

Horse or Equine Dictionary

Terminology of the Horse or Equine Industry

Introduction

The first time a person encounters the language of the horse industry, they either become confused or they smile inwardly at the crystal clear meaning of the vocabulary. Like most specialized fields of agriculture, the vocabulary and terminology has developed to assist in the precise transfer of information between horse breeders, enthusiast, veterinarians and horse show officials. Incorrect usage and/or lack of understanding horse terminology can cause miscommunication to easily occur.

The terms listed in this dictionary have been compiled from a variety of sources including 4-H documents from the Cooperative Extension, technical documents, trade journals, and those terms generally recognized and understood in the horse industry. Some specific sources used in this document include the following:

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ADF

See acid detergent fiber.

ADG

See average daily gain.

ADIN

Acid detergent insoluble nitrogen. Undigestible dietary protein or nitrogen.

Abortion

Premature expulsion of the fetus or unborn animal.

Acid detergent fiber

Fiber measurement extracted with acidic detergent in a technique employed to help appraise the quality of forages. Includes cellulose, lignin, ADIN, and acid-insoluble ash.

Ad libitum (ad lib.)

At pleasure. Commonly used to express feed available on free-choice basis.

Aerobic

Requiring oxygen. For example, many microorganisms require oxygen for the oxidation of food materials.

Afterbirth

The placenta and allied membranes with which the fetus is connected with the mother. It is expelled from the uterus following parturition.

Aged

A horse which is seven years old or older.

AI Daughter

Female offspring of an artificially inseminated dam.

Aids

Whips, reins, spurs, and other items which help a rider convey instructions to the horse.

Air Above the Ground

Any movement performed with either the forelegs or the fore and hind legs off the ground.

Alopecia

Baldness; loss or deficiency of hair, natural or abnormal.

Also-Ran

Any unplaced horse in a race.

Ammonia

A colorless pungent gas, NH_3 , composed of nitrogen and hydrogen; its compounds are used as fertilizers.

Ammonium

An ion (NH_4^+) derived from ammonia (NH_3).

Anaerobic treatment lagoon

A structure to treat animal waste by predominantly anaerobic biological action using anaerobic or facultative organisms, in the absence of air, for the purpose of reducing organic matter in wastes.

Anaphylactic shock (anaphylaxis)

A state of immediate hypersensitivity following sensitization to a foreign protein or drug.

Anorexia

Lack or loss of appetite.

Anthelmintic

A remedy for destruction or elimination of parasitic worms.

Antibiotic

A metabolic product of one microorganism or a chemical that in low concentrations is detrimental to activities of other microorganisms. Penicillin, tetracycline, and streptomycin are antibiotics. Not effective against viruses.

Antibody

A protein (modified type of blood serum) developed or synthesized by lymphoid tissue of the body in response to an antigen. Each antigen elicits production of a specific antibody.

Antigen

A high-molecular-weight substance (usually protein) which, when foreign to the bloodstream of an animal, stimulates formation of a specific antibody.

Apprentice

A youth who is being trained as a jockey.

Artificial insemination

Placement of fresh or frozen male semen into the female mechanically without normal sexual contact.

Aseptic

Preventing or free from contamination by microorganisms.

As fed

Refers to feed as it is consumed by an animal, including moisture.

Atrophy

A defect or failure of nutrition or physiologic function manifested as a wasting away or reduction in the size of cell, tissue, organ, or body part.

Average daily gain

The average amount of daily live weight increase as applied to farm animals.

Backstretch

Part of an oval racetrack furthest from the spectators.

Bactericide

An agent or substance capable of destroying bacteria.

Bacterin

A suspension of killed or attenuated bacteria (vaccine) used to increase disease resistance.

Bacteriostatic

Describes a substance that prevents the growth of bacteria but does not kill them.

Bag

See udder.

Balanced ration

The daily food allowance of an animal, mixed to include suitable proportions of nutrients required for normal health, growth, production, and well-being. A ration containing all the dietary requirements to meet the purpose for which it is being fed.

Baled hay

Forage that has been compressed into a bale (round or rectangular) to save space in storage and aid in handling.

Band

A group of horses.

Bareback

Riding a horse without a saddle or blanket on its back.

Barren

Sterile, infertile, nonbreeder, incapable, of producing offspring. Also, open or not pregnant.

Basal metabolism (BM)

The chemical changes that occur in the cells of an animal in the fasting or resting state when it uses just enough energy to maintain vital cellular activity, respiration, and circulation as measured by the basal metabolic rate (BMR).

Bit

The part of the bridle that fits in the horse's mouth.

Blemish

Any scar left by an injury.

Blind quarter

A quarter of an udder that does not secrete milk or one that has an obstruction in the teat which prevents the removal of milk. A nonfunctional mammary gland.

Blistering (or Firing)

The application of a hot iron to a horse's lower leg in an attempt to treat an unsoundness problem. The procedure is not well accepted in the industry because it is considered cruel and its effectiveness has not been proven.

Blood plasma

The liquid portion of blood in which the corpuscles of blood cells are suspended.

Bloodstock

Thoroughbred horses, especially those used for racing and breeding.

Blow Up

1) to buck. 2) a term used to describe the behavior of a dressage or show horse which performs poorly.

BOD (biochemical oxygen demand)

An indirect measure of the concentration of biodegradable substances in an aqueous solution. The degradation of organic matter uses up dissolved oxygen.

Bone meal

Animal bones that were steamed under pressure and then ground. It contains 1.5 to 2.5 percent nitrogen, 12 to 15 percent phosphorus, and 20 to 34 percent calcium. It is used as a fertilizer and as a mineral supplement for feeding farm animals.

Book

An individual who accepts bets on horses.

Bran

The seed coat of wheat and other cereal grains which is separated from flour and used as animal food.

Break Down

The back of the fetlock dropping to the ground, caused by a lacerated suspensory ligament or a fractured sesamoid bone.

