

Spanish Company Added to Team Member Roster

Kentucky Equine Research (KER) has maintained an international presence in the equine feed marketplace for well over a decade. Its clients, called Team Members, manufacture and distribute feed in numerous countries including England, Ireland, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and several others. A recent alliance with the Dibaq Group signifies a considerable expansion in KER's worldwide influence and its first partnership in Spain.

Though the Dibaq Group is active in 27 countries on four continents, KER will work primarily with the manufacturing facility in northern Spain. The company is a leader in the production of feed for cattle, companion animals, and aquatic life. Prior to pairing with KER, Dibaq, a family-owned company, did not manufacture feeds specifically for horses, despite a horse population in Spain estimated to be one million.

Florencia Arrambide, general manager of Kentucky Equine Research International, is enthusiastic about the new union between KER and Dibaq. "I am very excited about this project, as Dibaq is a very solid, serious company that wants to manufacture quality products and support its customers."

Dibaq will introduce three feeds to the horsemen of Spain: Optimo, Junior, and Classic. Formulated by the nutritionists at KER, each feed contains chelated minerals, which are efficiently absorbed in the gastrointestinal





Dibaq Group

Dibaq has an extensive manufacturing facility in northern Spain. The company is expanding its production to include KER-formulated horse feeds.

tract and therefore readily available to meet the physiological needs of the horse. The feeds are pelleted to further enhance digestibility.

Optimo is a balancer pellet. To understand the necessity for this feed, horsemen must recognize common feeding practices in Spain. Because the country produces vast quantities of cereal grains, horses are typically fed diets that consist of straight oats coupled with average- or poor-quality forage. In some instances, the forage fraction of the ration is made up entirely of straw. Such a diet is likely to be deficient in numerous important minerals such as calcium and phosphorus. Because of these insufficiencies, growth problems in young horses are widespread and other nutritional problems have been noted in mature horses.

Optimo is formulated to provide the macro- and micronutrients not supplied in typical oat-and-straw diets. By supplementing such a diet with Optimo, growing horses will consume the nutrients necessary to build strong skeletons, thus dodging the risk of developmental orthopedic disease.

Breeders that feed Optimo will have the option of monitoring their young horses' development with Gro-Trac, KER's proprietary software that helps breeders ensure slow, steady growth. Though the program is presently available only in English, it is being translated into Spanish. The Spanish version should be finalized within the next year.


Junior is designed specifically for horses with increased nutritional demands such as young horses up to two years of age and broodmares in late gestation and early lactation. This feed contains all of the vitamins and minerals necessary for sound growth, from conception to adulthood.

Classic is intended for mature idle horses and those that perform light to moderate exercise. Classic contains all of the vitamins and minerals necessary for optimal health.

Distribution of the feeds will be the responsibility of Horse 1, a Madrid-based organization affiliated with Spillers, a company that is well recognized in equine nutrition circles. Coby Bolger is the key contact at Horse 1, and she brings to the table an unusual perspective. Not only is Bolger intimate with the ins and outs of feed

distribution, she is well aware of the rigors of competition. She was a member of Spain's three-day event team that participated at the World Equestrian Games held in Jerez in 2002.

Dibaq and KER are planning a lecture tour that will stop in three major Spanish cities—Madrid, Barcelona, and Cordoba. While the schedule of topics is tentative, proper nutrition of young horses to optimize growth will be addressed.

With the signing on of Dibaq to the Team Member program, KER continues to fulfill one of its primary goals: to ensure optimal nutrition for all horses. For more information on this exciting new Team Member, check out Dibaq at dibaq.com. 





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