



Discover OPTRIMAL X

The nutritional system for performance

THE NEW GENERATION OF CAVALOR SPORT FEEDS



CAVALOR SPORT FEEDS



"You learn to trust your feel. You know your horse inside out, but at a certain point that is no longer enough. That is when it is reassuring to be supported by Cavalor nutrition experts. It makes the difference between taking part and performing."

Kristy Snepvangers

International showjumping and eventing rider



IT STARTS IN THE FEED. YOU'LL FEEL IT.

As a rider, you know your horse inside out. You feel when everything is right: more focus, more control, more connection. But you also feel when something is missing. When your horse feels too sharp during the warm-up. When the energy drops after an intensive exercise. Or when tension takes over at exactly the moment you need calm and confidence.

That is precisely why we believe good nutrition should do much more than provide energy. At Cavalor, we work every day with riders, trainers, nutritionists and veterinarians to support sport horses more effectively. In product management and R&D, we always ask ourselves the same question: what does a sport horse truly need to stay healthy and perform at its best?

Not every horse has the same needs. A sensitive horse requires a different approach from a horse expected to deliver maximum peak performance. A horse that is easily overstimulated needs something different from a horse that must maintain power and stamina over several competition days. That is why we developed and optimised the new generation of Cavalor sport feeds, built around OPTRIMAL X.

OPTRIMAL X is not a standard formula, but a nutritional system in which gut health, smart starch and tailored vitamins and minerals reinforce one another. It enables us to develop sport feeds that reflect real-life demands: the work you ask of your horse, your horse's temperament and the feel you are looking for in the saddle.

In this e-book, we take you behind the story of Cavalor sport feeds with OPTRIMAL X. You will discover why smart starch is more than simply starch, how gut health contributes to performance and how to choose the right feed for your horse.

You don't just see it. You feel it.



JANNAH VAN OVERWAELE
PRODUCT MANAGER



JO-ANN VANDERMEIREN
NUTRITIONIST

ENERGY IS NOT JUST ENERGY

Your horse feels just a little too fresh at the start of training. Or, on the contrary, lacks energy after twenty minutes of work. One horse builds tension in the run-up to a test, while another struggles to finish the final line with the same power. We often simply call this “energy”. But energy is about far more than having a lot or a little spark.



LOW
INTENSITY



MEDIUM
INTENSITY



HIGH
INTENSITY

NOT ALL ENERGY WORKS IN THE SAME WAY

For a sport horse, it is all about balance: enough energy to train and perform, but also enough control to remain focused and rideable. At Cavalor, we therefore look beyond the energy value of a feed. We focus above all on how energy is released, how well it is digested and how the horse's body uses it.

It is all about balance

A horse needs energy to function, recover and perform. Yet requirements vary greatly from one horse to another. Training intensity plays a role, but so do temperament, sensitivity and type of work. A horse competing on three consecutive days needs different nutritional support from a horse that mainly needs controlled work at home. A sensitive horse that quickly builds tension requires a different energy balance from a horse that needs extra power and stamina.

We therefore always distinguish between:

- temperament
- condition
- energy supply.

A fresh horse is not automatically fit. And a calm horse does not necessarily have too little energy. It is about providing the right energy for the right horse.

Fast versus slow-release energy

Sugar and starch provide rapidly available energy. This can be valuable for short, powerful efforts such as jumping, intensive intervals or explosive work. But when energy is released too quickly, it may lead to peaks in tension or reduced control in some horses. Fats and fibers provide slow-release energy. They mainly support sustained efforts and help keep energy release gradual, although fat also has its limits: too much can cause health problems. Choosing the right feed is therefore not about "more" or "less" energy. It is about energy that suits the work, the temperament and the feel you are looking for.

A healthy gut supports better performance

Digestibility makes the difference. An energy source may be perfect in theory, but if your horse cannot digest it properly, the body cannot use it to its full potential. That is why the way ingredients are processed is so important. Puffed and extruded grains, for example, are effectively pre-digested: the grain structure is opened up, making the starch more readily available for digestion and absorption.

