

# EQUISTRO®



**Description:** Maize (*Zea mays*), known in many English-speaking countries as corn, is a cereal grain, just like oats and barley. Corn is often an economical energy source for horse feeds. Dent corn is the most common type of corn used in animal feeds, whereas sweet corn and popcorn are usually grown for human consumption. Corn is frequently fed cracked, rolled or flaked, and is highly palatable.

**Properties:** Maize has the highest energy level of all the grains and contains a high content of carbohydrate. Therefore, a given volume of maize contains approximately three times the amount of energy as an equal volume of oats. Maize supplies good quantities of vitamin A. Maize is about 10% protein, but as with all grains, the protein quality is relatively poor: it is deficient in some amino acids like lysine. Maize is higher in starch than the other cereals and is low in fibre.



Cracked maize with a musty odour is likely to deteriorate very quickly. Do not store any cracked grain for more than 4 weeks as this increases its chance of absorbing moisture and being contaminated by mycotoxins. Micronized maize is very low in fibre and is thus a very concentrated feed. Do not feed large amounts of maize to horses as it can cause digestive upsets. Maize should make up no more than 25% of any grain mix. Extruded or Micronized Maize helps to significantly reduce the risk of excess raw starch being rapidly fermented in the hindgut and its associated side effects, because its digested easier. Corn is often processed to produce ingredients used in the manufacture of food for human consumption. Many of the residues (byproducts or co-products) of these processes may be incorporated into feeds for horses as energy sources. Hominy feed usually contains at least 4% fat and is relatively low in fiber. Protein quantity and quality are relatively low, but the energy value is at least comparable to barley and oats. Corn gluten feed, corn gluten meal, and corn distillers' dried grains are the residues from processing or distilling. These products are much higher in protein and fiber than corn, and much lower in starch.

**Possible uses:** Don't swap oats for maize unless you want to substantially increase the energy content of the ration. Maize is often fed in hot countries when horses may have a smaller appetite. Corn's high energy content has led to it becoming known as « too hot » a feed for horses. However, if the horse is fed to meet its energy requirement, corn is an excellent feed. Corn has taken over the position of the No. 1 grain fed to horses in recent years mainly because of its low cost and excellent feed value for energy. If you want to fatten an animal, it is easier done with corn than oats and at a lower cost.

## MAIZE



**Vétoquinol**  
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