

What does “energy without fizz” mean in horse feed?

In horse nutrition, “energy without fizz” means offering **steady energy** that promotes work and condition without leading to **fizzy behaviour**, sharp excitability, or uneven performance. The goal is to choose horse feed that promotes **calm performance** while still meeting the horse’s daily needs for work, body condition, and **digestive health**.

The biggest influences on how a horse feels after feeding are **sugar and starch**. Feed that is high in starch or quickly available sugars can produce a faster rise in blood glucose and a more excitable response in some horses. By contrast, a **forage-based diet** with more **fibre** usually gives slower, more consistent fuel. This is why many owners look for **low starch** and **low sugar** options when they want dependable energy without the extra spark.

It helps to think about the horse’s **hindgut** and overall **gut health**. Horses are designed to digest fibre continuously, not to process large grain-heavy meals. When fibre is the main energy source, the horse often gets **slow-release energy** that is easier to manage, especially in horses that become sharp on richer feeds.

Which types of horse feed are best for steady, calm energy?

There are a number of **types of horse feed** that can supply usable calories without leaving a horse overexcited. The best choice depends on the horse’s work, body condition, and temperament, but the general rule is simple: select feeds built around fibre and reduce unnecessary cereals when possible.

A **complete horse feed** can be a good option if you want ease and a more controlled nutrient profile. Many complete feeds are designed to [low sugar laminitis feed](#) supply fibre, vitamins, and minerals in one ration, which can reduce guesswork. If the product is also **cereal-free**, **unmolassed**, and **low starch**, it is often a strong candidate for horses that need energy without extra fizz.

A **fibre-based feed** is often even better for horses that are sensitive to starch. These feeds usually feature ingredients such as chopped fibre, beet pulp, or other digestible fibre sources. They tend to support the horse more gradually, helping keep behaviour and energy more even through the day.

When looking at feed types, focus on these practical points:

- High **fibre** content for slow-release energy
- Low **starch** and low **sugar** levels
- Good **palatability** so the horse eats it reliably
- Clear **nutritional analysis** on the **feed labels**
- A format that suits the horse’s **workload** and temperament

For many horses, the best answer is not the most “energetic” feed on the shelf, but the one that supports condition and work without disturbing behaviour. That usually means a fibre-led approach rather than a cereal-heavy ration.

How exactly do fibre, oil and usable calories affect overall energy levels?

Fibre, **oil**, and overall **digestible energy** have a major impact in how a horse feels after a meal. Fibre is fermented in the hindgut and creates a steady supply of energy. This process is slower than starch digestion,

which is why fibre is often associated with **steady energy** and a more calm mindset.

Oil is another useful energy source. **Oils and fats** provide concentrated calories without the sharp spike linked to high-starch feeding. In the right ration, oil can support weight maintenance, stamina, and coat condition while still fitting a low-fizz approach. Many owners use **oil supplements** or feed blends that already include oil to lift calorie intake without increasing excitability.

The key is balance. More calories do not automatically mean more fizz. A horse may need extra **digestible energy** because of hard work, poor grazing, or difficulty keeping condition. In that case, increasing fibre and oil can improve the **condition score** without leaning on starch-heavy ingredients.

Energy quality matters as much as energy quantity. A fibre-led ration with measured oil often gives better behaviour than a feed that simply adds more cereals.

It is also worth watching the whole diet, not just the bucket feed. Good quality **forage**, such as **hay** or **haylage**, should form the foundation of the ration. When forage intake is too low, horses are more likely to become unsettled, and digestive function may suffer.

What should you avoid if your horse gets sharp on feed?

If a horse becomes fizzy, worked-up, or difficult after feeding, the best place to review is the ingredient profile. The most common causes are **high starch** feeds, added sugars, and highly palatable but energy-dense mixes that do not suit the horse's temperament.

Be cautious with **molasses**, especially when it is used heavily to improve taste. While molasses can increase **palatability**, it also raises the sugar content. That may be fine for some horses in small amounts, but it can be unhelpful for excitable horses that do better on **unmolassed** feed.

Cereal mixes can also be problematic for some animals, particularly if the ration is built around large amounts of barley, oats, or maize. These ingredients are not automatically bad, but they can increase starch levels quickly. For horses prone to fizz, a lower-starch approach is usually safer and more consistent.

