



Team Players

Affiliations with USEF and EFA




Horses at the top level of competition are asked for maximum effort during training and competition. To enable this effort, owners and riders must be sure that their equine charges receive superior nutrition that will allow them to perform and then recover after strenuous exercise.

As the national governing body for equestrian sport, the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) provides leadership and support for all levels of riding and driving while recognizing the importance of safe competition and the welfare of both human and equine athletes. To advance these goals, the USEF designated Kentucky Equine Research as its official equine nutritionist.

KER has conducted detailed nutritional evaluations for horses on the various equestrian teams that compete both nationally and internationally. After examining each horse's complete diet (grass, hay, concentrates, and supplements) and considering its metabolism and exercise regimen, the nutritionists at KER were able to suggest changes to more closely align feed management with the needs of the individual animals. In some cases, small dietary adjustments resulted in measurably better performance and a higher degree of comfort during competition, outcomes that are in the

best interests of horses and humans alike.

KER provides seminars and lectures to riders in different disciplines in an effort to show how the unique demands of each sport can be met by careful dietary planning. KER also plays an instrumental part in ensuring the nutritional needs of team horses are met during international travel, either by coordinating transport of feedstuffs to the international venue or by selecting appropriate substitutes from feeds available at the competition site.

In a similar manner, the Equestrian Federation of Australia (EFA) named KER and Ridley AgriProducts, a KER Team Member in Australia, as official equine nutritionists to the Australian Equestrian Team. KER and Ridley provide advice to riders and owners at EFA squad clinics and selection trials, and assist in coordinating the feeding programs for horses competing at the highest international level during the Olympic Games and World Equestrian Games. The agreement follows 20 years of cooperation between the EFA and Ridley Agriproducts, Australia's largest manufacturer of animal feeds. Many Ridley feed products are formulated by the nutrition experts at KER. Dr. Peter Huntington and the KER staff in the Australasian office also provide product information, day-to-day feeding advice, and consultation to solve specific metabolic problems related to nutrition. 



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