Breed

Animals having a common origin and characteristics that distinguish them from other groups within the same species.

Breeder

The owner of a mare at the time of breeding.

Breeding value (genetic value)

The genetic ability or merit of an animal for a given trait, for example, speed. One-half of this genetic ability is transmitted to offspring.

Breeze

1) to win a race easily. 2) a training sprint over a short distance.

Bridle

The headgear used to control the horse.

Broad-spectrum antibiotic

An antibiotic that is active against a large number of microbial species.

Bronc (or Bronco)

Any unbroken horse.

By

Sired by.

CF

See crude fiber.

CP

See crude protein and intake protein.

Carrying capacity

The number of animals that a pasture can properly carry with feed for a certain period of time.

Cavaletti

A series of small wooden jumps used in training to improve a horse's strength, stride, and balance.

Cavesson

A type of noseband used to keep the horse's mouth closed.

Check-offs

The practice of deducting a portion of the payment to a farmer for his or her produce.

Cholesterol

A white, fat-soluble substance found in animal fats and oils, in bile, blood, brain tissue, nervous tissue, the liver, kidneys, and adrenal glands. It is important in metabolism and is a precursor of certain hormones.

Chute

Straight part of a racetrack behind the barrier of the starting gate.

Classification

An appraisal program offered by a breed association to evaluate each animal's resemblance to the breed's ideal.

A numerical score is assigned to each animal.

Clear Round

A show-jumping or cross-country round which is completed without faults.

Close breeding

A form of inbreeding, such as mating brothers to sisters, sire to daughter, and son to dam.

COD (chemical oxygen demand)

An indirect measure of the biochemical load exerted on the oxygen of a body of water when organic wastes are introduced into the water. If wastes are readily biodegradable, COD and BOD are nearly the same.

Cold-Blood

Any large, heavy horse whose ancestors originated in the cold regions of the world; particularly the draft breeds.

Coliform bacteria

Bacteria from the intestinal tract of warm-blooded animals. Presence is considered indicative of fecal contamination.

Collection

Shortening a horse's pace by light contact from the rider's hands and steady pressure from the legs, which make the horse flex its neck, relax its jaw, and bring its hocks under.

Colt

an ungelded male horse less than four years old.

Compaction

Closely packed feed in the stomach and intestines of an animal causing constipation and/or digestive disturbances.

Complete ration

A blend of all feedstuffs (forages and grains) in one feed. A complete ration fits well into mechanized feeding and the use of computers to formulate least-cost rations. Sometimes called total mixed ration or TMR.

Concentrate

A feed high in nitrogen-free-extract (NFE) and total digestible nutrients (TDN) and low in crude fiber (less than 18 percent). Included are cereal grains, soybean oil meal, cottonseed meal, and by-products of the milling industry such as corn gluten and wheat bran. A concentrate may be low or rich in protein.

Conception

Fertilization or penetration of the ovum by a sperm cell.

Conception rate

Total number of conceptions obtained divided by total number of services.

Condition

Refers to the amount of flesh (body weight), quality of hair coat, and general health of animals. Also called body condition.

Confidence range (CR)

Indicates the accuracy in the estimation of a sire's genetic merit in a sire proof by giving a probable range for future summaries.

Confinement

Livestock kept in corrals or housing for maximum year-round production. Facilities may be partial or complete, usually with a solid floor and enclosed, or covered.

Conformation

The body form or physical traits of an animal; its shape and arrangement of parts.

Conjunctiva

The tissue covering the anterior portion of an eyeball.

Contact

The connection between the rider's hands and the horse's mouth made through the reins.

Cooperative

A form of business owned and controlled by the people who use its services, such as a livestock marketing or processing cooperative.

Cooperative Extension Service (CES)

The state, university and county educational outreach service of each state land-grant institution. This service extends the research results and educational programs of land-grant institutions to all the people in the state.

Corn

A bruise in the area of the sole between the heel and the wall of the hoof.

Course

1) a racecourse. 2) in show-jumping and cross-country competition, a circuit including a series of obstacles which are jumped in a designated order, sometimes within a specified time limit.

Crimped

Rolled with corrugated rollers. The grain to which this term refers may be tempered or conditioned before crimping, and may be cooled afterward.

Crossbred

Offspring of parents of different breeds.

Crossbreeding

Mating animals of different breeds.

Crude fiber (CF)

That portion of feedstuffs composed of cellulose, hemicellulose, lignin and other polysaccharides which serve as structural and protective parts of plants (high in forages and low in grains). Not soluble in acid or alkali detergents.

Crude protein (CP)

Total protein in a feed. To calculate the protein percentage, a feed is first chemically analyzed for nitrogen content. Because proteins average about 16 percent (100 ÷ 6.25) nitrogen, the percentage of nitrogen in the analysis is multiplied by 6.25 to give the CP percentage.

Cut

To geld (castrate) a colt or stallion.

DIP

Degradable intake protein. That protein or nitrogen degraded in the rumen by microorganisms into microbial protein or freed as ammonia.

DM

See dry matter.

DMI

Dry matter intake.

DNA

See deoxyribonucleic acid.

Dam

The mother of a foal.

Dark Horse

A horse whose racing record is relatively unknown.

Dead Heat

In racing, a tie for first, second, or third place.

Degraded intake protein

See DIP.

Denitrification

The chemical or biological reduction of nitrate or nitrite to gaseous nitrogen, either as molecular nitrogen (N₂) or as an oxide of nitrogen (N₂O).

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)

The chemical substance that is the principal nuclear material of cells. The structure of DNA determines the structure of ribonucleic acid which, in turn, determines the structure of proteins of the cell.

Dicoumarol

A chemical compound found in spoiled sweet clover and lespedeza hays. It is an anticoagulant and can cause internal hemorrhages when ingested by cattle.

Digestible energy (DE)

The amount of energy actually digested by the horse (that is, the amount consumed by the horse but not excreted in the feces). Digestible energy is broken down in the digestive tract, absorbed into the bloodstream, and carried throughout the body.

