main vitamins (A, B group, C, D, E and K).

Mares can produce a lot of milk each day

Mares can produce between 2 and 4% of their bodyweight in milk each day.



Most milk is produced in the first two months after foaling, falling away as the foal gets larger and starts to eat solid foods. This means a mare around 500 kg will produce between 10 and 20 L of milk each day.

There is good energy in milk

On average, there is about 2 MJ of digestible energy in every litre of mare's milk. A foal will consume between 20 and 40 MJ of energy each day.

The nutrient requirements for a lactating mare change over the first four months of lactation, especially the amount of energy, protein, calcium and phosphorous she needs to consume. In the first one to two months of lactation, her nutrient requirements, on average, will be about 50% higher than her maintenance needs (the point where a mare, not in foal or with a foal at foot, neither gains or loses weight or condition).

This could mean that a lactating mare needs to eat up to 3.5% of her bodyweight in feed, depending on the nutrient value and digestibility of the feed. Over the next couple of months, her intake requirements drop off as the foal starts to eat solid foods and drinks less of the mare's milk.

Mares will still produce high volumes of milk, even if not fed enough feed. If nutrient intake is less than what the mare needs, she will draw her requirements from her own body reserves. This, over time, could result in significant weight and body condition loss and nutrient deficiencies. This loss will not only negatively affect the mare's health, it also will most likely reduce the chances of her going back in foal or carrying it full term.

So, it is vital to increase both the quantity and quality of the feed for the broodmare as she starts to lactate until a few months after giving birth. We know we need to provide more energy, protein, calcium and phosphorous in particular, in a form that is easily consumed, digested, and absorbed. What is recommended is to provide a high-quality, forage-based diet with some concentrates that meets your mare's needs.

Providing too much grain though also introduces high levels of sugars and starch to her diet. This can cause an insulin response, something known to negatively affect the mare's health.

These same sugars can be transferred to the growing foal through the milk, potentially exposing it to the risk of developmental orthopaedic diseases (leg problems).

Instead, consider providing good quantities of highly fermentable fibres which are almost completely digested through natural microbial fermentation, providing a sustained concentration of "cool" energy for the mare, with a small quantity of grain.

The energy produced in the hindgut from the microbes digesting and fermenting the soybean hulls is in the form of fats (volatile fatty acids) which safely travel through the blood to the liver for use by the horse. Each unit of fat produced has 2.5 to 3 times more energy than a unit of sugars or starch found in grains and does not cause any increase in the blood insulin levels.



The same microbes fermenting the soybean hulls also produce necessary vitamins (B and K) as well as essential hormones and enzymes that improve both the physical and mental wellbeing of the horse. When fortified or combined with a quality mineral and vitamin product, soybean hulls can provide the requirements for your lactating mare without introducing too much sugar and starch.

So, next time you think of feeding your late pregnant/lactating mare, consider skipping the traditional grain-based feeds and choose a breeding feed that contains highly fermentable soybean hulls. It may just be the best thing you could feed your mare!



#feedforthefuture
#investinyourhorsesfuture

#benchmarkshine@equitana

We had some fantastic photos of your horses for our #benchmarkshine@equitana competition. A huge thank you to all of you that entered.



Pride of place on our Equitana backdrop wall goes to Erin Anderson and 'Adventures of Grand Rock'

Our winner Erin won a membership to **Cherry Tree Equine** (huge thanks to Michelle O'Neill of CTE for donating this great prize!) and 5 bags of Benchmark Horse Feed.

Our runners up each received 5 bags of Benchmark Horse Feed (in no particular order)

- Chelsea Johnson and Maggie,
- Tammy Wilson & Wilbur,
- Sarah Wall, Wall Pacing Stables & Alta Rhett
- and Rebecca Norton & BJ.

We also added a sixth horse in the mix, Melissa Post & Johnson the Clydesdale. Johnson won 2 bags of feed.

You can find out more about **Cherry Tree Equine** by visiting their website www.cherrytreeequine.com.au



Tammy Wilson's horse 'Wilbur'



Rebecca Norton's 24 year old boy 'BJ'



Sarah Wall of Wall Pacing Stables 'Alta Rhett'
PHOTO CREDIT - Hamilton Content Creations



Chelsea Johnson & Cayuse Team Talk
'Maggie'



Melissa Post's Clydesdale
'Johnson'

#benchmarkshine
#benchmarkshineatequitana
#feedforthefuture



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT EQUIFEST Taupo & EQUITANA Melbourne!

EQUIFEST NZ- Friday 28th to Sunday 30th October 2022



The countdown is on and in a few days we will be heading to Equifest Taupo.

We look forward to seeing you there, come and see us at Stand A43.

<https://www.equifest.co.nz>

THEN NEXT STOP....

EQUITANA Melbourne - Thursday 10th to Sunday 13th November 2022

We are very excited to be attending Equitana.

So come and say HI! We are in the Epsom Pavilion, Stand 312.

<https://www.equitana.com.au/>



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WE GET IT!



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