

FEED INTAKE FOR HORSES IN WINTER



Cold weather, wind and rain increase your horse's energy needs. To stay warm, they have to work harder, requiring extra calories.

The "Lower Critical Temperature" (LCT) is the temperature below which a horse needs additional energy to maintain body temperature.



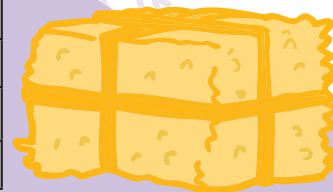
For each 1°F below LCT, a horse's digestible energy requirement increases to maintain body temperature.

Lower Critical Temperature		
Difference in °F Below Critical Temp.	Digestible Energy Increase (Mcal/day)	Average Hay Intake Increase* (lbs/day)
0°	0 Mcals	0 lbs
10°	2 Mcals	2 lbs
20°	4 Mcals	4 lbs
30°	6 Mcals	6 lbs
40°	8 Mcals	8 lbs

*Assuming an energy density of 1.0 Mcal/lb, which is typical of quality forage.

Mature horses:
 LCT = 18-41°F
 Thin coat: 41°F
 Thick coat: 18°F

Young horses:
 LCT = 12-32°F



Example: If you have a mature horse with a thick coat, and it is 8°F outside, your horse needs an extra 2 lbs of hay per day.



Wind and Rain on Digestible Energy Requirements			
Average Temp. (°F)	Conditions	Additional Mcal/day	Additional Hay (lbs/day)
32°	Winds (10-15mph)	4-8 Mcal	4-8 lbs
32°	Rain	6 Mcal	6 lbs
32°	Wind & Rain	10-14 Mcal*	10-14 lbs

Assume a 1000lb horse eating at least 1.5% of its body weight in hay to maintain body condition and health. (At least 15lbs/day)

*May not be able to consume enough hay to meet requirements.