



*Dancing Horse Farm*

4080 Weisenberger Road • Lebanon • Ohio • 45036 • Phone: 513-933-0DHF (0343)

E-mail: [Jennifer@DancingHorseFarmOH.com](mailto:Jennifer@DancingHorseFarmOH.com) • Web: [www.DancingHorseFarmOH.com](http://www.DancingHorseFarmOH.com)

---

*A premium care equine facility dedicated to providing an environment of safety, health, happiness, and education for human and horse.*

*"Dare to Dream"*

## **Kalmbach Feed Nutrition Seminar:**

### **"How well is your horse being fed?"**

When the Nutrition Seminar took place, it was a cold and frigid day; however that did not stop those who wanted to be educated. How does DHF's grain and hay rate compared to other barns' in the area? Answer: OFF THE CHARTS!!!! A huge thanks to Jennifer and Lenny because they are the ones, along with the help of Assistant Barn Manager Lindsay, who go out and search for the best possible hay for our horses. They do not stop until good quality hay is found. Next time you come across these three awesome people please thank them for their wonderful hospitality and time they have put in to care for all of the horses. Our grain company, represented by Linda Rodeffer, also has a wonderful record of high quality feed. The Kalmbach Feed Company began in 1963 and it is a family business. Thank you, Linda, for your time and information.

Each horse's diet should be individually evaluated according to the hay quality and quantity. The hay determines the overall feed program. The grain is a compliment to the hay. As far as hay goes, it contains the protein, fibers, fats, starches/sugars, carbohydrates, and vitamins/minerals that the horse needs. DHF's Hay is a grass mix. This is very good nutritional hay, especially for during the winter when the horses are in and cannot go outside frequently to graze. (It also explains why our horses eat it up in such a short amount of time) It is not like timothy hay, which is "dead hay" and not much is digested. Nevertheless horses need grain too.

Grain is given to help meet nutritional values. It is measured based on the horse's sport, age, overall condition, and any lameness issues. Older horses shouldn't have too much protein or starches/sugars, as they cannot digest them well. This information also applies to Warmbloods and Warmblood crosses. Special Note to treat lovers: keep in mind of how many treats you are feeding and the sugar value. *Horses do not need a sugar high!* Can your horse really digest that many treats easily? Our grain also contains fats/Omega fats. The Omegas are the fats that improve hair coat, stamina, and decrease inflammation. If your horse is an "Easy Keeper", then he/she requires less fat; which equals less grain. More Athletic horses may require more fat, which can equal more fat or more grain.

When your horse isn't getting a lot of grain, his/her nutritional needs can still be met. The key is have a hay and grain *balance*. Supplements are only given if there is an ABSOLUTE need. If there is the proper balance of hay and grain, the appropriate amount of vitamins and minerals, proteins, starches, and fats will be present in the diet. So when you are thinking of getting your horse started on a supplement, look at the content of the supplement as compared to the hay and grain. You could be giving too much of one (or more) ingredient, making it a toxic combination. Take home message: Give only what is needed.

Hope you have learned more about the quality of hay and grain your horse is getting at DHF - not to mention how to better understand your horse's dietary needs. For more in depth questions please see Jennifer or Lindsay. Have a good day!