

the clovers and alfalfa, will average about 1:30 while for other fodders, or coarse foods it will run from 1:7 to 1:12. Horses fed upon the former always display the more energy. The same is true of concentrates or grains. The ratio of oats always gives the greater energy. By ratio is meant in this chapter, the ratio of protein to carbohydrates.

309. Digestibility of Foods. The digestibility of foods differ but the average digestibility of the protein and carbohydrates found in the foods usually given the horse is about 80 per cent. If one was to follow a system of balanced ration feeding, for every 1,000 pounds of weight should be given 20 pounds of food (dry matter), in which could be found two pounds of protein and 11 pounds of carbohydrates. Seldom can be found two horses in the same barn requiring the same amount of food. It is because of this that more skill is required in the feeding of horses than any other animals.

310. In Conclusion, as already stated in previous chapters, I would feed no corn to horses which were to be used for breeding. Corn stover, free from dirt and dust is good. Also any hay well cured, and free from mould or dust. The clovers and alfalfa fed in moderation have no equal. Oat, barley and wheat straw are safe to use, and can be used with the clovers and alfalfa to advantage. Grasses or grains likely to contain ergot should be avoided. Millet should never be fed a horse of any kind. Kaffir corn hay or fodder is hazardous at best. Kaffir fodder has proved a very fair food for the horse in several localities, but I have never used it. The best single grain ever fed a horse is oats. Crushed barley is the next best, but should be crushed and not ground. Wheat bran is good when mixed with other feeds but will not be needed if clover or alfalfa is used. Shorts and middlings form a pasty mass in the stomach of a horse and should not be used. Kaffir corn ground has proved a very fair food for a horse, but is improved with a mixture of oats. Cotton seed meal should never be used, and linseed meal only in small quantities. After all is said, the secret of successful feeding lies in so feeding the horse that he may be found at his best at all times, and what may be best for one, may not prove best for another.