

## ■ REVIEW &gt;

## Horses Preferred to Consume Purina<sup>®</sup> Amplify<sup>®</sup> Supplement Compared to Oil Top-dressed on Feed

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A SUMMARY OF RESEARCH CONDUCTED AT THE PURINA ANIMAL NUTRITION CENTER THAT EXAMINED THE PALATABILITY OF AMPLIFY<sup>®</sup> NUGGETS VERSUS TRADITIONAL LIQUID OIL TOP-DRESSED ON FEED FOR ADDED CALORIES.

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### < INTRODUCTION >

There are many benefits to supplementing fat in equine diets, such as adding concentrated calories and improving hair coat and shine, while also providing essential fatty acids. Research has shown, however, that many horses find added fat to be unpalatable. Further, adding oils to feed tends to be messy and inconvenient for horse owners. Therefore, supplements such as Purina<sup>®</sup> Amplify<sup>®</sup> that blend oils and high fat ingredients like rice bran and flax seed in a dry, extruded form can potentially improve the palatability of additional fat without the added mess. This experiment was designed to test the hypothesis that horses prefer to consume Amplify<sup>®</sup> compared to oil when presented as a top-dress on feed.

### < MATERIALS AND METHODS >

Eight mature horses (avg BW 550kg) were housed individually and given a two-choice preference feed comparison at 0700hr and 1500hr for five consecutive days. They were fed three pounds of Purina<sup>®</sup> Strategy<sup>®</sup> GX Horse Feed top-dressed with either 226g of soybean oil or 454g of Amplify<sup>®</sup> compared at each feeding. Treatments were offered for ten minutes and unconsumed feed mixtures were weighed and recorded. Location of treatments was switched from left to right daily. Horses were fed grass hay at 2.0% of body weight throughout the experiment.

### < RESULTS >

Horses preferred to consume feed top-dressed with Amplify<sup>®</sup> supplement compared to liquid oil ( $P = 0.0039$ ) (Table 1, Figure 1).

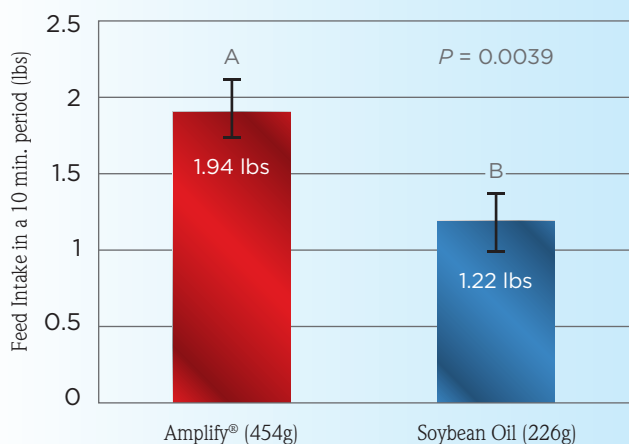
**TABLE 1**
**AVERAGE CONSUMPTION (POUNDS)**

HORSE #	708	601	107	112	605	510	007	810	AVERAGE/ TREATMENT
A	0.21	2.14	2.39	0.56	0.32	0.90	2.13	1.13	1.22
B	3.27	1.17	0.82	3.09	2.86	1.84	0.59	1.87	1.94

**DIETS**

A - Soybean oil top-dress (1 cup, 226 grams)

B - Amplify® top-dress (1 pound, 454 grams)

**FIGURE 1**     **AMPLIFY® SUPPLEMENT VS. OIL**


Amplify® or soybean oil were top-dressed on 3 lbs of Strategy® GX Horse Feed, with amounts calculated to deliver similar calories

**< IMPLICATIONS >**

Horses preferred Amplify® compared to soybean oil top-dressed on Strategy® when fed to provide similar calories from the supplements. Not only was Amplify® shown to be more palatable than oil, it provides a balanced blend of vegetable oil, rice bran, flax seed, protein, vitamins and minerals, in an extruded form. Top-dressing Amplify® on feed is a convenient, neater and more palatable way to provide calories to horses.

**< FOR MORE INFORMATION >**

Please contact your local Purina representative if you would like more information about this study.