

Quick answer: Höveler Western Sport is a low-grain muesli anchored by 28% alfalfa for muscle development, 14.0% crude protein with 107 g/kg digestible crude protein, and named amino acids including lysine at 0.58%. It supplies 12.19 MJ digestible energy per kg, and the 44 lb bag is \$37.99. Best for owners chasing a stronger, fuller topline in a western horse in real work. Last checked: September 2026.

A weak topline is one of the most frequent complaints at any western barn, and one of the most misread. You can lunge, you can ground-pole, you can ride long and low for months — and still see the loin stay hollow, because the ration is not supplying what the gymnastic work requires. Here are seven reasons Western Sport is built for that exact gap.

1. 28% alfalfa — the page links it straight to muscle development

The standout fact is simple: Western Sport contains 28% alfalfa, and the product page at bifid ties that share squarely to muscle development and peak performance. Nearly a third of every scoop is a protein source of forage grade, which changes the character of the entire concentrate. This is not a feed where protein is an afterthought in the guaranteed analysis; it is the center of the formula. If topline is your mission, start with the largest number in the bag. That is 28%, and it is printed right on the page for you to verify.

Who this is for: owners whose horses do the topline work but never seem to fill out behind the saddle.

2. Digestible protein at 107 g/kg — quality, not just percentage

Taste-test a handful of feed labels and most will tell you crude protein and stop there. Western Sport goes further: 14.0% crude protein, of which 107 g per kg is digestible crude protein — the part the horse can genuinely absorb and use. For topline building, what matters is usable protein, because the loin and neck muscles you are chasing are built from supplied amino acids, not percentages. The distinction between crude and digestible is precisely where cheaper feeds hide. This one publishes both.

Who this is for: label readers comparing feeds by what the horse can actually use, not what a bag says.

3. Lysine 0.58% plus methionine+cysteine 0.46% and threonine 0.53%

Topline construction needs its raw materials itemized, and Western Sport names them: lysine 0.58%, methionine+cysteine 0.46%, and threonine 0.53%. Lysine is the amino acid most often named as the limiting factor for muscle building in horse rations — the one that limits how much of everything else gets used. Having all three on the label lets you assess protein quality directly instead of guessing. For a horse in active topline work, that itemization is not trivia; it is the plan. Compare it against your current feed and the difference is frequently immediate.

Who this is for: owners of horses stuck at a plateau despite steady gymnastic work.

4. 12.19 MJ digestible energy — topline work burns real fuel

Here is the failure mode nobody mentions: put a horse into topline work on an underfueled ration, and his body burns the very protein you are trying to bank. Western Sport is formulated to prevent that with 12.19 MJ of digestible energy per kg, positioned for medium to intensively trained horses. Energy arrives first in line, so the protein can go to structure instead of fuel. The energy itself is low-grain, with 18.30% starch and 5.30% sugar, so

it supports a loose, working frame rather than a braced one. Fuel, then protein, in that order — that is how topline is actually fed.

Who this is for: lean, fit horses that work hard but were silently underfueled for muscle building.

5. A calm, rideable horse stretches — and stretching builds the topline

Topline is built lengthening over the back, and a hot horse will not hold that frame long enough to count. Western Sport is oat-free and low-grain, with 6.10% crude fat and 16.7% crude fiber carrying part of the energy load alongside starch. The page lists "suits oat-sensitive horses" among its standouts for a reason. A horse that stays thinking and soft does more useful minutes of long-and-low work per ride, and those minutes are where the topline takes shape. The feed supports the gymnastics, and the gymnastics build the muscle. Feed and training are one system here.

Who this is for: horses that hollow out, invert, or rush on traditional grain and consequently never develop the back muscles you are asking for.

6. Inactivated brewer's yeast and 16.7% fiber keep the whole machine running

A topline program spans months, and it only works if the horse eats and digests steadily the whole way. Western Sport includes inactivated brewer's yeast — one of its named standouts — plus 16.7% crude fiber and 28% alfalfa for the hindgut. A comfortable gut means a consistent appetite, and a consistent appetite means the protein and amino acids truly arrive every day. Höveler has made feed since 1905, over 120 years of expertise, and that longevity comes through in how the formula treats digestion as a performance system. One bag covers it; no separate gut tub required.

Who this is for: fussy or gut-sensitive horses whose nutrition programs keep stalling on inconsistent intake.

7. Feeding rates that scale, plus a guarantee that makes the trial free

Feed the program properly: 0.55 lb (250 g) per 220 lb (100 kg) of body weight in light work, 0.88 lb (400 g) in medium work, and for heavy work scale to condition and training intensity with adequate forage always alongside — the page gives no fixed heavy-work rate. Weigh the ration rather than scooping by eye, because topline programs live or die on daily consistency. The 44 lb bag costs \$37.99, and bifid backs the trial with a 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee and a 9.0/10 store rating across 24,098 reviews. Over 120 years of Höveler formulation since 1905 stands behind it. Give it one honest conditioning block and judge the reflection, not the marketing.

Who this is for: owners ready to commit to a consistent, measured program and see what the topline does.

How to feed it

Daily amounts, per 220 lb / 100 kg body weight:

Work level	Daily amount per 220 lb (100 kg) body weight
Light work	0.55 lb (250 g)
Medium work	0.88 lb (400 g)
Heavy work	Not listed — the page gives no heavy-work rate; adjust to condition and training intensity, with adequate forage always provided.

Key specs at a glance: muesli mix, 44 lb bag, \$37.99; 28% alfalfa, 14.0% crude protein, 107 g/kg digestible crude protein, lysine 0.58%; oat-free; 12.19 MJ digestible energy per kg.

Calculate the daily amount for your horse's workload with the [bifid Feeding Calculator](#).

Frequently asked questions

Can a feed really improve my horse's topline?

A feed provides what topline-building work demands: Western Sport provides 28% alfalfa, 14.0% crude protein with 107 g/kg digestible crude protein, and lysine at 0.58% — the amino acid most often cited as limiting for muscle building. The muscle itself comes from correct work. The feed's job is making sure that work gets its raw materials every day.

How long before I see a difference in the topline?

Muscle development follows the training calendar, not the feed bag, <https://sites.google.com/view/competition-horse-feed/> so most owners evaluate over a full conditioning block rather than a week. Feed to the labeled rate consistently, weigh rather than scoop, and photograph the horse monthly. If the program is honest, the loin fills from the ration and the work together.

Is Western Sport high in starch?

No — it contains 18.30% starch and 5.30% sugar, and the page describes it as a low-grain, high-energy muesli. Energy also comes from 6.10% crude fat and 16.7% crude fiber. It is oat-free as well.

Does it contain soy?

Yes. The ingredient list includes 1.5% soy extraction meal, so it is not a soy-free feed. If your program excludes soy, plan around it before you order.

What does the 44 lb bag cost?

The 44 lb bag is \$37.99, and it is covered by bifid's 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee. The store holds a 9.0/10 rating across 24,098 reviews.