

Brewers' yeast carries weight when feeding

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Poor eaters or feed converters, old horses, dental problems, muscle loss due to inactivity – the causes for supposedly too skinny horses are manifold. However, hyperacidity in the gastrointestinal tract can also be responsible for a horse's inability to gain body mass. An optimal digestion and thus utilization of the fed feed is a prerequisite for what is fed daily to be converted into body mass (weight).

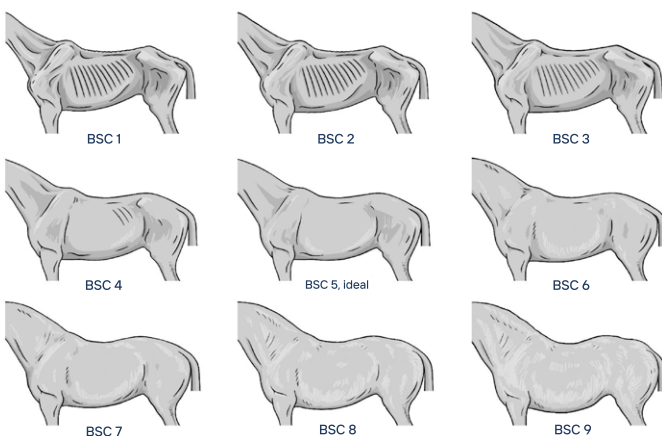


When is a horse actually too skinny?

With the help of the weight calculation formula or special measuring tapes, it is easy to estimate the weight of the horse, but this result is not accurate. Weighing the horse with the help of a mobile horse scale or driving to the nearest country dealer and using the truck scale offers more safety. The weight measurement should be repeated regularly to record changes in weight. Every horse owner should have an approximate idea of the weight of his horse, because concentrate, basic feed, mineral feed, or other supplementary feeds are usually declared in kilogrammes per 100kg live weight. Also the dosage of worming, antibiotics, or sedatives is usually per 100kg live weight. If the horse owner does not know the weight of his animal, too much or too little concentrated feed is quickly fed, or wormers and medications are underdosed. The consequence: they do not work.

In addition to the weight determination, a classification according to BCS (body condition score) and CNS (cresty neck score) is useful, as muscle mass and/or any fatty deposits are also assessed.

Fig.: Body condition score (BCS) for horses



Causes of too skinny horses

If the horse is too skinny, many first think of the feed. Causes for too skinny horses, however, can be very diverse. Question therefore among other things:

- | age -> dental control
- | daily workload and performance -> overstress
- | group housing -> social hierarchy -> stress
- | basic feed quality -> nutrient contents, e.g. in hay -> mycotoxins and moulds
- | design of rations -> too little basic feed
- | feeding regime -> too large meals
- | deworming regime -> change of active ingredients

Muscle wasting?

Is the horse too skinny or has it „only“ lost muscles? Especially with older horses that are worked less, the musculature degrades quickly and they appear too thin. This is also the case with horses that have to take a break due to illness and are no longer ridden. Many chronic metabolic diseases such as ECS (equine cushing syndrome) are also often accompanied by a reduction in musculature.

Brewers' yeast – a raw material with high biological value

Brewers' yeast products support digestion and promote the microbiome. This can counteract hyperacidity and improve the digestibility of the basic feed. This means that the feed-stuffs used, especially those rich in structure such as hay and straw, are better utilized and the horse can gain weight.

Brewers' yeast in combination with highly digestible plant fibres (e.g. Leiber YeaFi® products) optimally supports digestion. These serve as a nutrient substrate for the intestinal microbiome and thus ensure microbial balance. Improved digestion not only ensures better nutrient utilization and weight gain.



It also has a positive influence on the immune system or, more precisely, the intestine-associated lymphatic tissue.

Brewers' yeast products are high in protein and offer high levels of highly digestible essential amino acids such as lysine, threonine, tryptophan and many more! In addition, brewers' yeast products offer a high natural content of B vitamins. These take over many important functions in carbohydrate metabolism or support the utilization of fat and amino acids. Brewer's yeast is also rich in vitamins and trace elements such as biotin, selenium, zinc and chromium – organically bound and therefore highly available. If the need of trace elements is not covered, it comes to poorer hoof growth, disorders in the change of coat, susceptibility to infections, but also emaciation and loss of appetite.

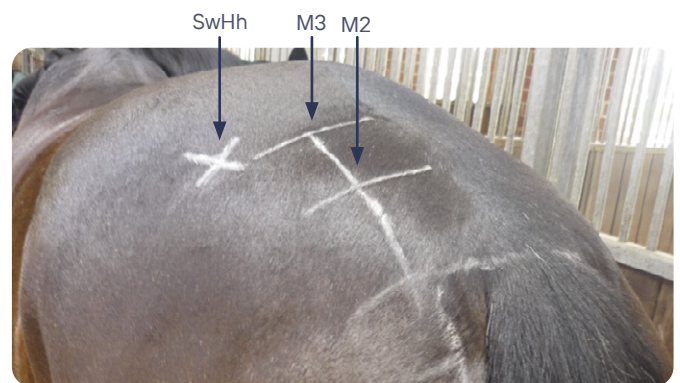
Stabilization of body mass with increasing work performance

Many field trials showed improved appetite after administration of Leiber YeaFi® products. Feed intake – especially of basic feed – increased and the horses gained weight. This positive effect was confirmed in a scientific trial. When assessing body mass, subcutaneous fat thickness was measured by medical ultrasound in addition to the BCS (body condition score) (NORDHOFF, 2014).

This measurement is used for objective assessment of body constitution. The subcutaneous fat thickness of the horses in the test group was significantly increased at all three measurement points during the entire test period (see figure).

Feature	Control			Trial		
	Start	End	Diff.	Start	End	Diff.
Subc. fat thickness in mm M2	14.4 ^{ab} ± 3.7	18.7 ^a ± 5.7	4.3	13.0 ^b ± 4.6	19.0 ^c ± 5.2	5,7
Subc. fat thickness in mm M3	9.0 ^a ± 1.5	10.9 ^b ± 2.2	2.0	8.4 ^a ± 2.9	11.7 ^b ± 2.3	3,0
Subc. fat thickness in mm SwHh	5.3 ^{a,c} ± 1.5	6.6 ^{b,c} ± 1.5	1.3	4.9 ^a ± 1.7	7.8 ^b ± 2.2	2,1

^{a,b,c} Letters indicate significant differences ($p \leq 0.05$).



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