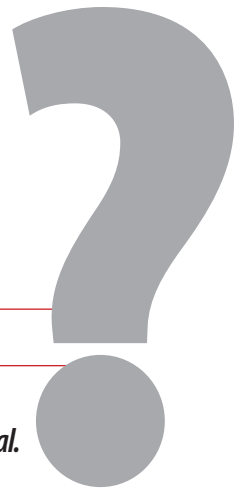


# Ask the Nutritionist



KELLY VINEYARD, MS, PHD, SENIOR EQUINE NUTRITIONIST, PURINA ANIMAL NUTRITION

Ask the Nutritionist is a monthly column featuring questions answered by PhD equine nutritionists and sponsored by Purina Animal Nutrition. Have a nutrition question you want to see featured? Email Marie Rosenthal. For clinics looking for specific nutritional advice, visit [purinamills.com/ask-an-expert](https://purinamills.com/ask-an-expert).

## Where can I find good, science-based information to refer to when I have questions related to equine nutrition?

Many helpful equine nutrition resources are available for equine veterinarians, including textbooks, scientific publications, reputable websites and personal consultation with an experienced and credentialed equine nutritionist. The challenge can be ensuring the information is from a reputable source. Though not a comprehensive list, some top, science-based equine nutrition resources for equine veterinarians are highlighted below.

### TEXTBOOKS

- The National Academy of Sciences National Research Council's text "Nutrient Requirements of Horses, 6th Edition", also referred to as the "NRC," is a key equine nutrition text. Last published in 2007, it contains scientific research in equine nutrition until that time. This text focuses on the studies that led to current established nutrient requirements for horses, and it is a "must-have" reference for equine nutrition scientists.
- The textbook "Equine Applied and Clinical Nutrition" published in 2013 contains in-depth equine nutrition information from experts in the field on topics ranging from basic nutrition principles to life stage feeding to applied and clinical nutrition principles. It is an excellent reference for practitioners looking to deepen their understanding of equine nutrition and for guidance on the practical application of these nutrition principles.

### SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

- *The Journal of Equine Veterinary Science (JEVS)* is the official publication of the Equine Science Society (ESS), and often contains original scientific research in equine nutrition.
- *The Journal of Animal Science* is the official journal of the American Society of Animal Science, and journal articles cover a wide range of topics in all animal species, including equine nutrition.
- Other scientific journals that often contain original equine nutrition research are the *Journal of Animal Nutrition*, *Equine Veterinary Journal* and the *Journal of Animal Physiology and Animal Nutrition*.

### WEBSITES

- Many universities provide research-based knowledge to the public on various topics. University websites are a good place to search for technical bulletins and articles related to equine nutrition.

- The online NRC calculator available at <https://nrc88.nas.edu/nrh/> is a handy tool when looking for equine nutrient requirements. The disclaimer popup is a good reminder that proper use requires some background knowledge of nutrition to effectively apply the calculator's information.
- The website [EquineVetNutrition.com](https://EquineVetNutrition.com) is a new resource specifically designed to support equine veterinary practitioners. All content has been created by Purina Animal Nutrition's Ph.D. equine nutritionists experienced in clinical equine nutrition. Practical information, such as nutritional management of common equine conditions, how to interpret a hay analysis, enteral feeding guidelines, and more, can be found at this site.

### EXPERT CONSULTATION

A personal consultation with a trained equine nutritionist is often the most efficient path to developing supportive nutrition recommendations on specific cases. Finding someone with experience and credentials is critical. To find a DVM that is a Board-Certified Veterinary Nutritionist, consult the [American College of Veterinary Nutrition's website directory](#). Universities with equine extension programs often have a Ph.D. nutritionist available to answer questions as well. Independent equine nutrition consultants can be found online (confirm credentials, ask for references), and reputable feed manufacturers with Ph.D. nutritionists on staff typically offer complimentary consultations. Consultation with an experienced equine nutritionist will allow for all variables to be considered and will result in a timely and customized recommendation specific to your needs.

Contact a Purina Ph.D. nutritionist for consultations through Purina Customer Service, 800-227-8941 or visit [EquineVetNutrition.com](https://EquineVetNutrition.com) to submit your question.

### NEED COUPONS FOR CLIENTS?

You can request valuable Purina feed coupons to share with your clients at the new [www.EquineVetNutrition.com](https://www.EquineVetNutrition.com) page.

Have a question you want to see featured?  
Please send them to [modernequinevet@gmail.com](mailto:modernequinevet@gmail.com).



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kelly Vineyard, Ph.D., is a senior equine nutritionist with Purina Animal Nutrition. She is a frequent publisher and lecturer on equine nutrition topics, with expertise in omega-3 fatty acids, immune function and performance horse nutrition.