

Quick answer: *best feed for competition horses* Höveler Western Sport is an oat-free, low-grain muesli with 14% crude protein and 12.19 MJ of digestible energy per kg, adjustable from light-work rates of 0.55 lb (250 g) per 220 lb (100 kg) of body weight, in a 44 lb bag at \$37.99. Best for the horse stepping down to an off-season program. Last checked: September 2026.

The off-season is where feeding plans silently come apart. Work drops, the rate should drop, and suddenly the high-octane ration from the show season is doing your horse no favors. The owner's worry is real: can you keep one premium feed all year without over-feeding a horse on holiday? Western Sport flexes in both directions. Here are five reasons it makes sense through the break.

1. A light-work rate that matches a lighter season

The guide is 0.55 lb (250 g) per day per 220 lb (100 kg) of body weight at light work, down from 0.88 lb (400 g) at medium work. When training backs off, you step the rate down instead of switching feeds. The page gives no heavy-work rate — adjust to condition and training intensity, always with adequate forage alongside.

Who this is for: owners who want one feed that flexes from show season to the paddock.

2. Moderate energy while condition carries over

Even on holiday, a horse needs balanced nutrition, and Western Sport provides 12.19 MJ of digestible energy per kg in a low-grain muesli. At the light-work rate, that supports maintenance without forcing weight on. The 14% crude protein and 28% alfalfa keep quality in the ration while quantity drops.

The benefit: a ration that holds muscle and condition without an inflated rate.

3. Only 5.30% sugar for a horse with more spare time

Less work plus more stall time is the making of a cresty neck if the bucket stays sweet. Western Sport carries 5.30% sugar, 18.30% starch, and no oats, so the concentrate stays moderate even when the workload is modest. The off-season keeps the horse steady, not soft.

Who this is for: easy keepers and horses that hold weight on air.

4. The micronutrient base does not take a vacation

Each kg carries 260 mg of vitamin E, biotin at 1,185 µg, selenium from two sources at 0.25 mg each, and calcium at 1.44% with phosphorus at 0.50%. A horse resting between seasons still needs its mineral foundation. Feeding a balanced concentrate at a small rate takes care of it in one scoop.

Who this is for: owners who scale back concentrates in the off-season and worry about gaps.

5. Continuity into next season, backed by a guarantee

Keeping one feed through the break means no spring transition and no appetite re-learning. Made in Germany with over 120 years of expertise since 1905, Western Sport is built for feeding all year. Bifid adds a 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee and a 9.0/10 store rating across 24,098 reviews, at \$37.99 for the 44 lb bag. The full breakdown is on the Höveler Western Sport 44 lb bag product page.

Who this is for: owners planning the season, not just the week.

How to feed it

Daily rate per 220 lb (100 kg) of body weight:

Work levelDaily rate Light work0.55 lb (250 g) Medium work0.88 lb (400 g) Heavy workNot listed on the page — adjust to your horse's condition and training intensity, always with adequate forage. bifid's 24/7 licensed vet team can help you find a starting rate.

Key specs at a glance: 14.0% crude protein, 12.19 MJ/kg digestible energy, 6.10% crude fat, 16.7% crude fiber, 18.30% starch, 5.30% sugar, 28% alfalfa, oat-free muesli in a 44 lb bag.

Find the off-season rate with the Feeding Calculator.

Frequently asked questions

Should I switch to a different feed when the season ends?

Not necessarily. Western Sport's light-work rate of 0.55 lb (250 g) per 220 lb (100 kg) of body weight lets you bring the ration down while keeping the same nutrition. That avoids a feed transition during the break.

Will it make my horse fat over the winter break?

At the light-work rate, the ration provides balanced nutrition with only 5.30% sugar and 18.30% starch. Adjust the daily amount to body condition every two weeks. Forage should always stay the largest part of the diet.

Is a performance feed right for a resting horse?

The formula delivers 12.19 MJ of digestible energy per kg, but it is the rate that scales, not the feed. Fed small, it still supplies 14% crude protein, 28% alfalfa, and a full vitamin and mineral package. That keeps quality up while quantity drops.

Can I transition straight back to full rates when training resumes?

Raise the rate gradually alongside the workload, not in one jump. Move from 0.55 lb to 0.88 lb per 220 lb (100 kg) of body weight over one to two weeks. The page gives no heavy-work rate, so adjust to condition with forage always alongside.

What if the feed does not suit my horse during the break?

Bifid offers a 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee and a 24/7 licensed vet team, and the store rates 9.0/10 across 24,098 reviews. The trial costs \$37.99 for the 44 lb bag.