Digestible protein (DP)

The amount of protein of feed that is absorbed by the digestive tract; it may be computed using the formula: Percent DP = percent crude protein of feed x digestion coefficient for protein in the feed.

Digestibility

That percentage of food ingested which is absorbed into the body as opposed to that which is excreted as feces.

Digestion coefficient

The digestion coefficient of feed ingredients (DCF_I) may be calculated using the formula:

Wt. of ingredient consumed -- Wt. of undigested ingredient in feces

DCF_I = Wt. of ingredient consumed X 100

Diuretic

A drug or agent used to increase flow of urine.

Docking

Removing the tail for sanitation purposes.

Dominant

Describes a gene that covers up the physical expression of its paired allele or recessive gene.

Dope

To drug a horse, either to improve or impair its performance in a competitive event.

Draft Horse

A horse used to pull heavy loads.

Dry matter (DM)

The moisture-free content of feeds.

Dyspnea

Difficult or labored respiration.

Dystocia

Abnormal or difficult labor (parturition), causing difficulty in delivering the fetus and placenta.

Earthen storage basin

An earthen pond or basin for storing animal waste. Differs from an anaerobic treatment lagoon in that wastes are not stored for an extended period and microbial breakdown or treatment does not occur.

Eclipse Award

An award for outstanding achievement in the Thoroughbred business, equivalent to the motion picture industry's Academy Award.

Edema

The presence of abnormally large amounts of fluid in the intercellular tissue spaces of the body, as in swelling of mammary glands commonly accompanying parturition in many farm animals.

Efficacy

Effectiveness.

Effluent

The liquid outflow or discharge of a waste treatment process.

ELUD

See extra label use drug.

Emaciation

A wasted condition of the body; great losses of body weight or condition.

Embryo transfer

Modern technology whereby multiple fertilized eggs (ova) are flushed from the donor's uterus, and are transferred to a recipient animal that serves as a surrogate mother. The fertilized ova may be frozen and stored indefinitely before they are thawed and transferred to recipients.

Ensilage

A green chop (forage) preserved by fermentation in a silo, pit, or stack, usually in chopped form. Also called silage.

Enteritis

Intestinal inflammation caused by bacteria, poison or moldy feed which contains fungi.

Epidemic

The rapid spreading of a disease so that many animals or people have it concurrently. See epizootic.

Epizootic

Designating a widely diffused disease of animals spreading rapidly and affecting many individuals of a kind concurrently in any region, thus corresponding to an epidemic in man.

Equestrian

1) pertaining to horsemen or horsemanship.

2) a rider on horseback.

Equine

Pertaining to horses.

Equine Sports Medicine

The science of equine athletic conditioning and related factors. Still in its infancy, the science began by adapting human athletic conditioning principles to performance horses. It utilizes scientific technology in an attempt to improve the athletic performance of horses. Equine Sports Medicine includes the study of all areas which can impact performance, such as body function mechanisms (nutrition/digestion, cardiovascular and respiratory functions, bone density, blood composition, bone/muscle function, etc.), gait and motion analysis, and training/conditioning techniques. At this time, the science primarily impacts racing, but is expected to expand to other performance activities in the near future.

Ergosterol

A plant sterol which, when activated by ultraviolet rays, becomes vitamin D2, also called provitamin D2 and ergosterin.

Eructation

The act of belching or casting up gas from the stomach.

Estrus (oestrus, estrous)

The recurrent, restricted sexual receptivity (heat) in female mammals, commonly marked by intense sexual urge. Estrous pertains to the entire cycle of reproductive changes in the nonpregnant female animal.

Ether extract (EE)

Fatty substances or lipids of foods and feeds that are soluble in ether.

Event Horse

A horse which competes in the Three-Day Event.

Eventing

Synonym for the Three-Day Event.

Exacta (or Perfecta)

A type of bet in which the wagerer must choose the first and second place winners and the order in which they finish in order to win.

Exocrine (eccrine)

Secreting outwardly, into, or through a duct.

Extra label use drug

An antibiotic or other chemical used on the advice of a veterinarian in a dosage, route of administration, for a disease, or in some other manner not included on the approved printed package label.

FEI

The Federation Equestre International (International Equestrian Federation), the world's governing body of international equestrian sport. Founded in 1921, the F.E.I. is headquartered in Brussels. It makes the rules and regulations for international equestrian competitive events, including the Olympic Games, the Pan American Games, and the World Championships. All national equestrian federations are required to comply with the F.E.I.'s regulations in international competition.

False heat

The display of estrus by a female animal when she is pregnant.

Farrier

An individual who makes horseshoes and shoes horses.

Fault

In jumping, a scoring unit which penalizes a competitor for knockdowns, refusals, falls, touches (touching the obstacle) or other mistakes.

Feature Race

The main race of a race event.

Fecal coliform bacteria

See coliform bacteria.

Federation of cooperatives

An organization of cooperatives that provides for joint activities but allows each cooperative to manage its own affairs.

Fence

Any obstacle which must be jumped in hunting, show- jumping, cross-country, or steeplechase competition.

Fiber

The cellulose portion of roughages (forages) that is low in TDN and hard to digest by monogastric animals.

Filly

A female horse less than four years old.

Flushing

Putting mares on an increasing plane of nutrition prior to breeding to increase ovulation and fertility.

Foal

A male or female horse less than one year old.

Fodder

Coarse food for cattle or horses, such as corn stalks or straw.

Forehand

The part of the horse which is in front of the rider the head, neck, shoulders, withers, and forelegs.

Free-choice

A feeding system that allows animals to eat at will. See self-feeder.

Freeze drying

The evaporation of water from a frozen product with the aid of high vacuum. Also called lyophilization.

Frog

The elastic, horny center of the sole of a horse's hoof.

Furlong

1/8 of a mile or 220 yards.

