

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 burns through every ration you put in front of him. Last checked: September 2026.

Some horses hold weight on air. Yours loses it looking at a saddle. 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 more usable energy per bite, which matters when appetite is the limiting factor.

Who this is for: horses that cannot physically 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%, carried by sunflower oil and linseed oil in the formula. Fat delivers dense energy without the grain load that turns a hard keeper into a hot one — the classic hard-keeper trap.

The benefit: condition that shows up quietly.

3. 28% alfalfa for muscle-supporting weight

Alfalfa is 28% of the mix, pushing crude protein to 14.0% with 107 g/kg of digestible crude protein. Weight gain that matters 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 equipped to build: lysine 0.58%, methionine plus cysteine 0.46%, threonine 0.53%. These key 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 find it hard to get everything out of their ration. Inactivated brewer's yeast in every kilogram backs a stable gut environment, so the horse gets full value from what it eats.

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

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

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

The benefit: a ration the gut tolerates 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 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, and this delivers it in one 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 reference for low-grain, forage-forward feeding.

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

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

Hard-keeper feeding plans come with trial and error, and bifid's 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee absorbs some of that error. The store rates 9.0/10 across 24,098 reviews, and a 24/7 licensed vet team can help tune **soy free pasture supplements** a plan if weight still will not hold.

The benefit: a 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 adequate 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?

Raise 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, adjusted upward to hold condition. Split the meals, keep the forage high, and get 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 completely oat-free. Check the full ingredient list if your horse has specific exclusions.

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. Change things gradually, weigh the ration, and reassess 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.