# Leiber YeaFi® BT – feeding broodmares fit!

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Many factors, such as cycle problems, resorption, but also feeding-related problems during gestation, birth or lactation, can have a negative impact on breeding success. Gestation and lactation mean absolute peak performance for every mare, which she should be able to cope with health-wise. Ideally, a broodmare should have a BCS (body condition score) of 5 to 6. If she is too thin, fertility decreases and the risk of resorptions or even abortions increases. If she is too fat, there is a risk of cycle disorders and no successful insemination.

## Practice report:

**Leiber YeaFi® BT** was fed for over a year in a Polish and German breeding stable. The Polish national stud Stadnina Koni Racot breeds Polish warm-blooded and half-blooded horses with 35 broodmares (n = 35). In addition, mares from other stud farms (n = 14) are taken in for foaling and re-insemination. A private breeding community from Germany keeps eight warmblood mares from poor husbandry, some of which are in foal (n = 6).

On both farms, the daily addition of 150 g or 250 g **Leiber YeaFi® BT** was added to the usual ration from autumn (approximately six to eight weeks before the birth date) and continued until the full-day grazing period (May/June). No additional feed was given during the summer grazing period. **Leiber YeaFi® BT** was only added again at the above-mentioned dosage when entering the stable in autumn. The development of the BCS, the overall impression, as well as the later birth process, insemination and pregnancy control were documented by the farm managers. Colostrum samples (n = 23) were also taken at Racot Stud and analyzed for total globulins (IgG).

## Results:

Feeding **Leiber YeaFi® BT** proved to be problem-free on both farms in terms of effort and acceptance. All mares, both in private breeding and on the state breeding stable, showed a significantly improved overall impression within a very short time. The mares had a shinier coat, a faster shedding, and also showed improved hoof quality in the long term (see before/after pictures). In the private breeding stable, it was also noticed that the mares were significantly calmer and more balanced with the addition of **Leiber YeaFi® BT**. One mare no longer showed any stress-related faecal water shortly after administration. The Racot stud farm also reported significantly fewer colic cases and treatments of mallenders.

Overall, all mares showed a significant improvement in BCS and thus a better body constitution. According to the farm managers, this was also due to an increase in appetite and the associated increased intake of forage (hay or haylage).

The positive change was particularly evident in the private stable (see before/after pictures). Here, some of the mares in foal only had a BCS of 3 to 4 around six to eight weeks before the foaling date.

This improved within a very short time after administration of **Leiber YeaFi® BT** to a BCS of 5. Even after the foals were born, the mares did not noticeably lose weight despite increasing milk yield, but continued to maintain the BCS in the ideal range or even gained weight. The fact that the mares were able to build up body reserves and thus had enough reserves for milk production was also evident in the foals. They developed ideally at all times.

The farm manager at Racot stud reported the same. Here, too, the mares fed with **Leiber YeaFi® BT** showed a significantly better constitution and better milk yield as well as better foal development than the pension mares that did not receive any supplement.

**Fig.:** Before and after

**Fig.:** Before and after

## It became clear:

The foundation for successful rearing is laid by feeding the mother mare in line with her needs, which is ideal for supplying the foetus and later the foal with milk!

**Fig.:** Before and after

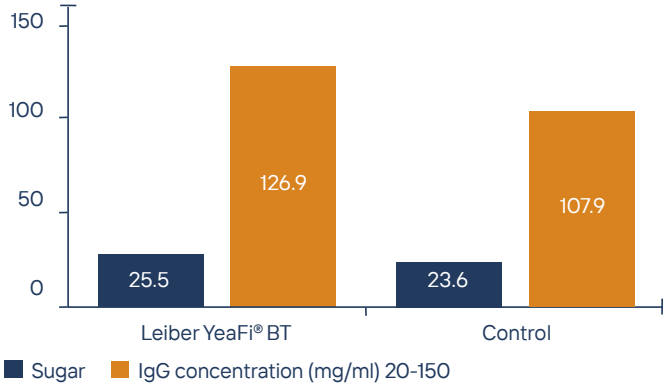
Foals are born virtually without immunity. During pregnancy, no or only a few antibodies are transferred to the foal via the placenta. After birth, foals are therefore dependent on absorbing antibodies from the mother's colostrum as quickly as possible in order to build up their passive immune system (SEDLINSKA et al. 2004).

At Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences (SITZENSTOCK et al. 2016), the factors influencing the immunoglobulin (IgG) content in the colostrum of broodmares were investigated. Data was collected from 75 mares at a stud farm that had three or more foals. The colostrum quality was checked at the stud farm using a refractrometer. If the IgG content was < 55 mg IgG per millilitre, the foals were given thawed colostrum from other mares. The measured IgG content of the colostrum was between 6 and 136 mg IgG per millilitre, with an average value of 62 mg IgG per millilitre being achieved at stud. The data also showed that colostrum quality varied between births and that in 47.1% of all foalings the colostrum did not reach the quality of 55 mg IgG per millilitre required on the farm. In addition to quality, the earliest possible colostrum intake is also important for the foal's development! The foal's intestinal barrier allows 100% to pass from the colostrum into the foal's blood immediately after birth, only 20% after 3 hours, only 1% after 20 hours and even no IgG after 24 hours (SEDLINSKI et al. 2004)! According to SITZENSTOCK et al. (2016), it took an average of 112 minutes for the foals at the stud to ingest their first colostrum. This showed that foals that consumed their first colostrum within the first few hours after birth showed a better long-term development. It seems that the foals that can quickly stand and drink on their own have a clear advantage.

