

Weight Building Supplements: Compare

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff



Many factors influence your horse's weight. Caloric intake, health status, activity level, metabolism, digestive efficiency, temperament, food quality, genetics, and more can all contribute to how much weight your horse gains or loses. But there is no magic formula to determine which component most affects your horse's - or his barn mate's - particular weight.

Thankfully, nutritional supplements are available to help your horse maintain his ideal weight, whether he's hardworking, a performance horse, or a hard keeper. Before starting any [weight gain supplement](#) regimen, however, consult your veterinarian. Significant weight loss can signify a serious medical condition.

Product	Hard Keeper by VitaFlex	Muscle-UP by AniMed	Weight Builder by Farnam	Exceed 6-Way™ Pellets by MVP	Pro Weight™ by MVP
Form	Granules	Powder	Powder	Pellets	Meal
Daily Serving	4 oz	Approximately 1/2 oz	4 oz	4 oz	2-4 oz
Container Size/ # Servings*	6 lbs: up to 24 - 12 lbs: up to 48 - 24 lbs: up to 96	2-1/2 lbs: up to 80	8 lbs: up to 32 - 28 lbs: up to 112	8 lbs: 32 16 lbs: 64	10 lbs: 40-80 30 lbs: 120-240
Base	Vegetable Oil, Animal Fat, Flaxseed	Gamma Oryzanol	Grains, Flax Meal, Vegetable Fat	Alfalfa	Vegetable fat Linseed meal extruded whole soybeans
Fat (mg/oz)	11,340	-	11,340	-	17,010 mg
Protein (mg/oz)	4,253	-	3,969	-	3,402 mg
Probiotics	Yes	-	-	Yes	Yes
Additional Ingredients	Omega 3, Omega 6 Fatty Acids	Creatine, Vitamin E, DMG	Omega 3 Fatty Acids	Omega 3 Omega 6 Fatty Acids Vitamin E DMG	-

Gamma Oryzanol (mg/oz)	-	1,000	-	-	-
------------------------	---	-------	---	---	---

Product	Premium Equine Weight Gain by Doctors Foster and Smith	Body Pro II™ by MVP	Focus WT by Source, Inc.	Cool Calories 100™ by Start to Finish
Form	Powder	Liquid	Powder	Powder
Daily Serving	4 oz	1/2 oz (15 ml) -	1-1/2 oz -	2-4 oz
Container Size/ # Servings*	8 lbs: 32	32 oz: 64	3-1/2 lbs: 37	8 lbs: 64
Base	Dehydrated corn distillers grains with solubles	-	Seaweed Meal Alfalfa Meal	Vegetable Fat
Fat (mg/oz)	-	-	1,276 mg	99% (Per Pound)
Protein (mg/oz)	-	-	5,963 mg	-
Probiotics	-	-	Yes	-
Additional Ingredients	Omega 3 fatty acids	Creatine Monohydrate	Folic d-Calcium Pantothenate Vitamin B12	-
Gamma Oryzanol (mg/oz)	-	1,200 mg	-	-

* Number of servings is based on daily maintenance dosage for a 1,000 lb horse.

The Ingredients of Weight Gain Supplements

[Weight building supplements](#) traditionally contain protein and calorie sources, and may contain certain probiotics for better digestive health, to help your horse gain weight. Some promote muscle development. Combined with a suitable, nutritious diet, and good healthcare, including a comprehensive [deworming program](#), weight gain supplements may benefit your horse. The components of most equine weight gaining feed additives include:

- **Protein** is found in every organ and tissue of the body. It is vital for muscle development during growth and exercise. Amino acids are the main building blocks of protein.
- **Fats** help increase a feed's energy density, which is the number of calories contained in 100 grams of a particular food. Vegetable oil is the most commonly used fat source in horse feeds.
- **Probiotics** are live microorganisms, including bacteria and yeast, which may promote digestive health in your horse. The most common probiotics in horse feeds and supplements include *Lactobacillus* species (bacteria) and *Saccharomyces* species (yeast), though some products include additional bacterial species.