GPD (gaseous products of digestion)

These include the combustible gases produced in the digestive tract during fermentation of the ration. Methane constitutes the major proportion of the combustible gases produced by ruminants; however, nonruminants also produce methane. Trace amounts of hydrogen, carbon monoxide, acetone, ethane, and hydrogen sulfide are also produced.

Gait

Any forward movement of the horse, such as walking or galloping.

Gall

A sore on the horse's skin, usually occurring under the saddle or girth.

Gastroenteritis

Chemical, bacterial, or viral inflammation of the mucosa of the stomach and intestines.

Geld

To castrate a male horse.

Gelding

A male horse which has been castrated.

Genetic merit

The genetic value of the animal used in a breeding program. (Also see breeding value).

Genetic trend

Genetic change per year for a trait in the population.

Genotype

The actual genetic constitution (makeup) of an individual as determined by its germ plasm. See dominant.

Gestation Pregnancy.

The period between conception and foaling, normally about eleven months.

Get

The offspring of a sire.

Girth

1) the circumference of a horse measured around the deepest part of the body behind the withers. 2) a strap around the horse's girth which holds the saddle in place.

Giving milk

Lactating, or the act of yielding milk by a mammal.

Going

The condition of a race track or other ground over which a horse travels, such as "good going", "muddy going", etc.

Goitrogenic

Producing or tending to produce goiter (enlargement of the thyroid gland).

Gossypol

A toxic yellow pigment found in cottonseed. Heat and pressure tend to bind it with protein and thereby render it safe for animal consumption.

Graze

To consume standing vegetation, as by livestock or wild animals.

Green

- 1) a horse which is broken but not yet trained.
- 2) a trotter or pacer which has not been raced against the clock.

Green chop (fresh forage)

Forages harvested (cut and chopped) in the field and hauled to livestock. This minimizes the loss of moisture, color, nutrients, and wastage. Also called zero grazing or soilage.

Groom

- 1) an individual who is responsible for looking after a horse.
- 2) to clean the coat, mane, tail, and feet of a horse.

Gross energy (GE)

The amount of heat, measured in calories, released when a substance is completely oxidized in a bomb calorimeter. The total amount of energy provided in the horse's feed.

Growthy

Describes an animal that is large and well-developed for its age.

Hack

- 1) a riding horse for hire.
- 2) a pleasure ride.

Hackamore

A bridle that controls the horse by pressure on its nose.

Half-sib

In genetics, a half brother or half sister.

Hand

Measurement used to determine the height of a horse. A hand equals four inches, the average width of a man's hand. A horse's height is measured from the highest part of the withers to the ground. The abbreviation for height is h.h. (hands high). Fractions of a hand are expressed in inches. For example, a horse 15.2 hands high is 15 hands, 2 inches tall.

Hardware disease

Commonly, an inflammation of the body cavity by an animal eating metal objects and perforation of the digestive tract.

Haunches

The hips and buttocks of a horse.

Hay

Dried forage (e.g., grasses, alfalfa, clovers) used for feeding farm animals.

Haylage

Low-moisture silage (35 to 55 percent moisture). Grass and legume crops are cut and wilted in the field to a lower moisture level than normal for grass silage, but the crop is not sufficiently dry for baling. It is commonly stored in a sealed, or airtight, storage system.

Heart girth

The circumference of the body just back of the shoulders of an animal. It is used to estimate body weight.

Heat

See estrus.

Heat increment (HI)

The increase in heat produced following consumption of food. It consists of calories released in fermentation and nutrient metabolism. When environmental temperature is below critical temperature, this heat may be used to keep the body warm; therefore, it is not wasted. Also called work of digestion.

Heat period

That period of time when a female will accept a male in the act of mating. Also called in heat or estrus.

Hectare

A metric unit of land measurement (2.47 acres).

Herd

A group of animals, collectively considered as a unit.

Heritability

The proportion (fraction) of difference among animals for a trait due to genetic difference rather than environmental factors. The fraction of variation in a trait that is genetically transmissible from parent to offspring.

High-moisture silage

Silage usually containing 70 percent or more moisture.

Hindquarters

See Quarters.

Homestretch

Part of an oval track closest to the spectators.

Hot-Blood

Any light, fast horse whose ancestors originated in the hot, dry areas of the world; particularly the Arabian breed.

Hypoglycemia

Below normal blood glucose level.

IP

See intake protein.

IU (international unit)

A unit of measurement of a biologic (e.g., a vitamin, hormone, antibiotic, antitoxin) as defined by the International Conference for Unification of Formulae. Potency is based on bioassay that produces a particular effect agreed on internationally. Also called USP unit.

Immunity

The power an animal has to resist and/or overcome an infection to which most of its species is susceptible. Active immunity is attributable to the presence of antibodies formed by an animal in response to antigenetic stimulus. Passive immunity is produced by the administration of preformed antibodies.

Impaction

Constipation. See compaction.

In Foal

In gestation.

Inbreeding

The mating of related horses, such as brother and sister or son and dam.

Intake protein (IP)

Total protein or nitrogen consumed without regard to quality.

In vitro

Within an artificial environment, as within a test tube.

In vivo

Within the living body.

Jockey

Professional rider of racehorses.

Jump-Off

In show jumping, a round held to decide the winner among those competitors who tied for first place in the previous round.

Jumper

Any horse trained to compete over jumps.

Kilocalorie (kcal)

Equivalent to 1000 calories.

Lachrymation

The act of tearing; secreting and conveying tears.

Lactate

To secrete or produce milk; also, salt of beta-hydroxy propionic acid.

Lagoon

see anaerobic treatment lagoon.

Leaching

The process of removal of soluble materials by the passage of water through soil.

Legume

Clovers, alfalfa, and similar crops that can absorb nitrogen directly from the atmosphere through action of bacteria that live in their roots and use it as a nutrient for growth.

Length

The length of a horse's head and body, used to measure the distance by which a horse wins a race.

Libido

Sexual desire or instinct.

