

Pennsylvania **HORSE POWER**



Pennsylvania Equine Economic Impact Study

PENNSTATE



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

Department of Dairy and Animal
Science

College of Agricultural Sciences
The Pennsylvania State
University
University Park, PA

The Pennsylvania Department of
Agriculture, Harrisburg, PA

The Pennsylvania Department of
Agriculture, through the State
Horse and Harness Racing
Commissions, contracted with
The Pennsylvania State
University to conduct the 2002
Economic and Population Study
of the Pennsylvania Equine
Industry.

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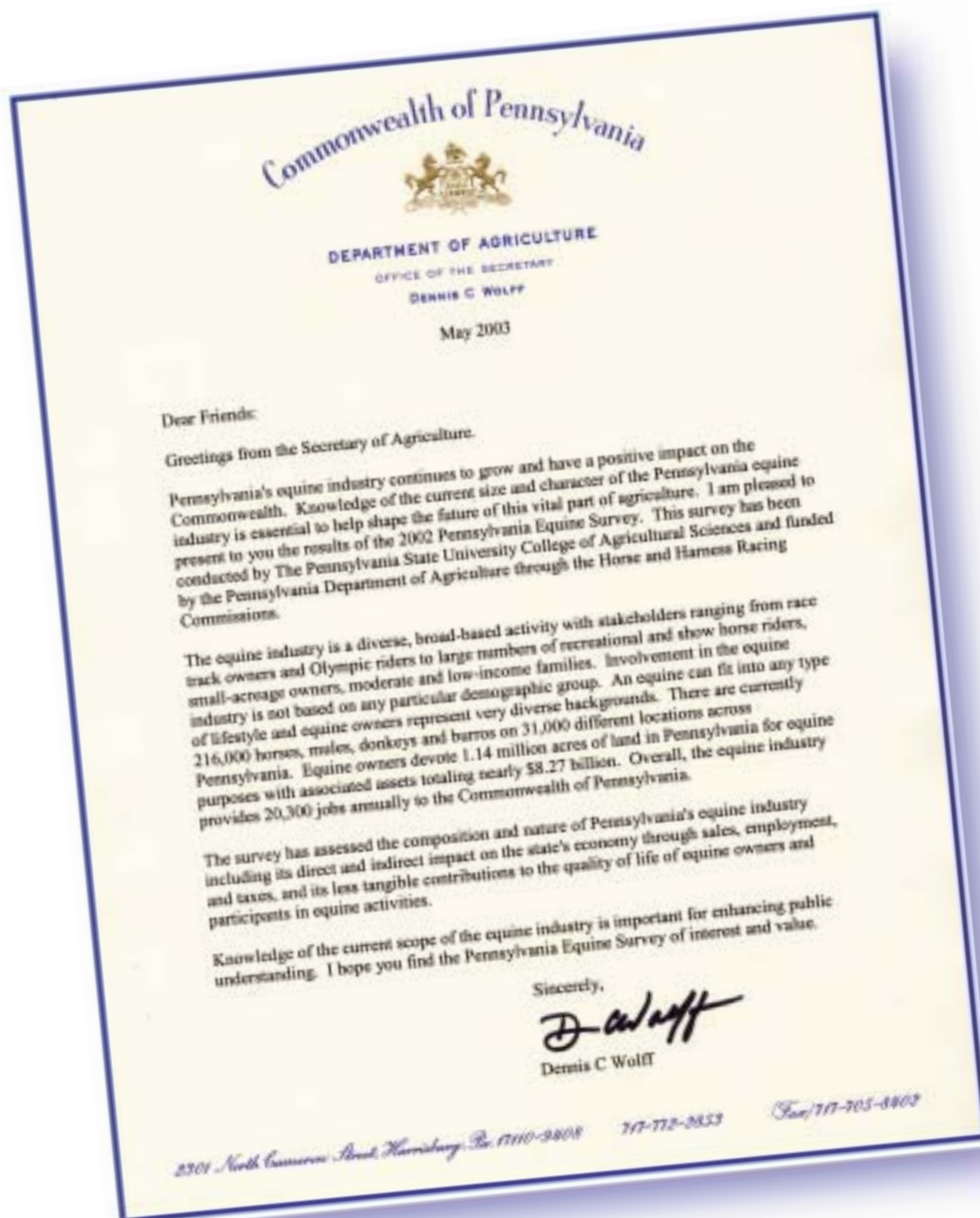
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Pennsylvania Horse Power

*“Look back at man’s struggle for freedom,
Trace his present day strength to its source,
and you’ll find that his pathway to glory
is strewn with the bones of the horse.”*

—Anonymous

In this day of instant communication, it’s difficult to believe that less than a century ago, Pennsylvania still ran on the power of the horse. As recently as the start of World War II, cavalry units still headed off to war on horseback, produce arrived at markets in horse drawn wagons, and horses still delivered milk to Pennsylvania’s households.

