

The Brooks Hoofbeat



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Brooks and Sharpe Sponsor Dr. Bryan Waldrige Talk at the University of Guelph



A native of Kentucky, Dr. Waldrige received his DVM from Auburn University. Most recently he served as an associate veterinarian at Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, Ky. Dr. Waldrige served as a treating veterinarian at the equine quarantine facility during the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Ga., and worked in private practice after graduation and before joining the staff as tenured professor at Auburn. There he taught graduate and undergraduate courses, and he oversaw numerous interns and large animal internal medicine residents.

Dr Waldrige has published numerous articles, book chapters and professional papers. Currently Dr. Waldrige is the staff veterinarian at *Kentucky Equine Research*. His talk, sponsored by *Brooks and Sharpe Farm Supply* will concentrate on ulcers and tying up syndrome in equines.

September 20 2011 6:30 P.M.

Learning Centre Building



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Pender Harbour, trained by Brook's client Mike De Paulo continued his winning ways on August 7th when he took the Breeders Stakes, the final leg of the Canadian Triple Crown. Brook's client Greg de Gannes sent out the runner up Crown's Path. Of the top nine finishers in the Canadian Triple Crown races five were fueled by Brook's Phase III.

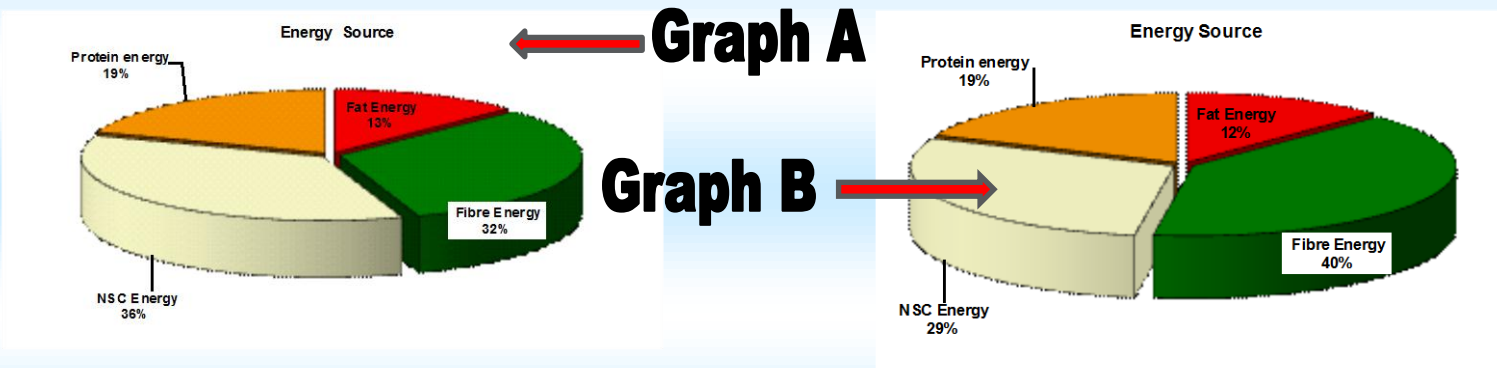
Oats and Supplement Why Not?

Horses have eaten oats as part of their basic diet for decades. So even with the confusing maze of products on the market to-day why not keep life simple and stick with the old proven reliable system of oats and hay?

Oats are easily the safest and most desirable of the major grains used in horse feeds. Although quite high in starch oats are very digestible and the amount of fibre in oats somewhat reduces the possibility of colic or laminitis compared to corn or barley. However on their own oats do not properly balance a ration for minerals and vitamins, consequently there is an array of mineral/vitamin supplements to complement oats and provide the total balance required. Problem solved? Well maybe not.

To-days horses are used in a wide variety of activities. Some require a lot of calories, as much as 30 plus megacalories per day. Oats just doesn't have enough energy to fuel such a horse without the possible side effects that a ration high in starch might cause such as colic, laminitis, and excitability. Fortunately nutritionists have come up with formulas that are high energy but with reduced starch levels. The energy is supplied with higher fat formulas from soy or flax oil combined with highly digestible sources of fibre. This is the basis of popular feeds like Brooks Fit & Fibre and Phase 5.

Graph A shows the mix of energy sources using oats and a common supplement for a horse requiring only 23.5 Mcals/day such as a hunter or pleasure horse. This horse is getting more than 1/2 of its energy from starches, sugars and protein. This could be a recipe for an excitable difficult horse to ride. In situations where a lot more energy is needed the risks of high grain feeding from the sugar/starch factor is even more of a concern.



Graph B shows the energy mix using Fit & Fibre as the sole concentrate for the same horse. In this ration more than 1/2 of the energy is coming from fibre and fat. This is what is referred to as a quiet ration because fibre and fat energy affect most horse's excitability less than more starch and sugar based rations.

