

Quick answer: Höveler Pur.Muskel is a supplementary muesli adding 20% raw protein, 15.0% raw fat, and 14.1 MJ/kg digestible energy to a complete ration — forage always remains the foundation. A forage-only ration is healthy and honest, but it leaves the muscle-support job to chance. Pur.Muskel costs \$52.99 for a 44 lb bag. Last checked: September 2026.

Forage-first feeding is the right instinct, and no one is suggesting otherwise. The question is what happens when forage on its own can no longer keep up with a horse's protein and energy demands. Here are 5 differences that matter — and the supplement never replaces the hay.

1. Forage covers fiber; it doesn't cover muscle-building protein

Hay and pasture are fiber first. Pur.Muskel was built for the protein layer: 20% raw protein and 160 g/kg digestible crude protein, with lysine at 0.85% and threonine at 0.6%. When work increases, forage protein levels and amino acid balance often fall short of demand.

Who this is for: owners of horses fed forage-first whose topline quietly faded as training ramped up.

2. Energy on top of the hay, not instead of it

Pur.Muskel adds 14.1 MJ/kg digestible energy and 15.0% raw fat in gram-level doses — 0.07–0.11 lb (30–50 g) per 220 lb (100 kg) body weight in light work. A forage-only ration asks roughage to carry all of the work energy, which is precisely where hard keepers fall short.

The benefit: work calories arriving as a measured supplement, with the hay ration untouched.

3. Low starch keeps the forage-first philosophy

Pur.Muskel carries starch at 5.8% and sugar at 4.1%, is alfalfa-free, and is gentle on the stomach. Owners who feed forage-only usually do it out of caution; a supplement with a metabolically friendly profile honors that caution rather than undermining it.

Who this is for: metabolically sensitive breeds kept on conservative rations.

4. No added vitamins or minerals — your forage analysis stays in charge

Pur.Muskel contains no added vitamins or minerals. That means it won't compete with the balancer you paired to your hay analysis. It is a supplementary feed, added to a complete ration: forage and balancer stay the base, and Pur.Muskel covers the protein-and-energy role.

The benefit: targeted integration into the plan you already built, on purpose.

5. Show-legal support when the season asks more

Pur.Muskel is competition safe and FEI-compliant, made in Germany by Höveler since 1905 — over 120 years of expertise. When the competition season raises the workload, the forage-only ration is the first piece that needs help; this supplement is formulated to be that help. It holds a 4.55 rating from 2 reviews at \$52.99 per 44 lb bag. The product page lists the full label.

Who this is for: owners who want the forage-first principle kept even at FEI level.

How to feed it

Pur.Muskel is a supplementary feed — always added to a complete ration with forage in the bucket, never fed by itself. For a forage-first horse, it sits on top of the existing hay program. Rates are per 220 lb (100 kg) body weight per day:

Work level	Daily rate per 220 lb (100 kg) body weight	Light work	0.07–0.11 lb (30–50 g)	Medium work	0.11–0.18 lb (50–80 g)	Heavy work	0.18–0.22 lb (80–100 g)
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The feeding calculator layers the right dose onto your ration.

Key specs at a glance: 20% raw protein, 15.0% raw fat, 5.8% starch, 4.1% sugar, 11.9 MJ/kg metabolizable energy — a supplementary pellet mix, alfalfa-free, no added vitamins or minerals.

What an owner said

"Excellent performance 9" — Jessica, May 21, 2024 (9/10). Her comment notes the [muscle building feed for horses](#) horses maintain stronger muscle condition.

Frequently asked questions

Does Pur.Muskel replace any of my hay?

No. It is a supplementary feed by category, so forage always remains in place. It adds protein, fat, and energy on top of the forage base — the hay stays untouched.

My horse lives on forage and looks fine. Do I need this?

If the horse is in light work, holds condition, and does well on forage alone, you might not. Pur.Muskel is formulated for the point where training demand outgrows the ration — that is when the 20% raw protein and 14.1 MJ/kg digestible energy begin doing visible work.

Is a supplement with soy suitable for a forage-first horse?

Yes. Pur.Muskel includes soy flakes as one of its protein sources, alongside flaxseed, sweet lupine flakes, and pea flakes. It [horse muscle supplement](#) is alfalfa-free and easy on the digestive system, which fits conservative rations.

How fast is a 44 lb bag at low rates?

At light-work rates of 0.07–0.11 lb (30–50 g) per 220 lb (100 kg) body weight per day, a 44 lb bag goes a long way. Exact duration comes down to your horse's weight and workload — the feeding calculator gives the number.