While less visible in daily life, horses are still a huge force in Pennsylvania’s culture and economy. Just as horses were important enough to our forefathers to include on Pennsylvania’s State Seal, this study suggests that the state’s thriving equine industry can help enhance the quality of life for future generations. Pennsylvania hosts many of the country’s oldest and most prestigious equestrian events. Among its farms are some of the largest and most influential breeders of champion horses in the world. Many of the most successful horses in competition and racing both historically and today are Pennsylvania bred. Pennsylvania’s large Amish settlements still use horses for daily transportation and farming. Horses are such a big part of Pennsylvania—economically, culturally, traditionally, agriculturally—that Olympic and World Cup equestrians in nearly all disciplines

have relocated from other states and continents in order to make Pennsylvania their home. Among them is Australian Phillip Dutton of Chester County, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and arguably the most accomplished equestrian competing at this moment.

Though much of this activity goes virtually unnoticed by the majority of Pennsylvanians, this study presents many good reasons to safeguard and promote the equine industry. It shows that in a multitude of ways, horses are good for Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania’s equine economy, in nearly every way, is bigger than Kentucky’s (home to only 150,000 horses in 1996) and larger than nearly every other state’s. It thrives with little attention from the public and, compared to other agricultural entities, little government assistance. But it should not be overlooked. The Pennsylvania equine industry is vital to economic development, farmland preservation, and an enhanced quality of life for all Pennsylvanians.

—Stephanie Lawson, Editor,
Pennsylvania Equestrian

Pennsylvania Horse Power was developed for promoting and educating people on the size, scope, and economic impact of the equine industry in Pennsylvania. The information found in *Pennsylvania Horse Power* is a summary of the results found in the “2002 Pennsylvania Equine Survey” in addition to other specific facts noted. The findings in this report are the combined results of two segments of the equine industry: the racing and general equine communities.

The “2002 Pennsylvania Equine Survey” was conducted by The Pennsylvania State University. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, through the State Horse and Harness Racing Commissions, provided funding for Penn State to conduct the study.

ECONOMIC VALUE

To understand the economic value of the equine industry, one must consider the many activities that include equid, the many breeds of horses and ponies that reside in this state, and the thousands of equine enthusiasts. These enthusiasts represent every walk of life, live in urban and rural areas, and fill their homes, offices, and vehicles with symbols of their interest in horses.

By recognizing all the breeding farms and stables, land, equipment, facilities, and products necessary to produce and use horses, one begins to understand how the horses and people involved represent an influential industry. Finding a rival in complexity would be a challenge.

Together, the breeding, raising, training, showing, racing, riding, and care of thousands of equid each year stokes a vast industry that when pulled together in all its diverse aspects makes a huge contribution to the Pennsylvania economy. The following table contains some of the highlights of Pennsylvania’s equine industry.

Table 1. Basic facts about Pennsylvania’s equine industry

	<i>General Equine Population</i>	<i>Racehorse Industry</i>	<i>Total State</i>
Number of Horses	189,328	26,365	215,693
Number of Operations	28,200	2,800	31,000
Employment (number of jobs)	13,870	6,430	20,300
Value of PA’s Horses	\$978 million	\$352 million	\$1.3 billion
Industry Outputs (Revenue)	\$780 million	\$344.5 million	\$1.12 billion
Sales and Income*	\$246 million	\$189 million	\$435 million
Related Assets/Investments	\$7.15 billion	\$1.12 billion	\$8.27 billion
Expenses	\$508 million	\$238 million	\$746 million
Total Taxes**	\$46.3 million	\$6.9 million	\$53.2 million
Employment Compensation	\$121.2 million	\$291.1 million	\$412.3 million
Wages and Benefits Paid***	\$60 million	\$32.9 million	\$92.9 million
Value Added (ripple effects)	\$427.5 million	\$187.6 million	\$ 615.1 million

* Sales and income are part of industry outputs.

** Taxes include property taxes for equine-related land and payroll taxes only.

*** Wages paid to employees are included in labor costs or employment compensation.

The Equine Industry's Estimated Contribution to the Pennsylvania Economy

Overall, the direct and secondary contributions of the state's equine industry are estimated at more than \$1.12 billion in revenue (output), of which nearly \$615 million is value added. This translates into 20,300 jobs that compensate state workers with \$412.2 million.

The racehorse survey indicated that this portion of the industry generated \$197.4 million in output and \$100.6 million in value added. This activity directly supported 4,740 jobs. Accounting for multiplier effects, the racing industry supported an additional \$147.1 million in output (of which \$87 million was value added) and 1,690 additional jobs.

The general population results indicated that the industry directly generates \$445.5 million in output, of which \$229.9 million is value added. This activity provides 10,220 jobs. And the ripple effects generate still more economic activity, supporting \$334.5 million in output (of which \$197.6 million is value added) and 3,650 additional jobs.

