

Will the high protein content of CoolStance harm my horse?

When looking at the protein content of a feed, you must consider it as part of a complete diet. Cool Stance is a high protein feed (21% crude protein), however it is designed to be fed in conjunction with lower protein feeds like grass hay. Therefore when considered as part of a complete diet, CoolStance makes a valuable contribution to satisfying a horse's protein requirements in what may otherwise be a diet which is marginal or even deficient in protein.

If CoolStance is fed as recommended, your horse's protein requirement will be met. However, if Cool Stance is fed in conjunction with large quantities of alfalfa hay or other high protein feedstuffs, your horse's protein requirement will be exceeded. If protein is fed in excess of your horse's requirements, it will simply be metabolised and used by the horse as a source of energy. Converting protein to energy produces waste nitrogen that must be excreted in the urine. This is a natural process and will not harm a healthy horse in any way. Likewise, excess protein is not capable of causing founder or negatively affecting your horse's behaviour.



A protein intake that exceeds the upper limit outlined in can however have a negative effect on performance horse's athletic capacity. This can happen when feeding high quality alfalfa hay. The digestion and metabolism of protein produces a lot of waste heat, which the horse must dissipate via sweating. In addition, getting rid of the waste nitrogen requires large volumes of urine to be produced and excreted. Thus high protein diets increase a horse's body heat load and water loss, which in warm and humid conditions or during strenuous physical activity, can contribute to hyperthermia, dehydration and electrolyte loss. These factors all culminate in a compromised performance. The large volumes of urine excreted by horses on high protein diets also contributes to wet stalls and the build-up of ammonia in poorly ventilated stables. The ammonia can damage a horses lungs and cause respiratory problems.

For more information or to order CoolStance/PowerStance, please
call 803-647-1200 or e-mail Claudia@stanceglobal.com

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Therefore a performance horse's ration must be carefully balanced to avoid problems associated with excessive protein in a horse's diet. Again, if Cool Stance is fed as directed, a performance horse's protein requirement will not be exceeded to the point where performance is compromised.

Table: The recommended intake of Cool Stance for a 500 kg horse undertaking various activities and the amount of protein required and received by a 500 kg horse being fed Cool Stance and 9% crude protein (CP) grass hay.

	Cool Fuel (kg/day)	Grass Hay9%CP CP (kg/day)	Requirement (g/day)	CP Supplied (g/day)	Upper Limit#(g/day)
Spelling	0.5	8.25	656	847	N/A*
Light Work	1	9.00	820	1020	1600
Moderate Work	2	9.25	984	1252	1800
Heavy Work	3	9.50	1312	1485	2000
Pregnant Mare (Late)	1	7.75	866	907	N/A*
Lactating Mare (Early)	4	8.50	1427	1605	N/A*

*If the horse is not stabled excess protein in the diet will not be an issue for healthy horses.

Problems associated with excess dietary protein may be experienced at intakes above this level.

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