

Quick answer: Höveler Western Sport is an oat-free, low-grain muesli with 14% crude protein, 28% alfalfa, and 12.19 MJ of digestible energy per kg, startable at the light-work rate of 0.55 lb (250 g) per 220 lb (100 kg) of body weight, in a 44 lb bag at \$37.99. Best for a horse coming back from time off. Last checked: September 2026.

Bringing a horse back into work is a gradual rebuild of muscle, fitness, and trust. The ration has to come back with it, and the wrong feed makes the return tougher: too rich and the horse fresh out of the field boils over, too thin and the conditioning work drags. Your worry is the transition, not the destination. Western Sport is designed to climb with exactly that ramp. Here are five reasons it fits the return to work.

1. A light-work starting rate for week one

The guide starts at 0.55 lb (250 g) per day per 220 lb (100 kg) of body weight at light work. That is the right size ration for the walking and trotting phase, before the real conditioning starts. The page gives no heavy-work rate — adjust to condition and training intensity, always with adequate forage alongside.

Who this is for: owners writing a six-to-eight-week comeback plan.

2. 14% protein and 28% alfalfa for the rebuild

Returning muscle needs building blocks, and Western Sport carries 14% crude protein, 28% alfalfa, and digestible crude protein at 107 g/kg. Lysine sits at 0.58%, the amino acid new muscle depends on most. The ration supports the topline the groundwork calls for.

Who this is for: horses that came out of time off flat and weak over the back.

3. Moderate starch, 18.30%, for the fresh horse in the round pen

A horse straight out of the field does not need extra sparkle. Starch sits at 18.30% and sugar at 5.30%, and the formula is oat-free and low-grain. That profile helps hold focus during the most boring weeks of the return.

The benefit: a ration that calms the return rather than spiking it.

4. Inactivated brewer's yeast to settle a gut that changed gears

Time off changes the gut routine, and going back to work changes it again. Inactivated brewer's yeast and 16.7% crude fiber are built into the mix to support hindgut comfort through the shift. A horse that eats consistently transitions more smoothly.

Who this is for: the returning horse whose manure and appetite dip in week two.

5. One bag covers the whole ramp, backed by a guarantee

Western Sport scales from 0.55 lb to 0.88 lb (400 g) per 220 lb (100 kg) as work intensifies, so the same 44 lb bag spans the program. Made in Germany with over 120 years of expertise since 1905, it is a year-round formula. Bifid adds a 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee and a 9.0/10 store rating across 24,098 reviews at \$37.99. The full nutrition panel is on the Höveler Western Sport 44 lb bag product page.

Who this is for: owners who want one feed from first ride back to full work.

How to feed it

Daily rate per 220 lb (100 kg) of body weight:

Work levelDaily rate Light work0.55 lb (250 g) Medium work0.88 lb (400 g) Heavy workNot listed on the page — adjust to your horse's condition and training intensity, always with adequate forage. Ask bifid's 24/7 licensed vet team for a starting rate.

Key specs at a glance: 14.0% crude protein, 12.19 MJ/kg digestible energy, 6.10% crude fat, 16.7% crude fiber, 18.30% starch, 5.30% sugar, 28% alfalfa, oat-free muesli in a 44 lb bag.

Map the return-to-work rate with the Feeding Calculator.

Frequently asked questions

How should I start feeding a horse coming back into work?

Start at the light-work rate of 0.55 lb (250 g) per 220 lb (100 kg) of body weight per day. Increase the amount gradually as sessions get longer, moving toward 0.88 lb (400 g) at medium work. The page gives no heavy-work rate, so adjust to condition and training intensity with forage always alongside.

Will it help rebuild topline after time off?

The mix provides 14% crude protein, 107 g/kg of digestible crude protein, lysine at 0.58%, and 28% alfalfa, formulated for muscle development. Topline returns through consistent work with the ration supporting it. Forage remains the base of every meal.

Is it suitable for a horse that is fresh after time off?

The formula is oat-free and low-grain, with starch at 18.30% and sugar at 5.30%. That profile is designed to support rideable energy during the early weeks. Adjust the rate to the work actually being done, not the work planned.

Can I use it for a horse returning from a layoff due to a health issue?

Feeding supports conditioning; it does not treat anything. Always follow your veterinarian's plan for the return itself, and bifid's 24/7 licensed vet team can talk through the ration alongside it. Western Sport is a balanced concentrate at 12.19 MJ **View website** of digestible energy per kg.

What if it does not suit my returning horse?

Bifid backs orders with a 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee, and the store rates 9.0/10 across 24,098 reviews. The 44 lb bag costs \$37.99, so a trial during the return is low-stakes.