This allows your horse to use energy more efficiently and reduces the amount of undigested starch reaching the hindgut. In this way, you support not only energy supply but also gut balance. Gut balance plays a greater role than many riders realise. The gut absorbs nutrients and helps lay the foundation for health, recovery and day-to-day performance.

Ultimately, it is not only about what you feed. It is about what your horse can do with it. and the feel you are looking for.

DID YOU KNOW?

Puffed cereals are not only highly digestible, but also very palatable. Their aroma, structure and taste mean they are often readily eaten, even by fussy eaters.

THE SECRET OF EXTRUDATES

- ✓ Improved nutrient digestibility
- ✓ More volume - more chewing
- ✓ Helps reduce the risk of gastric and intestinal problems



SCIENCE EXPLAINED

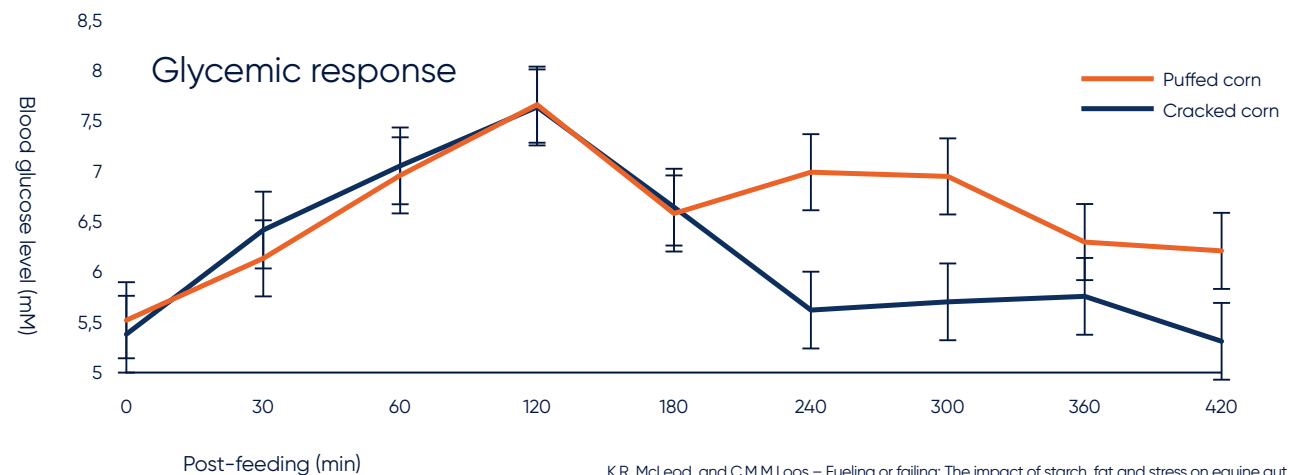
WHY "SMART STARCH" MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

When a horse eats, sugars and starch are converted into glucose, the main energy source for training and performance. However, not all starch is digested equally well. Both the source of the starch and the way grains are processed strongly influence how this energy is released and used in the body. In practice, a rapid rise and fall in blood glucose may be associated in some horses with greater tension, reduced focus and less consistent energy delivery during work.

Puffed and extruded grains have an almost completely opened starch structure. As a result, starch is digested more effectively in the small intestine and absorbed more efficiently. This leads to a more gradual uptake of glucose

and prevents large amounts of undigested starch from reaching the hindgut, where it can disrupt fermentation.

Recent scientific research has also shown that highly digestible starch not only contributes to a more stable blood glucose response, but also places less strain on the gut environment and supports intestinal barrier integrity more effectively than less digestible starch. Therefore, do not look only at the starch percentage on the label, but also at the source and processing method of the grains. Two feeds may have a similar starch content, yet differ greatly in how efficiently a horse can use that starch. Smart starch not only provides controlled energy, but also supports a healthy gut.



