

# For Your Information

Courtesy Of:

## Cotati Large Animal Hospital

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## Broodmare and Foal Nutrition

### Prior to Foaling:

- For the first 7 months of gestation, the mare only requires a maintenance nutritional level. In the last 4 months, the nutrient quality and concentration in the diet need to be increased. The mare requires more nutrients but can eat less in volume at this stage of the pregnancy. Adding a mare supplement to the diet these last 4 months is recommended. Feed according to the manufacturer's directions.
- During Lactation (when the foal is nursing):
- Keep an eye on the mare's body condition
- Peak lactation occurs 6-10 weeks post foaling, and the foal will consume between 20-30% of its body weight each day for the first 2 months.
- The nutrients in greatest demand are water and energy, followed by protein, calcium and phosphorous. Every 5 gallons of milk contains 4-4.5 gallons of water.
- Total feed intake of the mare may reach 25-30 lbs daily. Grain intake usually needs to be increased to meet energy demands.
- Feeding milk-based supplements will not increase milk production.
- Both the total amount of feed and the proportion of the diet fed as grain should be decreased as weaning approaches at 4-6 months.

### Nutrition for the foal:

- Provide the foal with a concentrated ration as soon as it show interest (Tiz Whiz 90+, Tiz Whiz for Mares, Spur, Mana-Pro)
- Milk based supplements may be provided up to 4 months of age. After that time, the foal cannot digest them as well.
- By 4-5 months of age, foals should be eating 1-2 lbs of grain per day. Sometimes these levels are not reached. Weaning should take place between 4-6 months of age.
- Excessive vitamin/mineral supplementation should be avoided, as should the feeding of large volumes of grain. Obesity is strongly discouraged.
- Commercially prepared grain mixes should not be mixed with raw grains. This dilutes out the mineral content of the ration and changes the calcium: phosphorous ratio.
- For horses 6-12 months of age, 6lbs of grain per day is adequate.