Furthermore, SITZENSTOCK et al. (2016) showed that parameters such as course of birth, season or duration of pregnancy had no significant influence on colostrum quality. However, a clear correlation was found with the age of the mare at foaling. From an age of 16 years, significantly lower colostrum qualities were found compared to mares up to a maximum of 15 years. It is known from the literature that older mares produce higher quantities of colostrum than younger mares and can thus compensate for the low quality. Nevertheless, particular attention should be paid to the development of foals, especially in older mares (SITZENSTOCK et al. 2016).

The analysis of the colostrum samples (ELISA test kit) from Racot stud showed a tendency towards an improvement in colostrum quality in the mares fed **Leiber YeaFi® BT** (Fig.).

**Fig.:** Average IgG concentration in colostrum




The advantages of a mare that is in good "breeding condition" at all times also became apparent on the farms in the long term in the form of improved fertility. Many mares have already been successfully inseminated within the mating season. At Racot stud, there were also more mares in foal after just one insemination than in the previous year. Embryo resorptions in the first third of pregnancy were also significantly reduced.

## Summary:

Brewers' yeast has a high natural content of valuable nutrients and active ingredients such as protein, essential amino acids, folic acid, niacin, biotin, selenium, and copper.

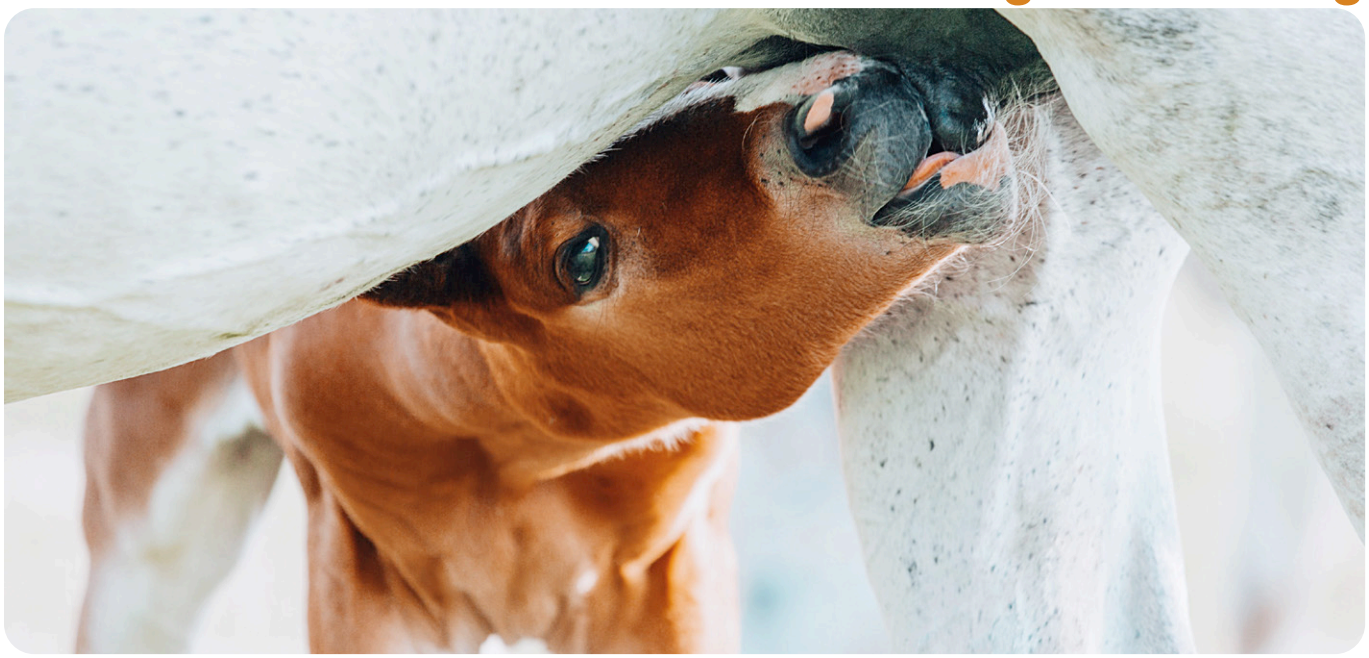
In addition, brewers' yeast can, among other things, promote body condition (BCS), digestion, appetite, basic feed intake, and fertility!

In practical trials on breeding farms in Poland and Germany*, broodmares were fed **150 to 250 g of Leiber YeaFi® BT** per day from highly pregnant onwards.

Among other things, it showed:

- a better body condition (BCS) over the entire period
- improvement of coat gloss, shedding, as well as skin and hoof quality
- reduced digestive disorders such as colics and stress-induced faecal water
- a better development of the foals
- overall improved fertility
- improved insemination success, i.e. fewer inseminations per pregnancy
- fewer mares with resorptions in the embryonic stage

# Leiber YeaFi® BT: Perfect for breeding and rearing



* Contacts available on request from the author!

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SITZENSTOCK et al. 2016: Der Immunglobulinstatus im Kolostrum von Zuchtstuten; Züchtungskunde, 88, (3) P. 199–207, 2016, ISSN 0044-5401, Verlag Eugen Ulmer, Stuttgart.

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