Some Characteristics of Pennsylvania's Equid Owners

- From the general equine survey, 70 percent of the equid owners are female and 30 percent are male. The racehorse owners were 70 percent male and 30 percent female.
- Over 60 percent of Pennsylvania horse owners reported trail riding their horse on public lands.
- Within the general population, more than half of the owners have owned equid for 20 or more years, and the average length of equine ownership is just over 22 years.
- Within the general population nearly 70 percent of the equid owners reported a level of education beyond high school and nearly half have received at least a college degree.
- In the general population, females appear to be more active participants in equine activities, especially in the over-19 age-group, and overall for all age-groups.

Table 2. The equine industry's estimated contribution to the Pennsylvania economy, 2001

	<i>Direct Effect</i>	<i>Secondary Effect</i>	<i>Total Effect</i>	<i>Multiplier</i>
TOTAL				
Industry Revenues (millions)	\$642.90	\$481.60	\$1,124.50	\$1.75
Value Added (millions)	\$330.50	\$284.60	\$615.10	\$1.86
Employment	14,960	5,340	20,300	1.36
Employment Contributions (millions)	\$235.10	\$177.20	\$412.30	\$1.75
Per Worker Compensation	\$15,715.00	\$33,157.00	\$20,305.00	

EQUINE POPULATION

The 216,000 equid living in Pennsylvania represent approximately 50 different breeds, encompassing horses developed in this country by pioneers and Native Americans as well as horses imported from around the world. Pennsylvania is home to some of the finest breeding farms in the country. Hanover Shoe Farms in Adams County is the world's largest breeder of Standardbred horses. Willow Brook Farms, located in Catasauqua, as a world-leading breeder of performance horses was instrumental in shaping the American Quarter Horse breed as we know it today. Iron Spring Farm of Coatesville is one of the top producers of Warmblood competitors in dressage and show jumping. Reigle Heir Farms in Grantville is a top breeder of Thoroughbred racehorses in Pennsylvania.

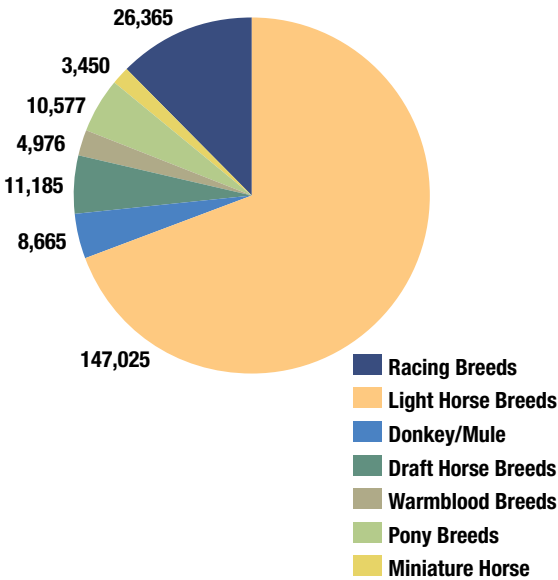
The American Quarter Horse, at 40,110 head, represents the most popular light horse breed in the state, followed by Arabians and Half Arabians at 11,154; Morgans with 10,136; Thoroughbreds (non-racing) at 9,567; Mules/Donkeys with 8,665 head; and Appaloosas with 7,985. The survey respondents identified specific other breeds and/or grade horses totaling 7,248 head; a large portion of these are light horse breeds. Draft horse breeds totaled 11,185 head; Belgians with 6,202 head were the most popular followed by the Percherons with 3,000 head. Pony breeds accounted for 10,577 head (Welsh 3,582, Hackneys 1,635, Shetlands 1,538, and other breeds at 3,822). There were 3,450 Miniature Horses reported.



