

# Purina<sup>®</sup> Ultium<sup>®</sup> Formula and Packaging Update FAQs

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## What changes are being made to Ultium<sup>®</sup> Horse formulas?

All three Ultium<sup>®</sup> formulas are receiving new packaging. In Ultium<sup>®</sup> Competition and Growth, the current calcium source is being replaced with the natural calcium source contained in the Outlast<sup>®</sup> Gastric Support Supplement that meets calcium requirements but has the additional benefit of very effectively helping support optimal gastric pH. This ingredient has been a feature of Ultium<sup>®</sup> Gastric Care since its launch and that formula remains unchanged. All formulas will still provide the same quality nutrition you have come to rely upon.

## What is the difference between Ultium<sup>®</sup> Competition and Ultium<sup>®</sup> Gastric Care?

Ultium<sup>®</sup> Competition is still our highest fat, highest calorie feed and is designed to fuel mature performance horses with the greatest calorie needs and hard keepers – and it will now also have the benefit of Outlast<sup>®</sup>! Ultium<sup>®</sup> Gastric Care is a high calorie performance feed that has always had a primary emphasis on supporting the digestive and immune systems of horses affected by stress. Ultium<sup>®</sup> Gastric Care also has a different texture, with external beet pulp shreds and a slightly lower fat content, which some horses under stress may find more palatable. This formula has always contained Outlast<sup>®</sup> and can be thought of as the next step for a young performance horse stepping up from Ultium<sup>®</sup> Growth.

## Why are you making these changes?

We know that any feed formulation change can generate some concern and anxiety, therefore we do not make any changes without extensive evaluation to support the decision. Reports indicate that 80% or more of athletic horses, broodmares, and young growing horses may be affected by gastric discomfort due to persistent low gastric pH, which can affect overall health, performance and behavior. The responses to Outlast<sup>®</sup> Gastric Support Supplement and the feeds that already contain the Outlast<sup>®</sup> ingredients: Ultium<sup>®</sup> Gastric Care, Race Ready<sup>®</sup> GT, Strategy<sup>®</sup> GX, Strategy<sup>®</sup> Healthy Edge<sup>®</sup>, the full Omolene<sup>®</sup> line, and Impact<sup>®</sup> Professional Performance, have been overwhelmingly positive. Everything we learned during the development of the Outlast<sup>®</sup> supplement, combined with the wide variety of horses fed Ultium<sup>®</sup> Horse Feeds, led to the decision to include this beneficial ingredient in the full line of these great products. Our goal is to provide cost-effective, consistent gastric support along with the excellent nutrition provided in these feeds.

## My horse doesn't have gastric issues, so why do I need the Outlast<sup>®</sup> Gastric Support Supplement in my feed?

Research continues to reveal that more horses experience gastric discomfort related to a highly acidic environment in the stomach than previously realized. The Outlast<sup>®</sup> ingredient is a high-quality, natural calcium source with the additional benefit of being very effective at supporting optimal gastric pH. When included in the feed formulation, this ingredient replaces existing calcium sources, so the change to the formula is extremely minor. Calcium is an essential nutrient in horses' diets, and is therefore always provided in balanced horse feeds, and a large percentage of horses are proving to benefit from effective support of optimal gastric pH. Even if a horse does not currently have any gastric issues, they can still benefit from the highly digestible and unique source of calcium contained in Outlast<sup>®</sup> Gastric Support Supplement.

## Do I need to transition slowly from the old formula to the updated formula?

It is not necessary to make a gradual change because there is nothing in the formula update that should cause digestive upset or other issues commonly associated with diet changes. In our extensive trials at the Purina Animal Nutrition Center, horses were transitioned to the new feed formula all at once with no problems. Horses and horse owners will not even be able to tell a difference in the appearance of the feed. However, if it makes you more comfortable to make a gradual transition, best practices call for making any new feed change at a rate of approximately 1 lb per day. For example, if your horse is eating 4 lbs of feed/day, the first day you would feed 3 lbs old feed and 1 lb new feed. The second day you would feed 2 lbs old feed and 2 lbs new feed. And so on.



### **Will the formula update result in a price increase?**

We know that feed prices are always a concern, and we are very careful about doing anything that would make the price of our feeds increase. We also don't want to add something to the feed that most horses don't need. However, when we continued to see how many horses were benefiting from the Outlast® ingredients, we knew we could provide that support in an extremely cost-effective manner by including it in Purina Ultium® Horse Formulas. In most cases, the performance of the horses makes the small additional cost well worth it to the horse owner. Often, the horses look and feel better and may maintain body weight and body condition on slightly less feed, which may cancel out the added cost per day of feeding. It is very unusual to find something that makes this much difference to so many horses at a minimal added cost per bag.

### **I already use Outlast®, does this mean I don't need to buy the supplement anymore?**

A key hallmark of The Purina Equine Gastric Health Program is flexibility. The program can be adjusted based on the risk level of individual horses. A 4-lb meal of Ultium® provides one full serving of Outlast® Gastric Support Supplement (for an 1000 lb horse). Meal sizes less than 4 lbs still provide gastric support, but for maximum support, you may top-dress an appropriate amount of Outlast® supplement to the meal to reach a full serving size. The Outlast® supplement can also be offered between meals at times of stress such as when horses are trailered, being ridden, or have feed, hay, or water withheld for several hours.

### **How do I get more information if I have additional questions?**

For more information on Outlast® Gastric Support Supplement and finding better ways to support your horses' gastric comfort, please download the Purina Equine Gastric Health Program brochure. In addition, we are happy to answer any additional questions you may have, including those regarding alternative feed options to help maintain the level of nutrition expected without added gastric support. Please contact Purina Customer Service at 1-800-227-8941 or via our website at <https://www.purinamills.com/horse-feed>.

