

If you insist on keeping an obese, non-exercised, laminitic horse on pasture at least 12 hours per day all year long.....

I cannot help you or your horse. My pasture management advice will include limiting grass intake, increasing exercise and completely eliminating access to pasture during periods when environmental conditions make it impossible to control grass sugar content by cultural practices. If you cannot or will not limit intake, it will be a waste of your money and my time to give you a complete pasture management program.

A lot of people have dreams about creating the perfect place for their horses to run free 24/7 in belly deep grass. Yes, it's wonderful to watch them through your farm windows as they gallop and play. But in exchange for this pastoral scene, you must manage your pastures properly and exercise your horse sufficiently to balance the amount of food he is eating. That takes time, equipment, knowledge and money. I am sorry to be the bearer of bad tidings, but if you are short on any of these required resources it will be difficult or impossible to manage your pastures properly, or your horses prone to laminitis. Far too many people have had their dreams turn into nightmares because now they have to watch their obese horses hobble around the pasture with laminitis. If you want a quick, easy, fix, move to the desert. Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada are good places to keep fat, laminitic horses in large areas with very little managerial input.

The absolute minimum requirement for a successful management program for horses prone to laminitis includes a mower and a bare dirt paddock large enough for self exercise. If the horse cannot self exercise sufficiently to maintain a correct body condition, you must exercise the horse. I cannot give you a quick, cheap fix by adding anything to your pasture, although I am sure if you continue to look, you will find someone willing to sell you some magical cure.

If you still want pasture management advice, please contact me for the next steps.

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