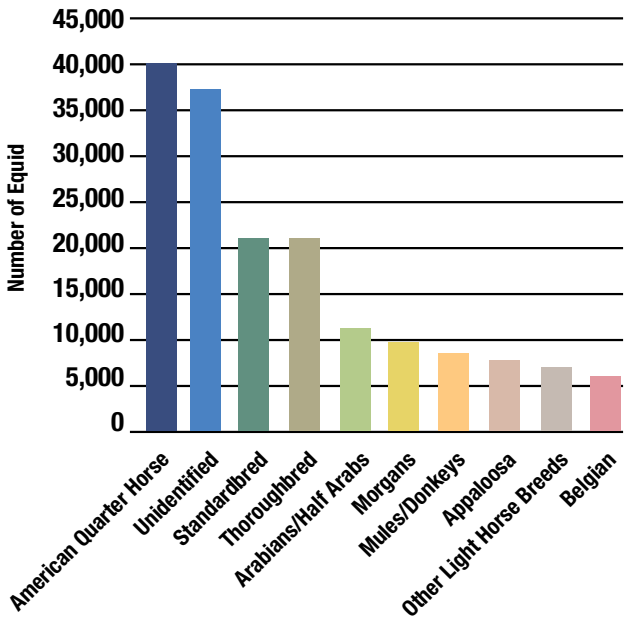
Pennsylvania's Racehorse Breeds

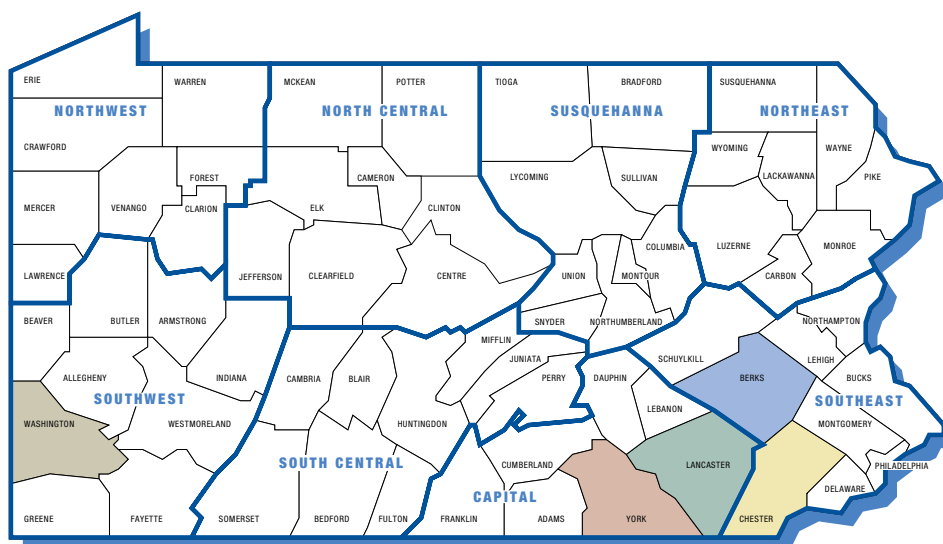
Pennsylvania's racehorse industry included 26,365 head of horses. There were 14,815 and 11,550 head of Standardbreds and Thoroughbreds, respectively. An additional 6,317 Standardbreds and 9,567 Thoroughbreds were reported in the general equine survey (horses not used for racing). The two breed totals, including the non-racing population, are 21,132 for Standardbred and 21,117 for Thoroughbreds.

Total Equine by Type



Pennsylvania's Top 10 Equine Breeds





Top Five Counties by Total Equine Population:

1. Lancaster 20,396 head
2. Chester 15,504 head
3. York 12,089 head
4. Washington 8,572 head
5. Berks 6,241 head

From border to border, the horse industry represents a highly diverse industry that supports a wide variety of activities in all 67 counties. The industry combines the primarily rural activities of breeding, maintaining and training equid, farming, boarding, stabling, and other commercial purposes with the more urban activities of operating racetracks, off-track wagering facilities, horse shows, and recreational riding.

Table 3. Distribution of Pennsylvania's total equid population by counties and regions

Region	No. of Horses	Rank
Northwest	16,416	4
North Central	9,156	8
Susquehanna	11,777	6
Northeast	11,723	7
Southeast	36,492	2
Capital	51,566	1
South Central	12,863	5
Southwest	29,277	3

*Some respondents not identified equid by county (37,294)

Together, the state's Southeastern and Capital Regions account for more than 40 percent of Pennsylvania's equid population.

EQUINE OPERATIONS

An estimated 38,000 households own equid in the state of Pennsylvania, with a total of 190,000 people who participate in an equine activity. An additional 20 percent (7,600) of households within the state participate in an equine activity, but do not own a horse. An estimated 31,000 operations housed Pennsylvania's 216,000 equid in 2002.

Twenty percent of the farms/stables from the general equine survey reported being commercial operations (for profit), while 80 percent considered their equine operation for personal use. Interestingly, racehorse operations reported 82 percent are commercial and 18 percent were for personal use.

Table 4. Number of people involved in the equine industry

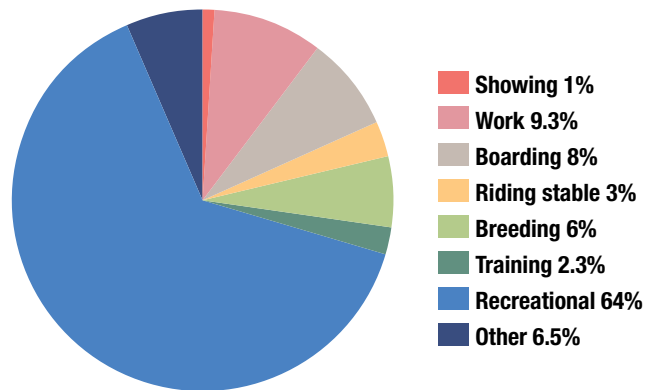
Number of households that own equid	38,000
Members of households that participate in equine activities	190,000
Households within the state, participate in an equine activity, but do not own a horse	7,600
Operations that house equid in PA	31,000
Number of jobs	20,300

