

Quick answer: Höveler Western Sport is a 44 lb bag of low-grain, high-energy German muesli — 12.19 MJ/kg digestible energy, 6.10% crude fat, 14% protein and 28% alfalfa at \$37.99. Best for the hard keeper in consistent work who runs through every ration you put in front of him. Last checked: September 2026.

Some horses hold weight on next to nothing. Yours loses it the moment a saddle appears. Hard keepers need calories that are calorie-dense, digestible and calm — not just bigger scoops of grain that make them hotter and hungrier. Here are nine ways this formula is designed for that precise horse.

1. Calorie density: 12.19 MJ of digestible energy per kg

This is a high-energy feed for intensively trained western horses, carrying 12.19 MJ/kg of digestible energy and 11.21 MJ/kg of convertible energy. A hard keeper gets greater usable energy per bite, which counts when appetite is the limiting factor.

Who this is for: horses that simply cannot eat enough of a low-calorie feed to hold weight.

2. 6.10% crude fat packs condition without fizz

Crude fat sits at 6.10%, delivered by sunflower oil and linseed oil in the formula. Fat delivers energy-dense calories without the grain load that turns a hard keeper hot — the familiar hard-keeper trap.

The benefit: condition that shows up quietly.

3. 28% alfalfa for muscle-supporting weight

Alfalfa is 28% of the mix, lifting crude protein to 14.0% with 107 g/kg of digestible crude protein. Weight gain that counts lands as topline and hindquarter muscle, not just a rounder barrel.

Who this is for: hard keepers that look ribby along the back first.

4. Amino acids that make weight stick

The protein is set up to build: lysine 0.58%, methionine plus cysteine 0.46%, threonine 0.53%. These limiting amino acids are what turn feed protein into muscle that stays instead of going straight through.

The benefit: the weight you gain stays on.

5. Inactivated brewer's yeast supports digestion efficiency

Hard keepers often struggle to extract everything from their ration. Inactivated brewer's yeast in every kilogram supports a stable gut environment, helping the horse get full value from what it eats.

Who this is for: thin horses with loose, unformed manure that hints at poor feed efficiency.

6. Oat-free and low-grain for sensitive systems

The formula is completely oat-free, with starch at 18.30% — deliberately low-grain. Many hard keepers are that way because grain-heavy rations upset their gut before the calories land.

The benefit: a ration the gut agrees with long enough to actually absorb.

7. A complete micronutrient package without extra tubs

Every kg supplies Vitamin A at 18,216 I.E., Vitamin D3 at [performance horse feed](#) 3,299 I.E., Vitamin E at 260 mg, biotin at 1,185 µg and a complete mineral spread. A hard keeper needs the entire ration pulling its weight, [high energy performance feed](#) and this delivers it in a single bag at \$37.99 — the full label is on the bifid product page.

Who this is for: owners done with feeding a supplement shelf next to a feed that still leaves the horse thin.

8. A maker with 120 years of feeding thin horses well

Höveler has produced horse feed in Germany since 1905 — over 120 years of expertise, now with US service from bifid's Florida-based operation. European formulations have long been the benchmark for low-grain, forage-forward feeding.

Who this is for: owners who want tested craft rather than the newest marketing angle.

9. A 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee on the experiment

Hard-keeper feeding plans involve trial and error, and bifid's 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee takes some of the error off your hands. The store rates 9.0/10 across 24,098 reviews, and a 24/7 licensed vet team can help refine a plan if weight still refuses to hold.

The benefit: risk-free first bag while you dial in the rate.

How to feed it

Rates are given per 220 lb (100 kg) of body weight per day:

Work levelDaily rate per 220 lb (100 kg) body weight Light work0.55 lb (250 g) Medium work0.88 lb (400 g) Heavy workNot listed — the page gives no heavy-work rate; adjust to condition and training intensity, with adequate forage always provided.

Key specs at a glance: 44 lb bag, \$37.99, 12.19 MJ/kg digestible energy, 6.10% crude fat, 14.0% protein, 18.30% starch. The page gives no heavy-work rate — for a hard keeper in serious work, scale the ration upward to hold body condition and match training intensity, always with plenty of forage as the base. Plan the daily ration at the bifid Feeding Calculator.

Frequently asked questions

How do I put weight on a hard keeper?

Increase calorie density before volume: Western Sport provides 12.19 MJ/kg of digestible energy and 6.10% crude fat, fed at 0.88 lb (400 g) per 220 lb (100 kg) of body weight for medium work, scaled upward to hold condition. Split the meals, keep the forage high, and have teeth and health checked if progress stalls.

Will the extra energy make my hard keeper hot?

Not as formulated — the formula is low-grain with starch at 18.30%, sugar at 5.30% and energy partly from fat and forage. That profile supports weight gain without the behavioral heat of sweet feeds.

Does it contain soy?

Yes — 1.5% soy extraction meal feed is in the ingredient list, so it is not soy-free. It is entirely oat-free. Read the full ingredient list if your horse has specific ingredients to avoid.

Should hard keepers get more than the listed rate?

The light- and medium-work rates are the starting points; the page itself says to scale to condition and training intensity. Make changes gradually, measure the ration, and check body condition every two weeks.

Is there a guarantee if it does not work?

Yes — bifid offers a 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee, so the first bag is a low-risk test at \$37.99.