

1 (OR 2) TO 1™ FREE CHOICE

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These are the **Free Choice** Minerals plus herbs, clays, etc. for which horses would forage if they could. In his helicopter, Jim Zamzow, Founder and President of **DYNAMITE® MARKETING, INC.**, followed wild horse herds and analyzed their forage in order to develop these unique products. In our last seven years of breeding, we can absolutely affirm there is not a mare who came in for breeding (over 40 mares per season) who did not simply “inhale” these products which indicates how depleted their systems were. Most of them were in good flesh and apparently healthy, yet their diets were sadly lacking in bio-available minerals.

For centuries, Kentucky-bred horses have been as famous as Irish Thoroughbreds for their strength of bone, size, speed and soundness. What both areas have in common is the limestone formations which nourish grass. Unfortunately, just adding limestone or calcium carbonate (chalk, sheetrock, etc.) to feed does not necessarily work; it is indigestible without appropriate amounts of chelated minerals and in excess, can act as a toxin. What the grass does is to bind (chelate) the minerals with various amino acids, thus making that calcium, and other minerals, available to mammalian bodies. **DYNAMITE®** holds the patent for duplicating this process. You can read more about it on page 3 of the new, full color catalog or in the Basics section of this Handbook.

These two formulations are ideally fed **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 corresponding supplement to maintain blood and tissue balance.

Although a general rule of thumb is to offer **1:1** to alfalfa eaters or phosphorous deficient soils and **2:1** to grass eaters or calcium deficient soils, it is best

to offer both at all times for all horses to let them decide which is best for themselves as individuals. After all, some may prefer a 1.5:1 ratio! If horses are pad-docked, runned or stalled, little 2-sided mineral feeders tacked up will do the trick. Jeffers catalog (1-800-533-3377 or www.jeffersequine.com) offers item #FX-MF (Fortiflex Mineral Feeder) for only \$2.90 each. Two per shelter is ideal: we like **NTM Salt** and **Izmine** in one min-feed and **1:1** and **2:1** in the other. Even pastured animals can partake from “vane” feeders. One of our downline, a major TB breeder, has used such a system quite successfully for his broodmare pasture. If your horse is pastured with horses which are not yours, offer an ounce or so of each in a flat pan when you visit.

In order to not waste the product (horses will not eat either **1:1** or **2:1** if it has gotten wet and then dried out), start by placing only an ounce or so of each in the feeder. If it is gone by next feeding, double the amount and keep doubling up to 8 oz or so. If your horse is consuming that quantity, we find it better to supply it more than twice a day rather than risk larger quantities at a time.

Consuming large quantities in the beginning will give way to smaller, more normal amounts, as individual systems balance out although consumption still will vary with use, time of year, etc. Use does seem to be somewhat cyclical with larger amounts being consumed in Spring and Fall, or during coat change. Eventually it seems to average out to about 1 ounce per day, plus or minus a bit. We heard of one TB mare who, after eight babies in a row, went through three 25# buckets of **1:1** in about two months before she balanced herself out.

Every once in a while a horse may need a “jump start” in learning about the minerals; we believe this may be because some of their systems are so skewed and imbalanced they really can no longer choose. In such cases, we suggest “forcing” one ounce per day, in grain, of the **1 to 1** if your forage is high in calcium or **2 to 1** if your forage is high in phosphorus. Do this for two weeks and then stop to allow the horse to balance itself.

Many mature “pasture potatoes” will need very little more than free graze and free-choice minerals to be quite healthy although, because a minimum of vitamins is also desirable, you may want to check out the **V/M Salt Mix**. ■