Lignin

A compound which, with cellulose, forms the cell walls of plants. It is practically indigestible.

Lipid

Any one of a group of organic substances that are insoluble in water though soluble in alcohol, ether, chloroform, and other fat solvents, and have a greasy feel. They are rich sources of dietary energy.

Liquid-solid separation

The process of passing a liquid-solid suspension, such as animal manure, over a screen or similar device to partially remove solids prior to storage or application.

Long feed

Coarse or unchopped feed such as hay, as contrasted with short, or chopped, feed.

Loose housing

Facilities which allow livestock access to a large, open bedded area for resting. Also known as free housing. Loose housing provides at least 200 square feet per animal for feeding and resting while freestall housing uses only 90 square feet per animal.

Low-moisture silage

Silage that contains 35 to 55 percent moisture. See haylage.

Lucerne

Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*); a legume of high feeding value for ruminants.

Lunge

A long line, usually fifteen to twenty feet long, used in training. One end of the lunge is attached to one side of the bridle; the trainer holds the other end in his hands as the horse circles him.

Maiden

A horse of either sex which has not won a race.

Maiden Mare

A mare which has not had a foal.

Manure

The fecal and urinary excretions of livestock.

Mare

A female horse more than four years old.

Martingale

An aid used to help keep a horse's head in the correct position. It usually includes a strap running between the forelegs which connects the girth and the front of the bridle.

Match

A race between two horses, on terms agreed by their owners.

Mastectomy

Removal of the mammary glands.

Mastitis

An inflammation of the mammary gland (or glands), usually caused by bacteria.

Meet

The place where hunters, horse, hounds, and followers gather before a hunt.

Megacalorie (Mcal)

Equivalent to 1000 kcal or 1,000,000 cal. A megacalorie is equivalent to a therm.

Metabolic weight

The weight of an animal raised to three- quarter power ($W^{0.75}$).

Metabolizable energy (ME)

Food-intake gross energy minus fecal energy, energy in the gaseous products of digestion (mostly methane), and urinary energy.

Metritis

An inflammation of the uterus.

Monogastric

Having only one stomach or stomach compartment, as does man, dogs, and swine.

Mount

To climb onto, as demonstrated by females in heat and by males in natural service.

Muck Out

To remove manure and soiled bedding from a horse's stall.

Mudder

A horse which races well on a muddy track.

Mummified fetus

A shriveled fetus that has remained in the uterus instead of being aborted or expelled. Fluids from the fetus have been partially reabsorbed by the mother.

Mustang

Any wild horse; particularly, the wild horse of the western plains of the U.S., which is descended from Spanish horses.

NAAB stud code

An identification number composed of a one-or two-digit prefix indicating the AI stud and a letter indicating the breed of the male specie. The remaining numbers identify the male within a stud.

NDF

See neutral detergent fiber.

NFE

See nitrogen-free extract.

National Association of Animal Breeders (NAAB)

The national organization made up of representatives from the artificial insemination (AI) industry.

National Research Council (NRC)

A division of the National Academy of Sciences established in 1916 to promote the effective use of scientific and technical resources. This private, nonprofit organization of scientists publishes bulletins periodically giving nutrient requirements of domestic animals.

Natural service

In farm animals, it means to allow natural mating, as opposed to artificial insemination.

Near Side

The horse's left-hand side, from which it is usually mounted.

Neonatal

Pertaining to a newborn animal.

Net energy (NE)

The difference between metabolizable energy and heat increment. It includes the amount of energy used either for maintenance only or for maintenance plus production.

Neutral detergent fiber (NDF)

A measurement of fiber after digesting in a non-acidic, non-alkaline detergent as an aid in determining quality of forages. Contains the fibers in ADF, plus hemicellulose.

Nitrate

A final decomposition product of organic nitrogen compounds. A nitrogen-oxygen ion (NO₃⁻) available as a plant nutrient and soluble in water.

Nitrification

The biochemical transformation by oxidation of ammonium (NH₄) to nitrite (NO₂) or to nitrate (NO₃).

Nitrogen balance

Nitrogen in the food consumed minus nitrogen in feces and nitrogen in urine (nitrogen retention).

Nitrogen-free extract (NFE)

Consisting of carbohydrates, sugars, starches, and a major portion of materials classed as hemicellulose in feeds. When crude protein, fat, water, ash, and fiber are added and the sum is subtracted from 100, the difference is NFE.

Non-point source

Entry of effluent into a water body in a diffuse manner so there is no definite point of entry.

Noseband

The part of a bridle which lies across the horse's nose, above the bit.

Odds

The betting quotation on a horse in a race.

Oestrus

See estrus.

Off feed

Having ceased eating; without a healthy and normal appetite.

Off Side

A horse's right-hand side.

On Its Toes

Refers to a horse which is eager to keep moving.

Open

A term commonly used for nonpregnant farm mammals.

Organic nitrogen

Nitrogen bound in organic compounds, such as protein or amino acids. Requires microbial decomposition prior to nitrification as a plant nutrient.

Outcross

Mating an individual to another in the same breed who is not closely related to it.

Out of

Terminology for mothered by in animal breeding.

Ovariectomy

The surgical removal of an ovary.

Overconditioned

An animal with excess flesh and patchy fat deposits, especially over the shoulders, back, hips, and thighs.

Pacemaker

A horse that takes the lead and sets the speed for a race.

Paddock

- 1) a grassy enclosure in which horses can be turned out.
- 2) the enclosure at a racetrack in which horses are prepared for a race.

Parakeratosis

Any abnormality of the stratum corneum (horny layer of epidermis) of skin, especially a condition caused by edema between the cells, which prevents the formation of keratin.

Parenteral

Administration by injection, not through the digestive tract (e.g., subcutaneous, intramuscular, intrasternal, intravenous).

Parimutual

A form of betting in which the total amount wagered, after a percentage is deducted for costs, is divided among the holders of winning tickets.

Parity price

A level of farm prices intended to provide the same approximate purchasing power for farmers as enjoyed during a preceding base period.

