# Graining

You should be familiar with all the types of grain and understand the difference between them. You should use the feed tag to identify the grain, understand the nutrient value and recognize the lot number. The bags themselves can look similar. The advertising slogans and pretty pictures of horses, can be confusing, distracting and misleading, so learn to rely on the feed tag to correctly identify grain. You should make sure that you are feeding the oldest bags of a particular feed i.e. bags with the lowest lot number.







Forage extender super bites feed tag

### **Types of Grain:**

### 1. Complete Diet 13 (CD13):

This is a feed for horses of most ages. It is a small pellet. We have found that some horses easily choke on this grain (esophageal obstruction) because they eat it too fast. We manage this problem by haying all horses before graining and by soaking grain for any horses which show a tendency to choke.



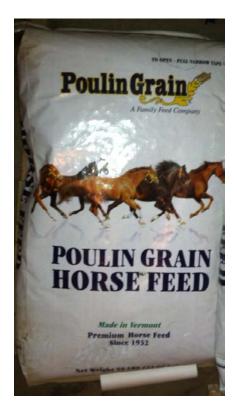
A bag of CD13



CD 13 Pellets

#### 2. Forage Extender Super-bites (FE):

This is a high fiber, low energy supplement to help counter balance deficiencies in our hay. It comes in large and small pellets. The smaller (mini-bites) look very similar to CD 13, so we prefer not to use them. Usually we purchase the large pellets (super-bites) which are easily distinguished from CD13.



Bag of forage extender (note it does not say forage extender on bag. Use the feed tag curled up at bottom)



Forage extender superbite pellets

# 3. Equine Senior

Equine Senior is a pelleted feed especially formulated for older horses. It is a darker pellet than CD 13.



Bag of Equine Senior



**Equine Senior Pellets** 

#### 4. Mare and Foal (MF)

As its name suggests, "mare and foal" is specifically formulated for mares in their last third of gestation, lactating broodmares and as a creep feed for foals. Note that it is a mix of grains with some pellets added.



# 5. Beet Pulp

Beet pulp is fed soaked as an additional source of fiber. Because it is soaked it also can help prevent choking. It MUST be soaked for 8-12 hours prior to feeding to take up moisture and should NEVER be fed unsoaked.





To soak beet pulp put two full 1.5 quart scoops (3 quarts) into one of the small blue buckets. Fill the bucket with water and let it soak during the day or over night in the warm room.





#### Feed Additives

We give a variety of additives to some horses feed. These are as follows:

**Flax seed** – provides Omega 3 fatty acids which have been shown to reduce inflammation. We use this in chronically lame horses. Usually we give 1/8 of a quart.



**Molasses** – is used to make feeds and medication palatable. For example we use it to increase acceptance of flax seed. We pour a little over the feed. However, do NOT pour it into any of the measuring cups because it is very messy. Store in the grain bin or in the tack room during cold weather.



**Vegetable oil** – is a concentrated source of energy for horses. In horses with low body condition score we can feed carbohydrates (from grains in pelleted feeds, but too much grain can lead to colic). The oil allows us to boost the calories without significantly increasing the risk of colic. Attached are measuring cups



**Trimethoprim Sulpha** ("Tucoprim" or "Uniprim") – is an antibiotic which we commonly give to horses which have wounds. Usually one or two scoops are placed on the feed once a day. (a small plastic dosing scoop comes with the medication).



**Phenylbutazone ("Bute")** – is an anti-inflammatory medication which we add to the feed when a horse is lame and needs pain relief. It is usually one scoop placed on the feed once day (a gram scoop usually comes with the medication)



#### **Grain Measurements**

All measurements are given in quarts unless otherwise specified. The measuring cups are subdivided into cups:

1/2 Cup = 1/8 Quart

1 Cup = 1/4 Quart

2 Cups = 1/2 Quart

4 Cups = 1 Quart

 $6 \text{ Cups} = 1 \frac{1}{2} \text{ Quarts}$ 

There are two measuring cups, one small (2 cups – 1/2 quart) and one large (4 cups – 1 quart). Black lines are placed on the small one at the 1/8 quart mark, and on the large one at the 1/2 and 1 quart marks. When the large cup is full to the brim it contains exactly 1 1/2 quarts



Small measuring cup
Black line indicates 1/8 quart
(e.g. when used for flax seed)



Large measuring cup

Black lines indicate 1/2 and 1 quart





1/8 quart CD 13 (small measuring cup) 1/2 quart CD 13 (large cup)



1 quart (large measuring cup)
Full to 4 cup mark



1 1/2 quarts (large measuring cup)
Full to brim

## Soaking Grain

#### ноw to Soak the Grain

1. Take the pre-filled white buckets out of the grain cart and bring them to a hose





White bucket with pre mixed grain

Soaking bucket

- 2. Find the horse's soaking bucket; this will be located in the warm room.
- 3. Dump each white bucket into the colored (blue, green, red) bucket with the corresponding horse name







Water added After soaking

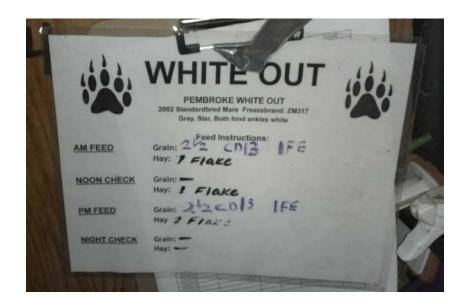
- 4. Add water to cover the grain plus a little extra.
  - a. Make sure that you do not add too much because it will make it soupy
  - b. Don't add to little because then it will be too thick
  - c. Do not add water to the white buckets. If the white buckets get wet, dry them.
- 5. Let grain soak for about 10 to 15 minutes
- 6. Once finished soaking pour mixture into black bins located in front of the horse's stall and place in stall
- 7. Rinse the red, blue and green buckets in the warm room
  - a. Make sure that the soaking buckets are rinsed clean in the warm room and that there is no grain left on the floor
- 8. Re-fill the white buckets according to the grain sheet located on the wall in the grain room. This chart explains what grain each horse gets.

See picture of below of what the chart looks likes



#### How to Grain

- 1. Pull the grain cart out of the grain room and start with Roadshow
- 2. Read the graining instructions for each horse which is located on their stall (see below)



- 3. Use the measuring cups located in the grain cart (see measuring section)
- 4. Located to the right of each stall door, there is a latch on the bars, open this to feed the horse
  - a. Some will have the feeding tray/bin attached so it will swing the tray out to you
  - b. Some will have the feeding tray/bin attached the wall underneath this opening
- 5. Add the grain to the feed bin and mix
  - a. In the grain cart, each feed's name is located on the inside wall of the cart
- 6. Make sure you feed all horses
- 7. Do not leave until all horses are done eating
- 8. Put grain cart back and refill buckets and grain bins as needed
- 9. Close grain room door, pull door against the wooden flashing.

Grain door closed against the wooden flashing.

