



THIS GLASS-ENCLOSED and heated grandstand keeps railbirds at the Truro, N.S., raceway snug for harness racing action. The 2,000-seat grandstand, part of a \$100,000 reconstruction program, is the first of its kind in the Maritimes. (CP Photo)

Improvements galore made to Truro track

Truro Raceway, celebrating its 17th year in the night racing business, smashed all existing records during 1966.

The Jolly Horsemen's Club Ltd. leases the track and during the past year has spent \$100,000 on renovating the plant.

Records fell everywhere you looked. Most number of meets ever 66, from May 23 until Nov. 29; greatest pari-mutuel handle per race—\$18,587; greatest purse distribution—\$130,286 (63.2 per cent from track's share); 115 miles in 2.10 or better; new track records: aging Andy's Son (Jim Moore) 2:04.4; trotting Topway (M. MacArthur) 1:08.3.

Improvements came thick and fast. Truro provided harness racing patrons with the first entirely enclosed, glassed-in and heated grandstand. They came up with a new canteen, paved throughout the mutuel area, erected new stables, resurfaced the track to make it one of the finest in the Maritimes; did plenty of painting, constructed new rest rooms and introduced a new Buick starting gate, the same one that was used in 1963, 1964, 1965 to start the famed Hambletonian in DuQuoin, Illinois.

Phil Pinkney copped the dash winning honors with 49 triumphs. Other big winners were Emmons MacKay, 45; Frank Daniels 39; Cyril Smith 37; Merlin Turner 34; Gerald Nelson 34; Rinaldo Haley 22; Charlie Connors 16; Jim Moore 16; Clayton MacLeod 12.

The four-year early closer was the first of the feature events. It was raced on July 1. Joe Smallwood drove Yankee Timber to victory in the first dash in 2:07.2. Andy's Son, driver Jim Moore, took the second in 2:09.3 and the

ISLAND

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receiving hay that has been stored quite some time will not receive enough vitamin A. The total vitamin A intake of a mature horse should be 25,000 to 50,000 I.U. per day. This is best supplemented in a dry form. Cod liver oil is a good source of Vitamin A and D but this may interfere with vitamin E digestion and is not recommended for horses during training or racing. It would be quite satisfactory for brood mares after they are bred.

VITAMIN E
The need for vitamin E supplementation is not known. It is felt that under normal circumstances there is sufficient amount in the feed and this is in the grain portion of the ration but there is also reason to believe that during periods of stress additional vitamin E is needed. The lack of this vitamin seems to be associated with "teeing up" in standardbred race horses.

VITAMIN D
If a horse is exposed to sunlight it does not need Vitamin D added to the ration. Good quality sun dried hay will likely supply sufficient vitamin D. I do feel that in this area vitamin D should be added to a race horse's ration. They are not out in sunlight and hay that is fed may not be of a quality to supply this vitamin. The suggested requirement is 3000 I.U. per day.

B COMPLEX VITAMINS
A cow will the vitamin B complex it needs. Some people believe that a horse does also but this manufacturing occurs in the caecum and colon and it is not known how well the horse does absorb these vitamins. I believe that as mentioned before a vitamin premix should be added and it was these vitamins I was considering. I will mention one vitamin that race horse owners may be wasting money purchasing. Vitamin B12; this is a vitamin that is involved with growth and the manufacture of red blood cells. On occasion when a horse has a lowered number of red blood cells and haemoglobin than normal there will be an exceptional response to this vitamin but once the job of supplying the deficiency is overcome there will not be further need of this vitamin. It is not necessary to keep injecting it into a horse and it is only those horses that have a lowered blood count that will respond. It should be as cheap as

wise to have this vitamin in a premix and avoid the costly injections. I hope this explains the inconsistency of results from its use.

VITAMIN C
There is no information available on this vitamin. The only time a deficiency has been suspected is when there was a vitamin A deficiency. A deficiency of this vitamin causes scurvy in humans.

VITAMIN K
There is no evidence that vitamin K needs to be added to a horse's ration. There is also no information available on the requirements of a horse. A lack of vitamin K delays the clotting time of blood. I would suggest that this vitamin be definitely added to the individual race horse's ration that bleeds at the nose during or after racing.

MINERALS FOR THE HORSE
Here again there is very little research information available on the mineral needs of the horse. This is very unfortunate because bone formation and good feet and legs are the most essential part of an animal that is going to make its mark in life by racing. I did read in one book with reference to bone spavin that the author did not see one case of bone spavin or bone disease in a horse that received sufficient minerals during the growing period and work life. This statement could be open to a lot of criticism but confirmation does not seem to be the whole answer either. You do see problems such as spavins on animals with good conformation and bad conformation.

Research organizations have worked out the requirements of a horse as compared to other animals and these are the figures we use. The calcium to phosphorus ratio is very important and this should be about one part of calcium to one part of phosphorus after the animal has matured. During early growth the ratio approaches 1.5 parts of calcium to one part of phosphorus. It is the general feeling that a horse being pushed for racing would have a higher requirement for these minerals. The recommended amount of calcium for a 200 lb. foal that should develop into a 1000 lb. horse is 5.2 lbs. of calcium per 1000 lbs. of ration and phosphorus is 2.6 lbs. In the mature horse of 1000 lbs. and medium work the requirements are 1.8 lbs. of calcium and 1.8 lbs. of phosphorus per 1000 lbs. of ration. It can be plainly seen that the growing animal has a great need for these minerals and if we expect to raise good race horses we

must pay attention to these factors. A word of warning is also in order. Excess minerals can also have harmful effects and if a little is good an excess is not better but harmful. Vitamins can be added in excess without harmful effects but not minerals. Calcium and phosphorus requirements of a horse's rations is

one of the most essential nutritional problems to be solved. SALT is a mineral although it is so common we do forget about it. It is essential for all body functions. Horses which are worked or raced heavily and

sweat lose a great deal of salt by sweating and need a source of salt to replace the lost salt. A deficiency of salt will result in an animal playing out and overheating quicker. It is recommended that salt be added to the grain ration at the rate of 1 lb. Continued on Page 4

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