K.R. McLeod and C.M.M. Loos – Fueling or failing: The impact of starch, fat and stress on equine gut health. 2025 – European Equine Health and Nutrition Congress, 2025, Utrecht, The Netherlands – Published as a proceedings article

OPTRIMAL X EXPLAINED

Good nutrition for a sport horse does more than simply provide energy. It supports the body from within, helping the horse stay healthy and perform at its best. It is from this vision that Cavalor developed OPTRIMAL X: the nutritional concept behind the Cavalor sport feeds.

During development, our nutritionists and veterinarians started with one central question: **what does a sport horse truly need?** The answer is not the same for every horse. OPTRIMAL X is therefore not one fixed recipe, but a system with three pillars that are tailored to each feed.



CAVALOR
OPTRIMAL

1 Smart starch

Highly digestible sources, focus on safe starch for effective fuel without compromising on digestion and health.

2 Strong & healthy gut

Microbiome (biotics) and gut support, especially relevant under high-intensity training and stress.

3 Tailored vitamins & minerals

Covering a broad base of nutrients, in the correct ratios, and smart use of chelates when workload demands it.



WATCH THE EDUCATIONAL VIDEO



The strength of OPTRIMAL X lies in the interaction between its three pillars. A healthy gut helps the horse use nutrients more effectively. Carefully selected energy sources provide an appropriate energy profile. Tailored micronutrients support processes such as muscle function, recovery and immunity. The result is nutrition that matches the horse, the workload and the desired feel in the saddle.



PIANISSIMO



STRUCOMIX SPORT



PERFORMIX



ENDURIX



STRUCOMIX PERFORMANCE



SUPERFORCE

Does Cavalor love mueslis?

You may already have noticed that many Cavalor feeds come in the form of a muesli. We love mueslis for several reasons, but above all because muesli encourages your horse to chew for longer and eat more slowly, stimulates saliva production, contains readily digestible nutrients and, thanks to its visible ingredients, shows exactly what you are feeding. Structure is the greatest advantage of muesli. It benefits the stomach and gut.

Did you know that one kilogram of muesli results in around 900 chewing movements, compared with 600 for one kilogram of pellets? Your horse therefore has to chew muesli for longer, which slows eating and increases saliva production. Saliva contains sodium bicarbonate, a useful buffer that neutralises excess stomach acid. With muesli, you can also see what you are feeding: the individual ingredients are generally clearly visible, so you know exactly what your horse is eating.



STRONG & HEALTHY GUT

TAILORED VITAMINS & MINERALS

SMART STARCH





NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT FOR PERFORMANCE BUILT ON 3 PILLARS

STRONG & HEALTHY GUT

A healthy gut is essential for a sport horse's health and performance. Nutrients are absorbed and energy is used in the gut. This is closely linked to overall condition and performance.

Fiber plays an important role in this. Structurally rich fibers stimulate chewing and saliva production, helping to keep the gastric and intestinal environment stable. Pre-, pro- and postbiotics also support balance in the gut. A healthy gut helps a horse use its feed more efficiently.

TAILORED VITAMINS & MINERALS

Vitamins and minerals support processes such as energy supply, muscle function, recovery and immunity. A horse's requirements change with training intensity. It is therefore not only the amount that matters, but also the right proportions and bioavailability. A horse in intensive training has different nutritional requirements from a sensitive or recreational horse.

Where relevant, highly bioavailable trace elements are used, including chelated forms of zinc, copper and manganese. This gives the horse targeted support tailored to its activities.

SMART STARCH

A sport horse needs energy to perform. Starch is a commonly used energy source, but not every starch source is used equally efficiently. Scientific studies show that grain processing affects starch digestibility. Puffing and extrusion open up the grain structure, allowing nutrients to be absorbed more effectively.

This reduces the risk of undigested starch reaching the hindgut. Puffed and extruded ingredients also create more volume and encourage longer chewing, which benefits digestion.