Composition of Pennsylvania's General Equine Operations (Farms, Barns, and Stables)

The majority of operations, over 63 percent, were reported to be involved with personal, recreational or pleasure riding, and/or driving (trail riding, youth, and showing). (Owners listed more than one discipline to describe their operation.) The second largest group was working horses at nearly 9.3 percent. These horses earn their living working on farms plowing fields and pulling carriages. Eight percent of facilities are involved in boarding and caring for other owners horses; 5.6 percent reported operating an equine breeding facility; 3 percent were riding/lesson stables (teaching riding lessons, rent equid, and so forth); 2.3 percent were training facilities; 0.9 percent were show/events facilities; 0.35 percent were racing stables (not reported in the "Racehorse Survey"); 0.3 percent were lay-up or equine therapy facilities; 0.17 percent were reported as guest farms for bed-and-breakfast operations involved in tourism and 7 percent were listed as other. This group listed their facilities as retirement homes for horses, horse rescues, mounted police units, therapeutic riding facilities, and so on.

Types of facilities defined in the general population survey.

General Equine Horse Operations



Racing operations reported that over 10 percent of their equine-related acreages were enrolled in agricultural preservation programs. Twenty-six percent of these racing operations listed pasture as their primary land use—13 percent of the acreage was planted in crops and 21 percent was utilized as hay fields. However, the general equine owners reported that only 8 percent of their equine-related acreages were enrolled in agricultural preservation programs. Fifteen percent of this general population listed pasture as their primary land use—17 percent for crops and 19 percent as hay fields.





Composition of Pennsylvania's Racing Facilities

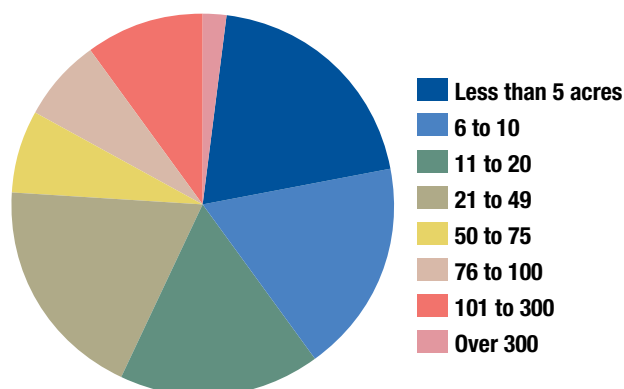
Almost half of the racehorse breed owners, 46 percent, consider their operations to be racing stables/barns (on- and off-track facilities). Second most common were breeding farms (21 percent), followed by training barns (10 percent); boarding facilities (7.5 percent); lay-up/equine therapy facilities (4.4 percent); sale preparations (1.8 percent); and other (10 percent).

Land: Equine Operation Acreage

The equine community is actively preserving open space and maintains the public's connection to agriculture. Over half (56 percent) of Pennsylvania's equine population is housed on properties under 20 acres in size (See chart at right). Twenty-one percent of the equine operations are located on acreages that are less than 5 acres. An additional 20 percent of horse farms are located on acreages of 21 to 50 acres in size, 14 percent are located on land tracts over 50, but fewer than 100, acres. The remaining 11

percent operate facilities on acreages over 100 acres. Pennsylvania's equine community provides an estimated 1.14 million acres of open space (general population 1,037,153 and racing industry 105,458 acres); horse-related tracts of land range from a few-acre farmette to thousand-acre estates. Equine-related land values, for the entire state, were reported to be \$4.8 billion.

Percent of Pennsylvania Equine Facilities by Acreage Size



EQUINE-RELATED INCOME

Overall, the direct and secondary contributions of the state's equine industry are estimated at more than \$1.12 billion in output (the total revenue generated by the industry), of which nearly \$615 million is value added. However, equine-related

