



**DODSON & HORRELL**

ANIMAL HEALTH, NUTRITION AND WELL-BEING

**FEEDING SUCCESS**

# FEEDING YOUNGSTOCK

## All you need to know

### The newborn foal:

- The first milk produced by the mare is called colostrum which is thick and yellowish in colour
- Colostrum contains high levels of antibodies, including IgG, IgM and IgA, which are vital for the foal
- Transfer of antibodies from the mare to the foal via colostrum is essential to provide the foal with immunity from disease
- Foals can only absorb antibodies for a limited period so should receive 20-40ml per kg of body weight between 2 and 14 hours of birth
- It is always important to check that the foal has had adequate colostrum intake. The vet should take a blood sample when the foal is 1 day old to check the serum antibody status



Call us now for expert nutritional advice: **01270 782223**

# FEEDING YOUNGSTOCK

**Dodson & Horrell Breeding range provides nutrition for all breeding activities and all stages of life.**

## Nursing foals:

- Foals can drink up to 25% of their body weight per day in milk
- With maiden mares, or mares with low milk production, it is important to supplement the foal's milk intake by giving the foal Equilac (milk replacement)
- This will ensure that the foal is receiving all essential nutrients and is fully hydrated
- From 10 days old it is best to introduce creep feed to your foals diet - our Creep Pellets are ideal to support a steady, healthy weight gain, provide ideal protein levels and prebiotics to promote digestive function
- The nutritional value of mare's milk begins to decline when the foal is about 2-3 months old - feeding Creep Pellets will ensure that your foal is receiving all essential micronutrients during this time, such as calcium, phosphorus and copper
- Creep feeding will also provide nutritional support during the 'immunity gap', which occurs between 4 weeks and 4 months of age. This occurs during the changeover in immune protection. Whilst the foal's immune system is still developing, the protection provided by the antibodies supplied by the mare is declining

## Weanlings:

- Weaning usually occurs at around 6 months of age
- During weaning it is very important to monitor and support the foal's body condition
- Often there is a 'slump' in growth rates just after weaning followed by a period of compensatory growth. This may increase the risk of developmental orthopaedic disorders (DOD)
- As weaning is stressful for the foal and they are likely to be mixing with other youngstock at this time, it is important to provide support to the foal's digestive system - our Creep Pellets contain prebiotics MOS and FOS, as well as probiotic Actisaf yeast to help promote a healthy digestive tract

- Feeding creep feed alongside good quality hay and turnout should provide the weanling with all their nutritional requirements
- Weanlings should be turned out in a field with minimal parasite infestation

## Yearlings to adult:

- Growth rates are slower than in earlier life but tissues are still maturing so it is important that the diet provides enough good quality protein and all the essential vitamins and minerals
- It is very important that you regularly monitor body weight since excess weight may put unnecessary strain on the joints and limbs, which can lead to growth problems. Being over-conditioned can be as dangerous as being under-conditioned
- A fat score of 2.5 out of 5 is ideal for your youngster, and you should be able to feel their ribs easily
- Feeding Suregrow will provide youngstock with all their vitamin and mineral requirements
- In the winter months when grass quality is poor, the addition of Mare & Youngstock Concentrate to the diet may be necessary to help the youngster keep a healthy condition



Please visit our website, get in touch via social media or call: **01270 782223**

[dodsonandhorrell.com](http://dodsonandhorrell.com)    

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