Feed Horses According to Body Weight

Table 1 shows recommended daily feed intakes by horses as a percentage of body weight. To use this table, decide what class best fits your horse and your horse’s body weight. While scales are most accurate for weighing horses, they are often impractical and other methods, such as visual estimation, weight tapes or body measurement formulas can be used. One common method, a heart girth tape, is available from feed dealers, veterinarians, and livestock supply companies. Another method is to use a body weight equation such as the following, which only requires a measuring tape. One equation is:

\[ W = \frac{HG^2 \times BL}{330} \]

- \( W \) = Weight in pounds
- \( HG \) = Heart girth in inches
- \( BL \) = Body length in inches

As shown in Figure 1, heart girth is measured at the horse’s circumference. Run the tape around the horse, at the highest point of the withers. Body length is measured from the point of the shoulder, along the horse’s side and point of the buttocks (half the distance from the corner to the tail).
Example:
How much to feed your horse?

1. Determine the class of horse you have: Light working horse

2. Estimate the horses weight
   A. Heart girth = 70"
   B. Body length = 69"
   C. \[ W = \frac{(70)^2(69)}{330} = 1024 \text{ lbs.} \]

3. Nutrient requirements (Table 1). Intake is based on a percent body weight. From Table 1, it is estimated this class of horse will have an intake of 1.5-2.5 percent of body weight. Range in total intake (forage + Concentrate).
   A. If intake is 1.5% of body weight per day then:
      i. Total pounds of feed fed = .015 \times 1024 \text{ lbs.} = 15.36 \text{ lbs. per day}
   B. If intake is 2.5% of body weight per day then:
      i. Total pounds of feed fed = .025 \times 1024 \text{ lbs.} = 25.6 \text{ lbs. per day}

4. Forage — Range of forage intake = 1.0-2.0 percent of body weight (Table 1)
   A. If forage intake is 1.0% of body weight then:
      i. Pounds of forage fed = .01 \times 1024 \text{ lbs.} = 10.24 \text{ lbs. of forage per day}
   B. If forage intake is 2.0% of body weight then:
      i. Pounds of forage fed = .02 \times 1024 \text{ lbs.} = 20.48 \text{ lbs. of forage per day}

5. Concentrate — Range of concentrate intake = .05– 1.0 percent of body weight (Table 1)
   A. If concentrate intake is .5% of body weight then:
      i. Pounds of concentrate fed = .005 \times 1024 \text{ lbs.} = 5.12 \text{ lbs. concentrate per day}
   B. If concentrate intake is 1.0% of body weight then:
      i. Pounds of concentrate fed = .01 \times 1024 \text{ lbs.} = 10.24 \text{ lbs. concentrate per day}

6. This horse will need to eat between 10 1/4 to 20 1/2 pounds of hay and 5 to 10 1/4 pounds of grain each day, as long as the total daily feed consumption does not exceed 15 1/2 to 25 1/2 pounds of feed.
# FEEDS CHART

Breed of Horse __________________________

Weight of Horse________________lbs

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Type of Activity</th>
<th>GRAIN 1</th>
<th>GRAIN 2 (optional)</th>
<th>FOREAGE 1</th>
<th>FOREAGE 2 (optional)</th>
<th>OTHER (optional)</th>
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<td>Idle</td>
<td>_______ lbs/day</td>
<td>_______ lbs/day</td>
<td>_______ lbs/day</td>
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<td>_______ lbs/day</td>
<td>_______ lbs/day</td>
<td>_______ lbs/day</td>
<td>_______ lbs/day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name and Description of Grain or Foreage used
(Ex: Sweet Feed: Oats, Corn, Barley, Soybean Meal, Vitamins, Minerals, and Molasses)