There is also a welfare concern. Diets high in starch may increase **laminitis risk** in susceptible horses, especially if forage intake, body condition, and workload are not managed properly. That is another reason to prioritise fibre-first feeding and to be careful with fast-energy rations.

If a horse is excitable, the best approach is to simplify the diet, review the feed labels, and make sure the bucket feed matches the work actually being done. Sometimes the issue is not "too much food" but the wrong kind of fuel.

How should you choose feed based on exercise level and disposition?

The right horse feed depends on both **workload** and **temperament**. A horse in minimal work with a naturally sharp personality usually needs a different ration from a horse doing more intense work but remaining calm and steady. The goal is to feed the horse you have, not the horse you wish you had.

A simple **horse feeding chart** can help you pair feed type to workload. These charts usually show broad categories such as maintenance, light work, moderate work, and hard work. They are helpful starting points, but they are not a substitute for observing the horse's body condition, energy level, and behaviour.

Good **horse feeding rules** suggest increasing calories slowly, not all at once. If a horse starts getting leaner, becomes flat, or struggles to recover after exercise, add calories from fibre or oil before jumping to a high-starch mix. If the horse becomes excitable, reduce starch and check whether the ration is simply too rich for the temperament.

Temperament matters just as much as exercise. Two horses in the same workload may need different rations if one is naturally laid-back and the other is reactive. That is why label reading and close observation are more reliable than choosing feed based on marketing alone.

Should beginners use complete horse feed or a mix?

For most beginners, especially those looking for **horse feed for beginners**, a **complete horse feed** is the easiest place to start. It can simplify the ration because it usually includes a balanced mix of energy, fibre, vitamins, and minerals in one product. That makes it easier to avoid gaps in nutrition and can reduce the risk of overcomplicating the diet.

A mix can work too, but it demands more knowledge. If you build a ration from separate ingredients, you need to understand how much forage the horse eats, whether the bucket feed has enough minerals, and whether the resulting diet is still balanced. This is where a **ration balancer** can be a good option, especially when the horse gets most of its calories from **forage**.

New owners often do best with a simple formula: provide good forage first, then choose a low-starch feed or balancer depending on the horse's condition. This approach is practical to use, supports **digestive health**, and avoids the common mistake of feeding too much cereal too quickly.

If you are unsure, go for a straightforward ration rather than a complicated mix. Simplicity often improves consistency, and consistency is one of the biggest factors in calm behaviour.

How much horse feed should you provide for steady energy?

The right amount depends on the horse's frame, body condition, age, work, and forage intake. A **horse feed calculator uk** can help estimate a starting point, but it should always be used alongside practical monitoring and **horse feed advice uk** from a qualified professional when needed.

A useful way to think about a **daily ration** is to start with forage, then add bucket feed only to cover the gap. If forage quality is high and the horse is in light work, the bucket feed may only need to provide vitamins, minerals, and a small amount of extra energy. If the horse is working harder or struggling to hold condition, the ration may need additional fibre or oil.

A **horse feeding chart** can aid estimate portion size, but it should be treated as a guide rather than a fixed rule. Feed too little and the horse may lose condition or feel flat. Feed too much, especially in starch, and you may see unwanted excitement or poor digestion.

The safest path is to change feed gradually and review the horse's **condition score** every couple of weeks. A calm horse with a stable body condition usually tells you the ration is close to right.

What do people consider the ten principles of feeding horses?

The **10 rules of feeding horses** give a practical framework for guiding better feeding decisions. They also fit with sensible **horse feeding rules** that support **digestive health**, behaviour, and condition.

- **Forage first** — use forage the foundation of the diet.
- Feed **small meals** rather than large bucket feeds.
- Keep changes gradual to protect the **hindgut**.
- Set feed to **workload**, not guesses.
- Select **low starch** options for excitable horses.
- Include **fibre** and **oils** for **slow-release energy**.
- Study the **feed labels** and understand **nutritional analysis**.
- Watch the horse's **condition score** regularly.
- Confirm fresh water and consistent routines are always available.
- Review the ration if behaviour, appetite, or weight changes.

These rules are simple, but they work because they mirror how horses are designed to eat. A good feeding system is less about chasing maximum energy and more about supporting consistent intake and a balanced ration.

How do you compare horse feed brands and companies?

There are many **horse feed companies**, and they do not all formulate feed in the same way. To compare them properly, start with the ingredients and the guaranteed analysis rather than the front of the bag. Good brands make it easy to see the levels of **starch**, **sugar**, fibre, protein, and oil.

