



Acid Buf – Use in horses

Acid Buf is a sustainably sourced calcareous marine algae from the north west coast of Iceland. Acid Buf is an effective slow release buffer which has a high acid neutralising capacity due to its unique honeycomb structure giving it large surface area. Alongside the products buffering ability, Acid Buf has a favourable calcium (100% bioavailable) and magnesium (98% bioavailable) content being 30% and 5.5% respectively.

The bioavailability of these minerals alongside the product's structure contributes towards the animal health and performance benefits outlined below.

Key Acid Buf benefits:

- Gastric health:**
 - Supports the optimisation of gastric health
 - Aids the stabilising of the non-glandular stomach pH
 - Buffers acid for up to 8 hours at pH 5.0 – 7.0
 - Supports the healing process after gastric ulceration
- Bioavailable calcium supply:**
 - Helps build and maintain strong bones and muscles
 - Supports the maintenance of gut wall integrity
 - Calcium has a positive role in blood clotting and metabolism
- Bioavailable magnesium supply:**
 - Magnesium is known to help maintain calmness, support concentration and aid learning
 - Promotes healthy nerve tissue and reduces nervous tension
- Additional benefits:**
 - Safe and 100% natural
 - Sustainably sourced e.g. Carbon Trust accredited

Why include Acid Buf in equine feeds?

Horses are under a range of nutritional and management stressors (high starch/low fibre diets, fasting between meals, transportation/stabling stress, exercise) which can cause detrimental changes to the gastric ecosystem. These changes often result in a myriad of health issues including acidosis, equine gastric ulcer syndrome, colic or laminitis.

Despite horses being hindgut fermenters, problems can also arise when the foregut health is compromised. A key example of this is when the non-glandular (upper) stomach pH falls below the optimal range of pH 5.0 - 7.0. When this occurs not only can the non-glandular stomach lining be damaged (leading to ulceration) but feed digestion efficiency is decreased. The subsequent gastric discomfort affects individual horses in differing ways but behavioural changes and a decrease in performance is highly likely.

Therefore, it is important to reduce the amount of time spent outside of this optimal pH range by including the highly effective gastric buffer, Acid Buf. Acid Buf optimises the pH in the upper non-glandular region and subsequently dissolves quickly in the lower glandular region of the stomach where a more acidic pH (2.0-3.0) is required for protein digestion and feed breakdown.

Acid Buf is a well-researched, proven product with multiple studies showing a positive effect on skeletal health, gut wall integrity and behaviour. This will help optimise gastric health and lead to improved animal performance and behaviour.

Inclusion rates:

- 1) Compound feed and balancers**
 - Standard 50g/head/day is recommended for a 500kg horse.
 - 50g/head/day is recommended as maintenance and up to 100g/head/day under times of stress when fed as a supplement.
- 2) Youngstock diets (under 12 months)**
 - 25g/head/day is recommended.

