

## **What is A Complete Horse Feed?**

For most horse owners it means that it contains vitamins and minerals that their horse needs. In reality, it means that the feed contains enough fiber that a horse can live on that diet without supplemental hay or pasture in addition to minerals and vitamins. High fiber diets not containing vitamin and mineral supplementation are typically called "hay extenders". Complete feeds have been around for many years and help dramatically during periods of drought or other reasons for hay or pasture shortages. Historically they contained forms of fiber not disclosed on the tag, very low in calories and very high feeding rates so they were not viable options when hay and pasture were in good supply.

Complete horse feeds (15% fiber and higher) have evolved dramatically over the past few years. Triple Crown Complete was recently improved to increase fat and key vitamins and minerals. Triple Crown Complete's moderate soluble carb levels can be used as you would a normal grain for horses while providing the same amount of calories as a grain based diet but half the carbohydrates. Higher fiber, lower carbohydrate diets can help prevent some negative effects often found in grain based diets (diets primarily composed of corn, barley or oats) such as hyper-activity, ulcers, colic, and cribbing. Since horses are designed to function as continual grazers of lower carbohydrate fiber, feeding them grain based, high carbohydrate diets doesn't make sense. As long as you do not sacrifice calories, feeding a fiber based diet is nutritionally preferable for the health of your horse. If hay or pasture are not the best, the additional fiber from shredded beet pulp in Triple Crown Complete is an added bonus helping you meet the 1% of body weight requirement of good fiber to maintain a healthy digestive system.