

This information was generated by Rowan Emrys, C.N.M.T., an independent distributor for DYNAMITE® Specialty Products. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of DYNAMITE® MARKETING, Inc. No claims are expressed or implied, and this information is not intended to diagnose, prescribe or cure.

When horses are left to roam freely, they will forage plants growing in calcium-rich soils, and then travel miles in another direction to consume plants rich in phosphorus for the balance; instinctive, natural self-regulation. We have limited horses' natural ability to forage for balancing minerals, herbs and clays and must therefore do the best we can by offering the best substitutes possible.

The Role of Minerals

Minerals cannot be synthesized and yet there is no system that can function without them. Cellular integrity itself is utterly dependent upon proper electrolyte (what minerals are called when functioning at cellular level) balance.

According to Rex Ewing in Beyond the Hay Days, "A horse receiving an ample supply of minerals will require less feed and perform at a higher level than one that is not. It will have a greater resistance to disease. Energy levels and reproductive efficiency will be increased. Mares will cycle earlier in the year, conceive more quickly, and be more apt to carry their foals to term. They will produce more milk, their foals will grow larger, faster, and will exhibit stronger, denser bone."

Of course to be effective, the minerals must be bio-available. Nature accomplishes this via plants which take up the inorganic forms, chelating (key 'lating) them to amino acids for their own use. Animals eating such plants, benefit from the amino-acid chelated minerals although they do need some inorganic forms also, such as clays. Too many inorganic minerals such as inexpensive and plentiful oxides/sulfates/carbonates can become toxic to the horse.

Free-Choicing Minerals

In order to mimic Nature more effectively, rather than forcing certain amounts of scientifically chosen, "one-size-fits-all" minerals into horses, we believe a far more sound way to offer them is by free choice.

Authors Philip A. Wheeler, Ph.D. and Ronald B. Ward state in The Non-Toxic Farming Handbook, "Free choicing of minerals and additives is a controversial concept. It is said to be impossible by some experts for an animal to choose, free choice, what it needs. Why then, do animals chew bark, eat dirt, drink from corral urine pools, and crib? Why do they stop that activity when given specific supplements? There is a strong case for free choicing, and a producer should explore it for himself."

Additionally, a study was done by Dr. William Tyznik of Ohio State University, where he put out four options for horses: plain salt, trace mineral salt, limestone and phosphorus. These were widely spaced out in the living area and rearranged weekly. Dependent upon ration changes during the week from high to low calcium, the horses would eat the cor-

responding supplement to maintain blood and tissue balance.

There is no such thing as an "average" horse. The variety of breeds, types within breeds, use and just plain individuation make the free choice concept the most logical approach.

An Answer

Jim Zamzow, founder and president of DYNAMITE® Marketing, Inc., decades ago followed (in his helicopter) wild horse herds and analyzed what they consumed. As a result, DYNAMITE® offers, in addition to bio-available mineral-pacs within their various supplements, four different **Free Choice Minerals**. The **1 to 1** and **2 to 1** (grayish powders which look like ash) provide appropriately balanced minerals for either phosphorus or calcium deficient soils, plus cleansing clays and herbs for which the horses would forage if they could. Black granular **Izmine** is extracted from pre-historic, organic deposits of kelp, crustacea, and other marine flora and fauna and contains more than 60 naturally-occurring minerals, enzymes, electrolytes and bio-nutrients in the readily assimilated form of trace minerals in an organic sub-strate. Because of the carbon base, it also acts as a great detoxifier. And of course there is also the **Natural Trace Mineral Salt** referred to in a previous article. All minerals are chelated in a process to which DYNAMITE® holds the patent, allowing these minerals to be utilized fully. For maximum absorption, they are all below the necessary 1500 molecular weight and are balanced with the appropriate levels of inorganic minerals.

We have found wide variations in the rate of consumption of the **Free Choice** items. Times of stress or injury, hard work, parasite challenge, onset of cold weather, barometric drops, growth spurts, estrus and more can trigger eating (or inhalation!) of these products. Horses can ignore them for months, or even longer, then suddenly empty the feeder.

Once balanced, they will tend to take small amounts every once in a while. One broodmare we heard of went through seven 25# buckets of **2:1** before she balanced out while a foundered gelding we were working with consumed three 25# buckets of **Izmine** in five months. These are the exceptions rather than the rule!

Be sure to keep all four free choicers, **NTM Salt**, **Izmine**, & **1/2:1**, available, under cover (throw out powders that get wet), at all times. If you are in a situation where this is not feasible, at least put some dry into their grain buckets (a different one each time) when you feed; keep adding until they leave some. Let your horses decide for themselves their own correct proportions. ■

“A horse receiving
an ample supply of
minerals will require
less feed and
perform at a higher
level than one that is
not. It will have a
greater resistance to
disease. Energy
levels and
reproductive
efficiency will be
increased . . .”