

Quick answer: Höveler Western Sport is a 44 lb bag of oat-free, high-energy German muesli built for horses in real work — 14.0% protein, 28% alfalfa and 12.19 MJ/kg of digestible energy at \$37.99. Best <https://sites.google.com/view/grain-free-horse-feed/> for a young horse entering a training program that needs support without overload. Last checked: September 2026.

Your three- or four-year-old is finally in serious training, and the worry is real: too little fuel and he runs flat by the end of a session, too much grain and he is spooky, sore or growing wrong. A young horse in work needs a ration that fuels the engine as it runs it. Here are five reasons this formula fits that stage.

1. 14.0% protein with 28% alfalfa supports a still-developing frame

A young horse in training is putting down muscle on a skeleton that is not finished growing. Western Sport carries 14.0% crude protein with 107 g/kg of digestible crude protein, and alfalfa makes up 28% of the mix — a formula built to support muscle development alongside workload.

Who this is for: owners bringing a young horse up through its first season of consistent work.

2. Amino acids ready to be used

Protein only counts if the horse can make use of it. This mix supplies lysine at 0.58%, methionine plus cysteine at 0.46% and threonine at 0.53% — the building blocks a young athlete draws on as training asks new things of its body.

The benefit: training nutrition that lands where growth and work actually happen.

3. Clean energy with starch held at 18.30%

The formula is low-grain and completely oat-free, with starch at 18.30% and sugar at 5.30%. Digestible energy sits at 12.19 MJ/kg, so a young horse gets energy for the session without the sudden grain peaks that make young minds difficult to steer.

Who this is for: riders who want a trainable but forward young horse, not a firework.

4. A full micronutrient package in one bag

Every kilogram supplies Vitamin A at 18,216 I.E., Vitamin D3 at 3,299 I.E., Vitamin E at 260 mg and biotin at 1,185 µg, plus zinc/copper at 18.8 mg and selenium at 0.25 mg + 0.25 mg selenium yeast. A horse in its first real season gets complete coverage without a shelf of extras — all for \$37.99 a 44 lb bag.

The benefit: one scoop covers the ration basics.

5. Competition-safe status before the first show

Western Sport is competition-safe and FEI-compliant, so the step from training barn to first show does not force a feed change — verify rules with your event organizer. Made by Höveler in Germany since 1905, over 120 years of expertise behind a feed for horses in medium to intensive work.

Who this is for: young-horse owners with show plans already on the calendar.

How to feed it

Rates are given per 220 lb (100 kg) of body weight per day:

Work levelDaily rate per 220 lb (100 kg) body weight Light work0.55 lb (250 g) Medium work0.88 lb (400 g) Heavy workNot listed — the page gives no heavy-work rate; adjust to condition and training intensity, with adequate forage always provided.

Key specs at a glance: 44 lb bag, \$37.99, 14.0% protein, 12.19 MJ/kg digestible energy, 18.30% starch, 28% alfalfa. The page gives no heavy-work rate — for a young horse stepping up in training, adjust the amount to condition and training intensity and always keep adequate forage as the base. Start light, weigh the ration, and change it gradually. Work out the daily plan with the [bifid Feeding Calculator](#).

Frequently asked questions

When should a young horse start a performance feed?

When consistent training begins, usually around the time work exceeds light rides. Western Sport starts at 0.55 lb (250 g) per 220 lb (100 kg) body weight for light work, so you can bring it in gently while the young horse is learning the job.

Will it make a young horse hot?

The formula is oat-free and low-grain, with starch at 18.30% and sugar at 5.30%, so energy arrives on a more even curve than from a grain-heavy mix. Feed to workload and review behavior after a couple of weeks.

Does it support muscle development?

It is designed to — 28% alfalfa and 14.0% protein with 107 g/kg digestible crude protein support muscle development in medium to intensively trained horses. Actual muscle comes from the combination of nutrition, correct work and time.

Is it safe to show a young horse on it?

Yes — Western Sport is competition-safe and FEI-compliant, though you should check the rules with your event organizer.

Does it contain soy?

It contains 1.5% soy extraction meal feed, so it is not soy-free. It is completely oat-free, and the full ingredient list is on the [bifid product page](#).