Parrot mouth

A malformed mouth of an animal in which the upper jaw abnormally protrudes beyond the lower.

Parturition

The act or process of giving birth to young.

Pasture

Plants, as grass, grown for feeding or grazing animals. Also to feed cattle and other livestock on pasture.

Pathogen

Any microorganism that produces disease (bacteria, viruses, yeasts, molds, and parasites).

Pediculicide

An agent that destroys lice.

Pedigree

A record of an animal's ancestors, usually only those of the five closest generations.

Pendulous udders

Loosely attached mammary glands are collectively referred to as pendulous udders.

Perfecta

See Exacta.

Permanent identification

Identification that stays with the animal for its lifetime and cannot be lost. Examples are tattoo, color markings (sketch or photo) and hot or freeze brand. (Also see unique identification.)

pH

A logarithmic measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution using the hydrogen ion concentration. The pH scale ranges from 0 to 14 with numbers above 7 being alkaline and numbers below 7, acidic. A one number change means the solution is ten times weaker or stronger than the previous measure.

Phenotype

The expression of genes that can be measured by our senses--what we physically see of some trait in an animal.

Phosphate

An ion of phosphorus and oxygen ($H_2PO_4^-$ or HPO_4^{2-}). May exist as an ion in solution or as an ester or salt of phosphoric acid.

Pica

A craving for unnatural articles of food such as is observed in phosphorus-deficient animals; a depraved appetite.

Pink eye (conjunctivitis)

An inflammatory disease of the eye of cattle of all ages. The eye may become pearl colored and opaque leading to blindness.

Pipeline

A stainless steel or glass pipe used for transporting milk by gravity to storage. May be above the milking units (high line) or below the level of the units (low line).

Place

To finish second in a horserace.

Placenta

The tissue attachment between the fetus and the mother.

Plain

A term suggesting general inferiority; coarse; lacking the desired quality or breed character.

Plasma

The liquid portion of blood or lymph in which corpuscles or blood cells float.

Polled

Describing a naturally hornless animal.

Polygastric

Possessing more than one stomach compartment, as does the cow and other ruminants.

Pony

Any horse less than 14.2 hands (58 inches) when fully grown.

Post

1) either the starting or finishing post at a racetrack. 2) to rise up from the saddle while a horse is trotting.

Post-legged

A condition in which the hind legs are too straight, so that the springy quality of the hock and pastern is lost.

Postpartum

Occurring after birth of the offspring.

Potash

An oxide of potassium (K₂O) used as a plant nutrient or fertilizer.

Ppb

Parts per billion. It equals micrograms per kilogram or microliters per liter.

Ppm

Parts per million. It equals milligrams per kilogram or milliliters per liter.

Predicted Transmitting Ability (PTA)

An estimation of an animal's potential to transmit yield productivity to its offspring based on pedigree information and the animal's performance, if available.

Prepartum

Occurring before birth of the offspring.

Prepotent

Designating an animal that transmits its own character to its progeny to a marked or highly uniform degree.

Prepping

Preparing a horse for a sale, race, shows, etc.

Primary waste treatment

Usually, the initial treatment of waste water to reduce pollution potential or health hazard. With animal manure an example would be liquid-solid separation.

Produce

female's offspring. The produce of dam commonly refers to two offspring of one dam.

Production and type index (PTI)

Combines genetic merit measurements for production and type in a ratio thus ranking sires on their ability to transmit a balance of these traits.

Progeny testing

Evaluating the genotype of an individual by a study of its offspring. An evaluation of the transmitting ability of an individual based on the performance of offspring.

Prolapsed uterus

A condition in which the uterus is partially or completely turned inside out, outside the animal's body, usually following parturition.

Protein equivalent

A term indicating the total nitrogen content of a substance in comparison with the nitrogen content of protein usually plant). For example, the nonprotein nitrogen (NPN) compound, urea, contains approximately 45 percent nitrogen and has a protein equivalent of 281 percent (6.25×45 percent).

Protein supplements

Feed products that contain 20 percent or more of protein.

Proximate analysis

Tests for nitrogen (crude protein), crude fiber, ether extract (lipids), and ash which, with nitrogen-free extract, represent the gross composition of feed.

Psychrophilic

Cold-loving. It refers to microorganisms that grow best at refrigerated temperatures, that is, 4 to 15°C.

Psychrotrophic

Cold-tolerant. It refers to microorganisms that grow at low temperatures, 4 to 15°C., but may have an optimum temperature above this range.

PTA

See predicted transmitting ability.

PTI

See production and type index.

Purebred

The offspring of purebred parents of the same breed. Ancestors of purebreds can be traced to foundation stock in the original herdbook. An animal with two registered parents of the same breed. Purebreds are not all registered.

Pus

A liquid product of inflammation consisting of leukocytes, lymph, bacteria, dead tissue cells, and fluid derived from their decomposition.

Pyometra

An accumulation of pus in the uterus.

Quarters

The hindquarters: the area of a horse's body extending from the rear of the flank to the root of the tail and downwards to the tops of the hind legs.

Quinella

A type of bet in which the wagerer must choose the first and second place winners but need not designate the order in which they finish in order to win.

Racing Plate

A thin, lightweight horseshoe used for racing.

Rate of passage

The time taken by undigested residues from a given meal to reach the feces.

Ration

The food allowed an animal for 24 hours. See balanced ration.

Recalcitrant

In plant nutrition, refers to that portion of a nutrient in the soil that is unavailable for biochemical activity or plant uptake.

Recessive

See dominant.

Red Ribbon

A piece of red ribbon tied around a horse's tail to indicate that it is known to kick.

Refusal

The failure of a horse to try to jump an obstacle, either by stopping in front of it or by going around it.

Registered

Purebred animal registered in the herdbook of the proper breed association. Certain associations (for example, the Red and White association) will register non- purebred cattle providing they satisfy certain other criteria.