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FIND YOUR FEED

THE CAVALOR LEVELS HELP YOU CHOOSE

"Which feed is best for my horse?" It is a question we are asked almost every day at Cavalor. Yet there is no standard answer. Every horse is different – not only in terms of training intensity, but also in how the horse feels to ride. That is why Cavalor developed the Levels: a practical guide that helps you select the right sport feed more quickly, tailored to your horse's needs.

The Levels are based on two factors:

- training intensity
- your horse's rideability.

By rideability, we mean the feel your horse gives you in the saddle: focus, control, balance and how easily your horse can be ridden. Does your horse have enough energy? Does it remain focused during work? Or does it feel just a little too fresh, sharp or explosive?

That feel helps determine whether you should move up or down a level. It is not a judgement of your horse, but a tool to align nutrition more closely with the work you ask of it.

Not sure which level suits your horse best? Start by honestly assessing the training load and the feel under saddle. From there, the Cavalor Levels will guide you towards the right feed.



Level 1



Leisure to light work or sensitive horses

Level 2



Trained regularly and actively

Level 3



Trained very regularly and intensively

Level 4



Perform at top sport level where slow-release energy helps support sustained work.

Level 5



Perform at top sport level where more quickly available energy helps support peak effort.

THIS? OR THAT?

Within Level 3, you can choose between two sport feeds, each with its own characteristics.

STRUCOMIX PERFORMANCE

Strucomix Performance was developed for sport horses that need energy from different sources: fiber, fats and highly digestible starch.

- ⚡ Energy from fiber, fat & smart starch
- 🍌 Optimal gut health
- 🍌 Sport essential multi-vitamins
- 🌱 Extrudates for better digestion
- 🌾 Extra fiber



VS

PERFOMIX

Perfomix provides energy from smart, highly digestible starch sources in a palatable sport muesli.

- ⚡ Energy from smart starch
- 🍌 Optimal gut health
- 🍌 Sport essential multi-vitamins
- 🌱 Extrudates for better digestion



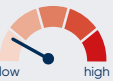
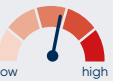
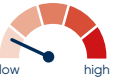
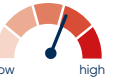
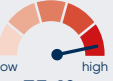
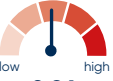
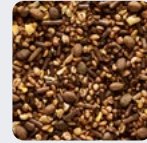
Choose Strucomix Performance when extra fiber and broad gut support are important to you.

The fiber-rich feed contains long fibers that support chewing, saliva production and gut function. Pre-, pro- and postbiotics also help maintain a stable gut balance.

Choose Perfomix when you are looking for a sport muesli that provides efficient energy from starch.

Flaking, puffing and extrusion make the grains more digestible. Here too, pro- and postbiotics support digestion and the gut's natural defences.

WHICH FEED SUITS MY HORSE?

	EWPa	Sugar and starch	Crude protein	Crude fat	Crude fiber	Feeding advice	Extrudates	Puffed cereals	Timothy fiber	Alfalfa fiber	Prebiotics	Pro- and postbiotics	Vitamin B	Chelated minerals	
 PIANISSIMO Fiber-rich feed for nervous horses Level 1	 0,81	 22%	 11%	 6,5%	 17%	 400 – 650 grams	☒	☒	☒	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	
 STRUCOMIX SPORT Fiber-rich feed for active horses Level 2	 0,80	 18,4%	 14%	 8,6%	 18%	 350 – 550 grams	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	
 PERFOMIX Feed for sport horses Level 3	 0,86	 35,4%	 12%	 4,5%	 9,8%	 450 – 750 grams	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	
 STRUCOMIX PERFORMANCE Fiber-rich feed for sport horses Level 3	 0,86	 27%	 15%	 8%	 13,5%	 450 – 750 grams	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	
 ENDURIX Feed for performance horses Level 4	 0,95	 30,5%	 12%	 8,5%	 11,5%	 600 – 800 grams	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	
 SUPERFORCE Feed for performance horses Level 5	 0,97	 35%	 13,5%	 6,8%	 8%	 500 – 800 grams	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	

STARTING WITH CAVALOR? THIS IS HOW TO CHANGE FEED

DAY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
										
CAVALOR FEED	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
CURRENT FEED	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%	0%

Change to Cavalor feed over 10 days

Have you found the Cavalor sport feed that suits your horse? A gradual transition is important. Horses are sensitive to dietary changes, and the gut microbiome also needs time to adapt to new ingredients and energy sources.