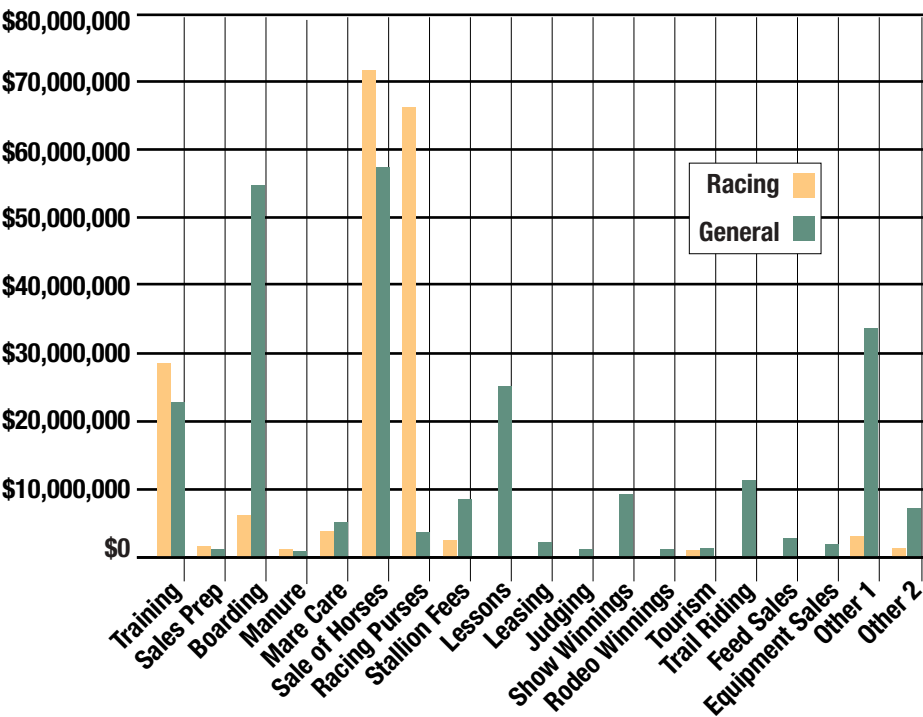
income (reported by survey participants) from sales and associated equine/agricultural activities during 2001 totaled \$435 million. The racehorse industry reported generating \$189 million in income and the general equine population reported income of \$246 million.

Table 5. Income by source for the racing, general, and total populations

<i>Equine-Related Income</i>	<i>Racing Industry</i>	<i>General Population</i>	<i>Total</i>
Training	\$28,713,642	\$22,896,923	\$51,610,565
Sales Preparation	\$1,643,474	\$368,792	\$2,012,266
Boarding/Lay-Ups	\$10,110,577	\$54,713,607	\$64,824,184
Manure Sales	\$552,111	\$378,504	\$930,615
Mare Care	\$3,755,666	\$4,888,519	\$8,644,185
Sale of Horses	\$71,610,642	\$57,536,863	\$129,147,505
Racing Purses	\$66,194,871	\$3,742,045	\$69,936,916
Stallion Services Fees	\$2,391,752	\$8,564,507	\$10,956,259
Lessons/Clinics		\$25,031,215	\$25,031,215
Leasing Animals		\$2,003,561	\$2,003,561
Judging		\$871,911	\$871,911
Show Winnings		\$8,977,772	\$8,977,772
Rodeo Winnings		\$417,430	\$417,430
Tourism, Guest Farm		\$514,650	\$514,650
Trail Riding		\$11,057,556	\$11,057,556
Feed Sales		\$2,370,384	\$2,370,384
Equipment Sales		\$1,641,699	\$1,641,699
Other Income	\$3,592,329	\$40,331,512	\$11,382,348
Total Income	\$188,565,065	\$246,307,447	\$434,872,512



Equine-Related Income for the Racing and General Populations.



EQUINE-RELATED EXPENDITURES

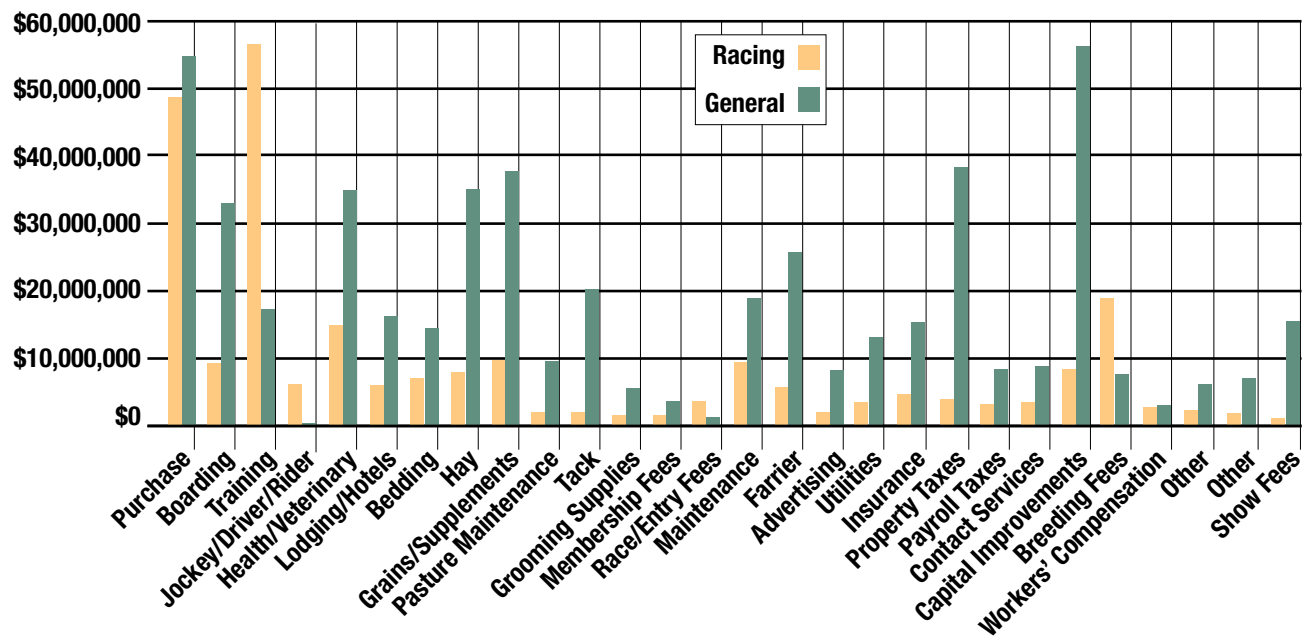
Equine-related expenditures during 2001 totaled an estimated \$746 million. Purchases of feed and bedding accounted for \$109 million in expenditures. Veterinarian and health-related care amounted to nearly \$50 million. Taxes accounted