When comparing products, pay close attention to **feed labels** and ask whether the feed is designed for energy, condition, or general maintenance. A brand such as **spillers horse feed** may offer different options for different workloads and temperaments, so it is important to compare the exact product rather than the brand name alone.

Look for obvious **nutritional analysis**, clear feeding directions, and a ration that suits the horse's daily intake. If the feed claims to deliver calm energy, it should usually be backed by a fibre-led formula, **overweight horse feed** moderate energy density, and limited starch rather than vague marketing language.

Reviewing horse feed companies is easier when you know what matters: fibre, starch, sugar, oil, and the intended use of the product. That is the best way to avoid paying for features your horse does not need.

How much does horse feed cost and what affects value?

Horse feed cost varies based on formulation, brand, ingredient quality, and packaging size. A more expensive feed is not automatically better, and a cheaper feed is not automatically poor value. The most useful comparison is **cost per day**, not just the price of the bag.

Bag size is important because larger bags often reduce the per-kilo price, but only if the feed suits your horse and is used before it loses freshness. If the ration includes premium fibres, oils, or specialised low-starch ingredients, the upfront cost may be higher, but the horse may need less of it if the diet is well balanced.

It also helps to weigh up what else the feed replaces. A complete feed may seem expensive, but if it removes the need for separate balancers, vitamin supplements, or extra fibre products, the true cost may be reasonable. Good value means the horse stays healthy, relaxed, and in the right **condition score**.

As with all feeding decisions, focus on the whole ration rather than the sticker price. The best value is often the feed that keeps the horse consistent, healthy, and easy to manage.

Can you make a horse feed mix recipe for low-fizz energy?

Yes, a simple **horse feed mix recipe** can work well for calm, steady energy, provided it is built around fibre rather than cereals. A low-fizz mix often combines **fibre**, **unmolassed beet pulp**, and **oils** to create a ration that supports weight, workload, and **digestive health** without the sharpness linked to high starch.

A useful calm mix may include:

- A starting point of chopped **fibre** and fibre cubes
- **Unmolassed beet pulp** for digestible fibre
- A controlled source of **oil** and **oils and fats**
- A appropriate **ration balancer** for vitamins and minerals
- Plenty to ample **forage**, including **hay** and **haylage**

Such a mix suits horses that need extra calories but are sensitive to starch. It can support condition without relying on cereal-heavy ingredients. Make sure the total diet remains balanced and introduce any new mix gradually.

For many horses, this approach is more effective than trying to “add energy” through more grain. It also fits well with a **forage-based diet** and the principles of **low starch** feeding.

FAQ: Horse feeding questions owners ask most

What horse feed gives energy without making a horse fizzy?

The best horse feed for energy without fizz is usually **low starch**, **low sugar**, and fibre-led. Look for a **complete horse feed** or fibre-based feed that uses **digestible fibre** and, where needed, added **oil** for **slow-release energy**. Avoid heavily cereal-based feeds if the horse is sensitive.

Is a complete horse feed better than a mix for calm energy?

For many owners, yes. A **complete horse feed** can be easier to manage because it is usually designed as a **balanced ration**. It can be a good choice for **horse feed for beginners**. A mix can also work, but it takes more knowledge to keep the diet balanced and suitable for the horse’s temperament.

How much horse feed should I give my horse each day?

Use your horse’s size, **workload**, **condition score**, and forage intake to guide the **daily ration**. A **horse feed calculator uk** or **horse feeding chart** can help you start, but the amount should be adjusted based on body condition and behaviour. Good **horse feed advice uk** can help fine-tune the ration.

What ingredients should I avoid in horse feed for excitable horses?

Avoid or minimise **high starch** ingredients heavy use of **molasses**, and rich **cereal mixes** if your horse gets excitable. These rations can contribute to quicker reactions in some horses and may raise **laminitis risk** in vulnerable animals. A fibre-based, unmolassed approach is usually softer.

Can I use a horse feeding chart or calculator to select the right feed?

Absolutely. A **horse feeding chart** or **horse feed calculator uk** is a helpful guide for choosing the right **horse feed**. Just keep in mind that charts are references, not exact instructions. Carefully adjust for the horse's nature, body condition, and actual daily intake, and check the ration regularly.