

## **Abiotics for Racehorses: Track Veterinarian Recommends *Lactobacillus fermentate***

[Dr. Larry Metheney](#), DVM, wanted to escape the cold of the Great Plains winters and work with horses after he graduated from Kansas State University School of Veterinary Medicine. So, in 1978, he moved to Arizona and started treating race horses at Turf Paradise in Phoenix. He was introduced to [Culbac® ABIOTIC™](#) early in his career when Dr. Kinghorn, another track practitioner, suggested they conduct some research trials with this new product. Their research suggested that TransAgra's abiotic fermentate increased the digestion efficiency of horses as it did in cattle. It also delayed fatigue and shortened recovery times for race horses based on post-race, peak lactic acid levels. Since then, Dr. Metheney has recommended and used abiotics with his equine patients. Larry markets his own private abiotic label, Equine-ARS™. ARS stands for Appetite Response Solution. Larry feels strongly that TransAgra's whey-based, *Lactobacillus* fermentation product stimulates appetite in over-fatigued horses that balk at the feed trough. He estimates that he has fed Equine-ARS™ and successfully improved horses' lives for nearly 30 years; 26 years at the track alone. Turf Paradise offers mixed Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing 8-9 months per year. This means that Dr. Metheney has worked with two distinctly different equine body types and different medical issues pertaining to long distance versus sprint racers. Dr. Metheney has seen abiotics reduce diarrhea caused by antibiotic treatments and reduction of gassy colic brought on by heat stress in the hot Arizona summers. No longer working at the track, he has a private practice working mostly with performance horse lameness problems.

Larry was raised in Garden City, Kansas and worked with animals as a youngster by working summers at his uncle's farm. So, it was natural that he studied veterinary medicine and

pursued a career with large animals. Dr. M. has always been an innovator; he was first to use [Culbac® ABIOTIC™](#) and other non-traditional feed supplements and emerging therapies such as [extracorporeal shock wave therapy](#). This therapy is a high-energy sound wave approved by the FDA to break up kidney stones in humans. Dr. M. was the first practitioner in Arizona to use this therapy on racehorses when preliminary data collected in Europe pointed to increased bone and soft tissue healing in treated mammals. Besides his own abiotic private label, Equine-ARS™, Dr. Metheney also recommends [Bio Vigor Vet](#), a trace mineral/antioxidant supplement made from ancient peat soils and containing 72 macro- and micro-minerals. Equine Metabolic Syndrome is a pre-Cushing's disorder which the supplement helps to ward off and reduce the incidence of laminitis. Bio Vigor Vet also produces noticeable improvements in hoof growth and strength. Dr. Metheney has never reported any negative interactions between Equine-ARS™ and other supplements such as Bio Vigor Vet, antibiotics and psyllium which is fed to reduce sand colic in equine.

Dr. Metheney has 3 great children and 6 wonderful grandchildren, but no upcoming veterinarians in the family mix. Dr. Metheney has volunteered to help the City of Phoenix mounted police unit, served on the alumni board of Kansas State and was a leader with the Boy Scouts. He is a long-standing member of the Arizona Veterinary Medical Association and has served as the president of its central Arizona board. Contemplating retirement, Dr. Metheney wants more time to pursue bicycling, sailing, woodworking, gourmet cooking and fly fishing. We are proud to include Dr. Larry Metheney on our roster of devoted distributors.