Registration certificate

Proof that the parentage of an animal is known and is recorded in the Breed Registry Herdbook.

Regurgitate

To cast up undigested food from the stomach to the mouth, as done by ruminants.

Rein Back

To make a horse step backward while being ridden.

Reins

Long, narrow leather strips used to control the horse. One end is attached to the bit; the other end is held by the rider.

Resistance

The act of refusing to go forward, stop, run back, or rear.

Retained placenta

Placental membranes not expelled normally at parturition.

Ride

To be transported in a mounted position, as one horse mounted on another during estrus.

Ringer

A horse entered in a race under the name of another, to win bets illegally by making betters and bookmakers believe they are betting on an inferior horse.

Roughage

Consists of pasture, silage, hay, or other dry fodder. It may be of high or low quality. Roughages are usually high in crude fiber (more than 18 percent) and relatively low in NFE (approximately 40 percent).

Rugged

When referring to an animal, it means large and strong.

Run on

To graze or pasture on, as for horses to run on the range.

Run out

To avoid an obstacle which is to be jumped by running around it or to pass on the wrong side of a marker flag.

Runoff

The portion of rainfall or irrigation water draining from fields into surface streams or bodies of water. May carry pollutants from field surfaces.

Sanitize

To kill or remove injurious microorganisms but not necessarily to sterilize. Dairy equipment for example is commonly sanitized with heat or chemicals.

Scale

The overall size of an animal.

School

- 1) to train a horse for a specific purpose.
- 2) an enclosed area, either open or covered, in which a horse may be trained.

Scours

A persistent diarrhea in animals.

Scratch

- 1) to withdraw a horse from an equestrian event after it has been officially entered.
- 2) to spur a horse vigorously.

Scrub

An animal from nonpurebred parents not showing the predominant characteristics of any breed.

Secondary waste treatment

Usually, a second treatment of waste water to reduce pollution potential or health hazard. With animal manure an example would be storage in an anaerobic treatment lagoon and sprinkler field application.

Selection

The causing or allowing of certain individuals in a population to produce the next generation. Artificial selection is that practiced by man; natural selection is that practiced by nature.

Selection intensity

The margin of true genetic superiority of those animals selected in comparison to all those from which the choices were made.

Self-feeder

A feeding system that allows animals to eat at will. See ad libitum.

Septicemia

The presence of microorganisms and their associated poisons in blood (commonly called blood poisoning). If the microorganisms are bacteria, the condition is bacteremia.

Serotype

The type of microorganism as determined by the kind and combination of constituent antigens associated with the cell.

Service

A term commonly used in animal breeding, denoting the mating of male to female. Also called serving or covering.

Service sire

The sire to which a female currently is bred.

Settled

A term commonly used to indicate that an animal has become pregnant.

Settling basin

Any area that reduces flow velocity and allows particulates to settle from a liquid suspension. With manure suspensions, usually built to allow solids removal on a regular basis.

Shelf life

The time after processing during which a product remains suitable for human consumption, especially the time a food remains palatable.

Shoes

Metal plates that fit around the outer edges of the hooves to protect them from injury and wear.

Show

To finish third in a horserace.

Shy

For a horse to swerve away suddenly because of a sound or obstacle.

Shy breeder

A male or female of any domesticated livestock that has a low reproductive efficiency.

Sib (sibling)

In genetics, a brother or sister.

Sickle-hocked

Describes an animal having a crooked hock, which causes the lower part of the leg to be bent forward out of a normal perpendicular straight line.

Silage (ensilage)

Green forage, such as grass or clover, or fodder, such as field corn or sorghum, that is chopped into a silo, where it is packed or compressed to exclude air and undergoes an acid fermentation (lactic and acetic acids) that retards spoilage.

Silks

The cap and blouse worn by a racing jockey which carry the owner's colors.

Silo

A vertical cylindrical structure, pit, trench, or other relatively airtight chamber in which chopped green crops, such as corn, grass, legumes, or small grain and other livestock feeds are fermented and stored. See silage.

Sire

The male parent. The verb means to father or beget.

Sire selection

Process of identifying males to be used as service sires with the goal of increasing the genetic potential of the herd.

Sketch (photo)

A method of permanent identification to be cross-referenced with visible identification.

Slip

To abort.

Snaffle Bit

The oldest type of bit, consisting of a straight or jointed bit with a ring at each end to which the reins are attached.

Soilage

Freshly cut green forage often fed to animals in drylot. Also called green chop.

Solvent-extracted

Fat or oil removed from materials (such as soybean seeds) by organic solvents.

Sound

Referring to a horse which is free from any illness, disease, blemish, imperfection, or defect (particularly of the legs) which make it unable to function properly.

Spayed

To have surgically removed the ovaries of a female.

Sphincter

A ring-shaped muscle that closes an opening, such as the sphincter muscles in the lower end of a cow's teat.

Sprinter

A horse which is able to cover short distances at great speed. Sprinters are rarely able to maintain a fast pace over long distances.

Stallion

An ungelded male horse more than four years old.

Stanchion

A specially designed headgate to hold an animal in place while allowing feeding and resting.

Statistically significant

It usually refers in research to tests for differences resulting from treatments. The reliability of such differences is expressed as degree of probability or the percentage of time an observation would be expected to fall outside a certain range of variation from normal observation.

Stayer

A horse which is able to cover long distances because of its strength, stamina, and endurance power.

Sterilize

To remove or kill all living organisms. Also, to make barren or unproductive, as a vasectomy in stallions.

Steward

An official who sees that rules are obeyed at a race or show.

Stillborn

Born lifeless; dead at birth.

Stover

Fodder; mature cured stalks of grain from which seeds have been removed, such as stalks of corn without ears.

Strangles

An infectious disease which is common among young horses. Symptoms include a high temperature, a thick nasal discharge, and swelling of the lymph glands.

Streak canal

See teat meatus.

String

A group of animals within a larger group, or herd.

