

Quick answer: Höveler Western Sport is a high-energy, low-grain muesli made for medium to intensively trained western horses, [performance feed pellets](#) delivering 14% crude protein and 12.19 MJ/kg digestible energy from a 28% alfalfa base. A standard sweet feed relies on molasses-coated grains for appeal and energy. Western Sport at \$37.99 for a 44 lb bag puts those calories in a more considered package. Last checked: September 2026.

Sweet feed has been around the barn a long time. It is inexpensive, horses clean it up, and the molasses smell fills the aisle. But when your horse is in real training, what is in the bag matters more than what it smells like. Here are nine differences between Western Sport and a typical sweet feed worth weighing.

1. Sugar sits at 5.30%, not wherever the molasses lands it

Western Sport's sugar content is a stated 5.30%. Molasses does appear in its ingredient list, but well down the list — it is not the glue holding the mix together. A standard sweet feed is defined by that molasses coating, and the sugar rides on it. The benefit: you can see the number you are feeding, because it is printed right on the analysis.

Who this is for: owners who want a stated sugar figure instead of taking sweetness on trust.

2. It is oat-free by design

Western Sport is an oat-free formula, which suits oat-sensitive horses. A standard sweet feed typically mixes grain types, oats among them. If your horse has ever gotten tight or touchy after a grain-heavy meal, that difference is the whole conversation.

The benefit: high energy without oats in the formula.

3. 28% alfalfa as the foundation

The first ingredient is 28% alfalfa, included for muscle development and peak performance. A sweet feed's bulk usually comes from processed grains rather than a forage-based ingredient. Twenty-eight percent is a genuine share of the bag, not a decoration.

Who this is for: western horses in training where muscle development is the goal.

4. 14% protein with 107 g/kg digestible crude protein

The crude protein level is 14.0%, and the digestible crude protein is 107 g/kg. That second number matters — it is the protein the horse can actually use. Muscle is built from digestible protein, not from a headline on a label.

Who this is for: horses asked to keep topline through a complete training week.

5. Energy delivered at 12.19 MJ/kg

Digestible energy is 12.19 MJ/kg, with convertible energy at 11.21 MJ/kg. That is what "high-energy" means on this bag: stated, measured figures rather than a word from the marketing team. A sweet feed's energy comes from its starch and sugar load, however the bag was mixed.

The benefit: fuel for medium-to-intensive work, printed in MJ per kg.

6. 16.7% crude fiber keeps the burn slower

Crude fiber is 16.7%. Fiber contributes energy that comes in more slowly, alongside the 12.19 MJ/kg total. A forage-forward base like the 28% alfalfa is part of how that fiber gets there.

Who this is for: riders who want an even energy supply through a long schooling session rather than a sudden spike and crash.

7. Fat at 6.10% from named oil sources

Crude fat is 6.10%, with sunflower oil and linseed oil both in the ingredient list. Oils are a dense energy source that does not rely on starch. Every calorie source in the formula is listed by name on the label.

The benefit: energy diversity — fiber, fat, and starch kept measured instead of one lever.

8. Inactivated brewer's yeast is in the bag

Western Sport includes inactivated brewer's yeast. A basic sweet feed is just grain, molasses, and a premix. Having the yeast already in the muesli means one less tub on the shelf and one less scoop to measure.

Who this is for: owners who want gut-support ingredients in the ration already rather than purchased on the side.

9. A 120-year recipe with a stated price

Höveler has made horse feed since 1905 — over 120 years of expertise — and this bag is made in Germany. The price is exactly \$37.99 for the 44 lb bag, and the complete analysis plus bifid's 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee are on the Western Sport product page. A generic sweet feed usually cannot show you where its recipe came from or a single clear price for a documented analysis.

The benefit: a named formula, a stated analysis, and a firm price.

How to feed it

Daily amounts per 220 lb (100 kg) body weight:

Work level	Daily rate per 220 lb (100 kg)	Light work	0.55 lb (250 g)	Medium work	0.88 lb (400 g)	Heavy work	Not listed
— the page says to tune the amount to your horse's condition and training intensity, with adequate forage always provided							

The page gives no rate for heavy work. Adjust the amount to your horse's condition and training intensity, and always provide adequate forage alongside. Key specs at a glance: 14.0% crude protein, 6.10% crude fat, 16.7% crude fiber, 18.30% starch, 5.30% sugar, 12.19 MJ/kg digestible energy. Work out a starting point with bifid's Feeding Calculator.

Frequently asked questions

Is Western Sport lower in sugar than a sweet feed?

Western Sport's sugar content is 5.30%, as stated on the analysis. Sweet feed recipes differ and are typically built around a molasses coating, so the sugar depends on the specific mix. With Western Sport you see the figure instead of estimating.

Can I feed Western Sport to an oat-sensitive horse?

Yes — the formula is oat-free by design. That is one of its stated standouts, and it suits oat-sensitive horses. If your horse reacts to oat-containing mixes, this takes that ingredient out entirely.

Will 14% protein make my horse hot?

Protein is a building block for muscle, not something that lights a horse up. The 14.0% crude protein with 107 g/kg digestible crude protein supports muscle development, while energy comes from a blend of fiber (16.7%), fat (6.10%), and measured starch (18.30%).

How much do I feed per day?

The page lists 0.55 lb (250 g) per 220 lb (100 kg) body weight for light work and 0.88 lb (400 g) for medium work. No heavy-work rate is given, so adjust the amount to condition and training intensity and leave forage in front of the horse.

Is it safe to use around competitions?

Yes — Western Sport is competition-safe and FEI-compliant. Double-check the specific rules with your event organizer, as requirements can vary by venue and association.