



**Australian Government**

# **SISOEQU014 Determine nutritional requirements for sport or recreational horses**

**Release: 1**

# SISOEQU014 Determine nutritional requirements for sport or recreational horses

## Modification History

Not applicable.

## Application

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to assess the nutritional requirements of horses used in in equestrian sport or recreational riding programs, and to formulate rations and monitor feeding regimes.

This unit applies to a range of organisations involved in equestrian sport, instructional and recreational riding programs. It applies to experienced senior staff who supervise the care of horses. This can include trainers, guides, trail bosses, instructors and coaches.

No occupational licensing, certification or specific legislative requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

## Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

## Competency Field

Equine

## Unit Sector

Outdoor Recreation

## Elements and Performance Criteria

### ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes

1. Assess nutritional requirements of sport or recreational horses.

2. Assess food supplements for horses.

### PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

1.1. Identify and assess nutritional requirements for individual horse needs in consultation with relevant personnel.

1.2. Select feed for quality, nutritional and economic value to meet nutritional requirements of specific horses.

2.1. Determine need to provide supplements to individual horses.

2.2. Identify, as required, supplements that contravene rules for

horse purpose.

2.3. Assess suitability of supplements for individual horses and their workloads.

3. Establish and monitor individual feeding regimes.

3.1. Create rations and determine feeding regimes to meet individual horse needs, for the range of horses in care.

3.2. Use safe practices when feeding horses individually and in groups to avoid injury to self, others and horses.

3.3. Prepare feed and supplements, feed horses at appropriate times and monitor individual feeding regimes.

3.4. Monitor food rations and confirm they meet nutritional requirements of individual horses.

3.5. Monitor and evaluate the effects of supplements on the work performance of horses.

3.6. Provide paddocked horses with suitable pasture and supplementary feed according to their needs.

3.7. Document, for individual horses, eating behaviour, food intake and work level.

3.8. Adjust feeding regime in response to changing horse behaviour and needs.

## Foundation Skills

Foundation skills essential to performance in this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed here, along with a brief context statement.

### SKILLS

### DESCRIPTION

Reading skills to:

- interpret material describing complex nutritional ingredients of feed and supplements.

Writing skills to:

- use fundamental sentence structure to complete horse feeding, behavioural and nutritional records that require factual information.

Numeracy skills to:

- complete complex calculations to compare costs for different feed, supplements and quantities
- calculate and document individual quantities, measure and weigh feed and supplements for multiple horses.

## Unit Mapping Information

No equivalent unit.

## Links

Companion Volume Implementation Guide -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=1ca50016-24d2-4161-a044-d3faa200268b>

## **Assessment Requirements for SISOEQU014 Determine nutritional requirements for sport or recreational horses**

### **Modification History**

Not applicable.

### **Performance Evidence**

Evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit in the context of the job role, and:

- assess the nutritional requirements of three different sport or recreational horses
- create a ration for each of the three horses
- determine a monthly feeding regime to include feed and supplements
- cost the monthly provision of feed and supplements for each of the three horses
- feed the three horses according to the predetermined ration and regime on three occasions
- consistently use safe work practices when feeding horses
- complete documentation for each of the three horses to include:
  - food intake
  - eating behaviour
  - work level
  - any recommended changes to feeding regime.

### **Knowledge Evidence**

Demonstrated knowledge required to complete the tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit:

- common behaviour of horses when fed individually and in groups
- safe horse handling techniques specific to feeding horses in these situations:
  - stables
  - yards
  - paddocks
  - groups of horses
- basic function of horse digestive system
- types of feed suitable for horses
- types of supplements suitable for horses and their value to horse performance
- types of supplements that contravene rules for horses used in competitive sports
- sources and importance of the following to horse nutrition:
  - protein
  - fat
  - trace elements

- fibre
- minerals
- factors that determine the nutritional and energy requirements of horses:
  - age
  - gender
  - pregnancy and lactation
  - weight
  - condition
  - work purpose
  - workload
  - stage of training
  - spelling
  - environmental conditions of work and housing
- natural grazing and browsing behaviours of horses
- poisonous plants and their effects on grazing horses
- nutritional value of pasture
- common horse eating disorders, feeding behavioural problems and methods to correct
- indicators of need to adjust feeding regime which can include:
  - colic
  - diarrhoea
  - changes in horse eating behaviour
  - behavioural changes during work
- feed safety requirements:
  - environmental conditions for storage of feed and supplements to avoid contamination
  - cleaning requirements for food storage, preparation, feeding and watering equipment.

## Assessment Conditions

Skills can be demonstrated in any indoor or outdoor environment where horses are fed. Environments must include paddocked areas.

Horse matching prior to all assessments involving horse interaction is essential. Assessors must:

- complete, participate in or validate a risk assessment of the candidate's characteristics and level of horse handling skills
- match, or validate the matching of, horses of suitable history, size and temperament to the candidate to ensure that handler and horse combination is safe.

Assessment must ensure use of:

- horses matched to the candidate as above; these can be:
  - calm, consistent and obedient horses; or

- compliant and manageable horses
- equipment used to weigh and measure feed and supplements
- bags, nets and bins used to feed horses
- a range of equine feed and supplements
- information about:
  - the nutritional ingredients of feed and supplements
  - costs of feed, additives and supplements
- template feeding records.

Assessment must ensure access to:

- organisational safety procedures for feeding horses
- human and equine first aid equipment
- communication equipment for emergency response.

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations requirements for assessors, and:

- hold a qualification or Statement of Attainment which includes this unit of competency, SISOEQU014 Determine nutritional requirements for sport or recreational horses, or a qualification or Statement of Attainment which includes a unit of competency that has been superseded by this unit, and
- have at least three years' experience in a role involving the care of sport or recreational horses where they have applied the skills and knowledge covered in this unit of competency.

## Links

Companion Volume Implementation Guide -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=1ca50016-24d2-4161-a044-d3faa200268b>