Better formulations using good quality fats and fibres have made horses requiring moderate and higher levels of energy much more controllable and less prone to digestive disturbances than older style starch based feeds and provide targeted fuel for the muscles used in many equine disciplines such as hunter/jumpers, pleasure riding and endurance.

Well what about horses that don't require much grain. Certainly a handful of oats isn't going to set them off in spasms of cantankerous fits. True enough. But a handful of a fully balanced feed like Fit & Fibre along with a mineral/vitamin supplement has far more overall nutritional value than straight oats. For example properly formulated feeds like Brooks Fit & Fibre or Phase 5 have features such as special yeasts for enhanced digestion, organic minerals for better absorption and added oils and amino acids for healthy hair coats and hooves. While some supplements have similar attributes many lack the benefits of Omega 3 fatty acids from Brooks Flax Appeal.

While the simplicity of a supplement plus oats feeding system appeals to some stables a similar approach can be used with a complete feed. Feeding 1 pound or less of Brooks Enhancer/1000 pounds of bodyweight along with a complete feed (Fit & Fibre, Phase 5 etc.) and hay will maintain weight and provide all of the nutritional value outlined above. A horse requiring more than 5 pounds/1000 pounds of bodyweight per day of a complete feed like Fit & Fibre along with hay no longer needs the supplement since at that rate the complete feed provides all the horses mineral needs. As well even horses requiring very little concentrate will show improved hair and hoof quality when fed a cup of Flax Appeal daily.

Oats are still a valuable ingredient in many horse feeds particularly ones requiring energy from starch and sugar such as those for race horses. However the advances in equine nutrition in recent years have resulted in formulations much better suited to many equine disciplines. Brooks Performance Horse Feeds are formulated to provide the correct mix of energy sources for your specific equine discipline. We have confidence that you will see that "there is a difference"

Dan Irwin Brooks Feeds

Timing of Pasture Access

In recent years, horse owners have been overwhelmed with warnings about carbohydrate storage, fructans, stressed forage, metabolic syndrome, laminitis risk, and a flood of other statistics related to grass, that seemingly dangerous feedstuff.

Horses have enjoyed unrestricted grazing for centuries, but with new strains of forage, heavy fertilization of pastures, newly diagnosed metabolic complaints, and problems with equine obesity, grass has come under closer scrutiny. While many horses can still graze day after day without developing problems, some classes of horses should have limited pasture access to avoid the serious metabolic upsets triggered by consumption of the sugars in fresh grass.

So, what's the best time to let these susceptible horses into the pasture? Photosynthesis influences sugar levels in grass. During daylight hours, grasses manufacture and store sugars as they absorb water, sunlight, and carbon dioxide. These stored sugars are used to fuel plant growth during the night. Therefore, sugar levels are at their highest in late afternoon and at their lowest in the very early morning hours.

Horses that are sensitive to carbohydrate levels in pasture grass can graze with least risk from the predawn hours until around 10:00 a.m. This is a time period when stored sugars have been used and have not yet been replenished by photosynthesis. They should not be allowed to graze when sugars are being built up and stored, usually during the sunlight hours and through the early hours of the night.

Season of the year, rainfall, temperature, frequency of mowing, plant types, and grazing pressure also influence the sugar levels in pasture plants. For extremely sensitive horses, there is no completely safe time to graze. These horses are best managed on low-carbohydrate hay with access to a drylot for exercise and social contact.

Reprinted courtesy of Kentucky Equine Research

News and Notes



Brook's client Claire Hunter hosted a Summer Showcase CSHA and Open Breed Show on August 14th at Braecrest Stables near Tottenham Ontario.

Braecrest is a diversified stable offering breeding training and sales services.

www.braecreststables.com

At left is the Open Champion Mare, Licorne (Lemon Park X Woodessa) with handler Ronnie Davidson and Brook's representative Laurie Bishop. Licorne is owned by Four Leaf Farm near Richmond in the Ottawa area. www.fourleaffarms.com

Jaimey and Tina Irwin excel in dressage



Jaimey Irwin of Stouffville, swept the Advanced Division at the Cornerstone Farms Summer Festival, July 15-17, held at the Caledon Equestrian Park. Riding Winston, a 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding, Irwin earned scores of 70.6% in the Prix St. Georges, 70.1% in the Intermediaire 1, and 73.8% in the Intermediaire 1 Freestyle.

Tina Irwin of Stouffville, has been named the Dressage Canada Red Scarf Equestrian Athlete of the Month for June. Also riding Winston, Tina placed first in the Intermediaire Freestyle with 73.3%, and second in both the Intermediaire I (71.0%) and Prix St. Georges (67.7%) during the CDI-W Milton Summer Classic. At CDI-W Milton International Classic, Winston and Irwin placed second with a score of 74.2% in the Intermediaire Freestyle. The pair scored 70.6% in the Intermediaire1 and 69.1% in the Prix St. Georges for two additional second place finishes.