for \$53.2 million, while \$103 million was spent on the purchase of equid, \$42 million was spent on boarding horses, and nearly \$74 million was spent on training costs. (Expenses of commercial racetracks, show facilities, and public facilities were not included in these figures.)

Table 6. Expenditures by category for the racing, general, and total populations

<i>Expenditure Category</i>	<i>Racehorse Industry</i>	<i>General Horse Population</i>	<i>Totals for PA</i>
Purchase	\$48,708,105	\$54,669,380	\$103,377,485
Boarding	\$9,385,684	\$32,692,098	\$42,077,782
Training	\$56,644,783	\$16,829,914	\$73,474,697
Jockey/Driver/Rider	\$4,797,866	\$236,433	\$5,034,299
Health/Veterinary	\$16,017,488	\$33,730,069	\$49,747,557
Lodging/Hotels	\$5,368,699	\$16,422,102	\$21,790,801
Bedding	\$5,668,411	\$14,017,204	\$19,685,615
Hay	\$7,774,418	\$33,643,943	\$41,418,361
Grain/Supplements	\$9,849,711	\$38,030,346	\$47,880,057
Pasture Maintenance	\$1,790,025	\$9,551,662	\$11,341,687
Tack	\$2,013,885	\$20,245,766	\$22,259,651
Grooming Supplies	\$1,265,244	\$4,971,728	\$6,236,972
Membership Fees	\$1,097,701	\$3,240,686	\$4,338,387
Race/Entry Fees	\$3,503,131	\$1,365,318	\$4,868,449
Maintenance	\$9,336,341	\$18,750,947	\$28,087,288
Farrier	\$5,458,184	\$26,201,109	\$31,659,293
Advertising	\$1,200,114	\$7,466,728	\$8,666,842
Utilities	\$1,977,616	\$12,646,717	\$14,624,333
Insurance	\$4,815,652	\$16,750,396	\$21,566,048
Property Taxes	\$4,182,837	\$38,069,158	\$42,251,995
Payroll Taxes	\$2,682,662	\$8,231,214	\$10,913,876
Contract Services	\$2,439,454	\$8,948,123	\$11,387,577
Capital Improvements	\$8,919,012	\$55,450,319	\$64,369,331
Breeding Fees	\$19,098,502	\$7,591,324	\$26,689,826
Workers' Compensation	\$1,659,784	\$1,866,090	\$3,525,874
Other	\$2,394,877	\$11,877,744	\$14,272,621
Show Fees	\$0	\$14,687,102	\$14,687,102
Total Expenses	\$238,050,186	\$508,183,620	\$746,233,806

Equine-Related Expenses for the Racing and General Populations (2001)



EQUINE-RELATED ASSETS

The value of all equine-related assets (excluding commercial racetracks and public facilities) totaled nearly \$8.3 billion in 2001. Land was by far the largest asset, valued at \$4.8 billion or nearly 58 percent of the total assets reported.



