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Horse Nibbles

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<http://www.bourdeaubrothersofmiddlebury.com>



LIFEFORCE is available at Bourdeau Bros. in
Middlebury, VT

30 day supply for \$20.00

Alltech is proud to bring you LIFEFORCE, a natural nutritional supplement designed for all horses at every stage of life.

Digestive Health

LIFEFORCE has been scientifically proven to:

- Allow good bacteria to work most effectively throughout the gut
- Optimize digestive health
- Enhance digestibility of feed
- Maximize extraction of nutrients from the diet
- Stabilize pH and buffer get acidity
- Help prevent digestive upsets.

Immune Function

LIFEFORCE provides the building blocks to enhance the body's natural immune system by:

- Providing organic trace minerals that are more easily absorbed and retained
- Allowing the horse to cope with oxidative stress with the reduction of free radicals.

Assessing Flood Damaged Pastures

For the second time this year flooding and damage of pastures from excessive rains has occurred in a large portion of our region. After water recedes assessing the damage from these floods needs to be done before animals are put back into pasture for grazing.

The first step is to assess physical damage. Are fences still in place? Are there areas of the pasture that washed away and may lead to animal injury if not repaired? Is there dangerous debris that was deposited in the pasture? These areas need to be addressed before pasture use is resumed.

Second is to address the nutritional changes in the pasture due to flooding. A major concern with this flooding is the many sewage treatment plants either stopped working or overflowed in to the flooding rivers. Contaminated flood waters can deposit harmful bacteria, heavy metals, and excessive silt in the pasture. Before animals are allowed to resume grazing in a flooded pasture taking a sample of the standing forage for analysis for ash, which will indicate the amount of silt that has accumulated on the plants, and microminerals, which will tell you the amount of heavy metals that could be ingested when animals eat the material. Minerals to consider for analysis are cadmium, lead, copper, chromium, iodine, manganese, molybdenum, selenium and zinc and are available from most forage labs.

Finally, make sure to assess the amount of good forage available for animals to consume. If pastures were grazed heavily prior to flooding there will be little forage available for consumption after flooding, because there will be no regrowth in the pasture. If the pasture was at a later growth stage and was under water for an extended period of time the forage is likely to turn yellow and die when water recedes. Ensuring that there is adequate forage supply in the pasture is important to make sure that horses will be eating quality forage and not forced to graze on weeds that may be toxic.

After assessing damage, you will need to decide when to repair. If areas need to be reseeded, watch the weather, if frosts are coming waiting until spring to reseed will be more effective. If you need help sampling or assessing a pasture contact Bourdeaus' and Bushey, Inc and talk with a Certified Crop Adviser.

Most Accurate Way to Estimate Horse Weight Described

by: [Casie Bazay, BS, NBCAAM](#)

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Weight tapes, formulas, or simply "eyeing it" are among the average horse owner's options for estimating their horse's weight on the farm.

"Knowing the body weight of a horse is important in many facets of horse care, including designing feeding programs and administering medication," reported the study authors, Elizabeth Wagner, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science, and Patricia Tyler, MS, research associate in the Department of Animal Science.

In the current study, which was funded by the Alabama Horse Council, the researchers weighed 145 adult horses of varying breeds and body types on a portable livestock scale to determine their actual weight before these animals' weights were estimated using three commonly used methods:

- A commercially available weight tape (following the directions that came with the tape);
- Using the [estimation formula](#): $(\text{kg}) = (\text{heartgirth}^2 \times \text{body length}) / (11,880 \text{ cm}^3)$ with length defined as "measuring from the point of shoulder to the point of buttock" (termed the "point measurement"); and
- Using the same estimation formula listed above, this time with length being defined as "measuring from the point of shoulder to the widest point of the stifle and tail when viewed from the rear" (termed the "stifle measurement").

Upon reviewing their data, the team found that while all three of the methods used underestimated the horses' body weights, one method had a smaller margin of error than the other two. Key findings included:

- The point measurement gave the most accurate estimates, underestimating weights by an average of 17.25 kg, or approximately 38 lbs; and
- The commercial weight tape gave the most inaccurate estimates, underestimating weights by an average of 65.81 kg, or approximately 145 lbs.

The authors noted that there are many weight tapes available on the market. Most brands use different measurement systems for estimating weight and, thus, will render slightly different results.