Change feed step by step. Over a period of 10 days, add a small amount of Cavalor to the current feed each day. This gives the digestive system time to adapt gradually. Are you changing to a similar feed within the Cavalor range? The transition can often be quicker. For a more substantial change, for example from FiberForce to Endurix, a gradual transition remains recommended.

Tip: many riders choose to use Hepato Liq temporarily during the transition period to support the liver and kidneys. This gives your horse the best possible start.

Need personalised advice?

Not sure which feed suits your horse? Use the online feed selector or contact our Cavalor nutritionists through the Consumer Line or at info@cavalor.com. This means you are not relying on feel alone, but on advice tailored to your horse, training and goals.



Want to know more?

Scan the QR code
or call: +32 (0)9 220 25 25

SCIENCE BEHIND THE FEELING

Knowledge as the first ingredient

The first ingredient in our products is knowledge. At Cavalor, we do not start from trends or standard formulas, but from scientific insights into what a sport horse truly needs to stay healthy and perform at its best. When developing our sport feeds, our nutritionists and veterinarians looked beyond the nutritional values printed on a bag. They translated knowledge and practical experience into OPTRIMAL X: a nutritional system in which gut health, smart starch and tailored nutrients reinforce one another.

Research as the starting point

That knowledge begins with scientific research. We examine insights into digestion, absorption, energy utilisation and nutritional support. Not every ingredient is used by the body in the same way, and not every raw material has the same effect in practice. Only when we understand what an ingredient does, how it is absorbed and why it is relevant does it earn a place in our products.

Scientific substantiation is followed by practice. A sport feed should not only be right on paper; it must also work in the daily routine. That is why we look at how horses respond to the feed, but also ask: do they enjoy eating it and accept it readily?



"Seven horses, each with their own character. They naturally have a lot of energy, and Pianissimo helps me channel it in the right direction. Pianissimo brings calm, both to the horse and to me."

Gitte Lont
Eventing rider

This helps us further refine our products in terms of structure, aroma, taste and ease of use. In this way, we bring research and practice together in feeds that are not only developed with care, but can also be fed with confidence.

Investing in knowledge

We do not merely use existing scientific knowledge; we actively help build it. Through partnerships with universities and research organisations, we invest in research into nutrition, health and performance. These studies help us better understand what happens inside the horse and how nutrition can provide targeted support. By investing in equine research ourselves, we strengthen the knowledge base behind our products and contribute to the further development of the equine world.



THE SCIENCE BEHIND PIANISSIMO

**My horse is nervous and tense. Can its feed make a difference?
Yes – more than you might think.**

Cavalor Pianissimo was developed for sensitive or nervous sport horses that need controlled energy and support for their inner balance. Magnesium plays an important role in regulating the nervous system and muscle relaxation. Pianissimo therefore contains an increased magnesium level, supporting horses that react sensitively to stress, training or competition.

Pianissimo is oat-free. Oats are a valuable energy source and are often used in sport feeds, but they provide rapidly available energy. For horses without a higher energy requirement, or horses that quickly build tension, this is not always the best choice.

Pianissimo therefore combines fiber, a tailored fat level and highly digestible starch from puffed and extruded grains. This processing makes starch more readily available for digestion and absorption. The horse receives enough energy to work, but in a more controlled way.

There is also a clear link between nervous behaviour and a gastrointestinal system under pressure. Pianissimo supports gut health with carefully selected, highly digestible ingredients, extra fiber that stimulates chewing and saliva production, and pre-, pro- and postbiotics that help maintain gastrointestinal balance.

Physical and mental balance. That is Pianissimo.

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