Stud

1) a place where breeding horses, especially stallions, are kept. 2) (slang) a stallion.

Subclinical

A disease condition without clinical manifestations.

Subcutaneous

Situated or occurring beneath the skin.

Succulence

A condition of plants characterized by juiciness, freshness, and tenderness, making them appetizing to animals.

Suckling

A foal which is nursing.

Supplement

To add minerals, vitamins, or other minor ingredients (volumewise) to a ration.

Surcingle

A webbing belt used to keep the saddle in position which passes over the saddle and girth.

TDN

See total digestible nutrients.

TMR

Total mixed ration. See complete ration.

Tack

Riding gear, such as the saddle and bridle.

Take

To accept a male in coitus. Also a lay term meaning to become pregnant.

Tanbark trail

A term often associated with those who exhibit animals in competition at fairs and livestock shows.

Tattoo

A method of permanent identification to be cross-referenced with visible identification. Permanent ink used with tattoo numbers creates a lifetime record of identification in the ears of livestock.

Teat

A small protuberance or appendage on the udder, through which milk from the udder flows.

Teat meatus

Small canal located in the end of each teat; also called a streak canal.

Temperature

A horse's normal temperature is 100.5F(38C).

Term

The gestation period.

Tertiary waste treatment

Usually, the final treatment of waste water to reduce pollution potential or health hazard allowing discharge into bodies of water. Not economically practical with animal manure waste waters.

Tetany

A condition in an animal in which there are localized, spasmodic muscular contractions.

Tether

To tie an animal with a rope or chain to allow grazing but prevent straying.

Thrush (foot rot)

Inflammation of the frog of a horse's hoof, characterized by a foul-smelling discharge.

Titer

The quantity of a substance required to produce a reaction with a given volume of another substance, or the amount of one substance required to correspond with a given amount of another substance. Agglutination titer is the highest dilution of a serum that causes clumping of bacteria.

Toe out

To walk with the feet pointed outward. Also called splay-footed.

Total digestible nutrients (TDN)

A standard evaluation of the nutritional merit of a particular feed for farm animals which includes all the digestible organic nutrients-- protein, fiber, nitrogen-free extract, and lipids.

Toxins

The poisons produced by certain microorganisms. They are products of cell metabolism. The symptoms of bacterial diseases, such as diphtheria, tetanus, botulism, and staphylococcal food poisoning, are caused by toxins.

Toxoid

A denatured toxin. It retains the ability to stimulate the formation of antitoxin in an animal's body.

Trade barriers

Rules and regulations that hamper the trade of commodities. Tariffs, fees for imported goods and import limits or quotas are barriers to trade.

Trifecta

A type of bet in which the wagerer must choose the first, second, and third place winners and the order in which they finish in order to win.

Turf

A course over which a horse race is held, especially a grass course.

Turn On The Forehand

A movement in which the horse pivots on the forelegs while performing concentric circles with the hind legs.

Turn On The Quarters

A movement in which the horse pivots on the hind legs while performing concentric circles with the forelegs.

Type

The physical conformation of an animal.

Type classification

A program sponsored by breed associations whereby a registered animal's conformation may be compared with the "ideal" or "true" type animal of that breed by an official inspector (classifier).

UIP

Undegraded intake protein. The portion of intake protein escaping breakdown by rumen microorganisms.

USDA

United States Department of Agriculture. The branch of the Federal government that is administered by the Secretary of Agriculture appointed by the President of the United States.

USP

United States Pharmacopeia. A unit of measurement or potency of biologicals that usually coincides with an international unit. See IU.

Udder

The encased group of mammary glands provided with teats or nipples, as in a cow, ewe, mare, or sow. Also called bag.

Ungulate

Referring to a hoofed four-legged animal, as a horse.

Unique identification

A series of nonduplicating numbers such as registration, uniform series eartag or VIP number. These numbers are cross-referenced with permanent identification for registered, VIP and other recorded nonregistered animals. (Also see visible identification.)

Unsaturated fat

A fat having one or more double bonds, not completely hydrogenated.

Unsound

Referring to a horse with a defect (especially of the legs) which makes it unable to function properly.

Unthriftiness

Lack of vigor, poor growth or development; the quality or state of being unthrifty in animals.

Urea

A nonprotein organic nitrogenous compound (NH_2CONH_2). It is made synthetically by combining ammonia and carbon dioxide.

VFA (volatile fatty acids)

Commonly used in reference to acetic, propionic, and butyric acids produced in the rumen of cattle, goats, and sheep, in the cecum of sheep, the cecum and colon of swine, the colon of the horse, and the cecum of the rabbit.

Vaccination

The process of artificially stimulating the immune response in an animal to an altered biological material resulting in resistance to an infectious disease.

Virulence

The degree of pathogenicity (ability of produce disease) of a microorganism as indicated by case fatality rates and/or its ability to invade the tissues of a host.

Visera

The internal organs of the body.

Visible identification

A readily visible, numbering system attached to the animal that is used to identify the animal easily on test day.

Volatilization

The loss of gaseous materials, such as ammonia nitrogen, from animal manures to the atmosphere.

Warm-Blood

A horse whose ancestors include both "cold-bloods" and "hot-bloods".

Weanling

A foal which has been weaned.

Well Turned-out

Referring to a horse/rider team which is well-groomed, well-dressed, etc. in competitions in which appearance is considered in judging.

Win

To finish first in a horserace.

Windgall

The puffy swelling of a horse's knee or fetlock joints, caused by an oversecretion of the fluid in the joints.

Windsucking

A harmful habit in which a horse sucks in and swallows air, causing indigestion.

Wing shoulder

A condition in which the shoulder joint is away from the rib structure and skeleton (much of the skin is tucked in behind it).

Work of digestion

See heat increment.

Wry tail

Tailhead set either to the right or left of center.

Yearling

A horse between one and two years old. All foals born in a given year turn yearlings on the 1st of January (the universal birth date) following the date they were foaled.