Equine-Related Assets for the Racing and General Populations (2001)

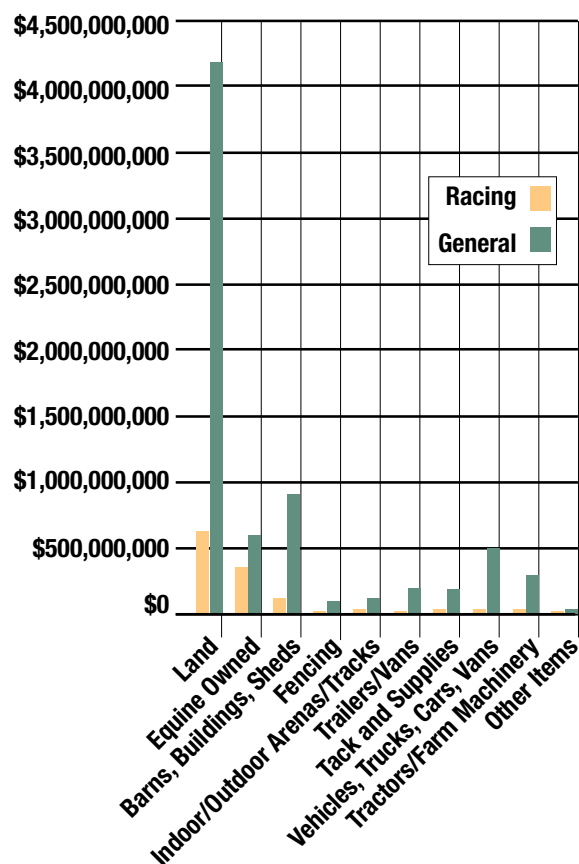


Table 7. Equine-related assets by item

<i>Assets Category</i>	<i>Racehorse Industry</i>	<i>General Horse Population</i>	<i>Totals Assets</i>
Land	\$614,005,827	\$4,210,731,909	\$4,824,737,736
Equine owned	\$291,448,705	\$589,184,101	\$880,632,806
Barns, Buildings, Sheds	\$100,543,008	\$912,923,920	\$1,013,466,928
Fencing	\$20,744,514	\$142,737,391	\$163,481,905
Indoor/Outdoor Arenas/Tracks	\$11,015,959	\$145,977,395	\$156,993,354
Trailers/Vans	\$16,730,500	\$201,278,335	\$218,008,835
Tack and Supplies	\$11,135,823	\$154,709,041	\$165,844,864
Vehicles, Trucks, Cars, Vans	\$30,452,990	\$477,871,562	\$508,324,552
Tractors/Farm Machinery	\$22,663,791	\$286,959,093	\$309,622,884
Other Items	\$1,790,127	\$31,153,829	\$32,943,956
Totals	\$1,120,531,245	\$7,153,526,576	\$8,274,057,821

SHOWING AND COMPETITIONS

Whether the interest is in Western riding, English riding, jumping, hunt seat, halter, pleasure, side-saddle, driving, three-gaited or five-gaited or whether the rider is a professional or amateur, child or senior, a horse show or event exists somewhere that offers any and all levels and types of competition. Numerous sanctioned horse shows and unsanctioned events are held each year across the state, with competitions restricted to a particular breed or open to all horses. Many of the thousands of young people who are involved in Pennsylvania 4-H clubs and pony programs have begun a lifetime of involvement with horses. They are the future breeders, owners, and participants in the equine industry.

On most weekends throughout the year, competitors haul their show horses across the state, striving for excellence. The average Pennsylvania horse enthusiast attends four shows, events, clinics, and/or workshops per year, one rodeo, and/or one horse race every two years. In 2002 Pennsylvania horse owners reported participating in three shows, events, clinics, and/or workshops.

RECREATION

Many Pennsylvanians find respite from their busy lives with a few hours a day or each week on horseback. They might take a leisurely ride along a scenic trail or get together with friends and enjoy riding in the state's 4 million acres of public lands and open spaces.

Recreational riding and tourism is one of Pennsylvania's larger equine industries. More than 26 percent of the equid are used for recreational activities. Many people obviously enjoy riding horses with no concern for winning money or ribbons. The statewide interest in trail riding has grown to include organizations devoted to preserving trails. Approximately 1 percent of the state's horses are actively working in the tourism industry. In addition to inner-city carriage rides, businesses across the state have offered vacations and outfit hunts on horseback through scenic locations. Such businesses reported were bed and breakfasts, guest farms, and working Amish farms.



EQUINE FACILITIES AND VENUES

In Pennsylvania there are 116 public show/exhibition facilities (farm show facilities, community parks, and county fairgrounds) and many privately owned facilities equipped to host horse shows, rodeos, horse racing, and other equine competitions and exhibitions. Of these public facilities, 40 are actively conducting small community open and youth shows; while other facilities offer a venue to handle major national and regional competitions. In the 2002 show season, eight of the larger county fairs reported conducting large horse shows; one reported horse entries as high as 1,976 head (source: Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs). According to this report, nearly 1,000 privately owned facilities or stables reported conducting equine events.

Eleven-hundred of North America's best horses are exhibited at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show, America's largest indoor multibreed horse show, where they compete for 11 national titles

and \$340,000 in prize money. The Devon Horse Show is the country's largest outdoor horse show and, at 107 years, one of its oldest. The Laurels at Landhope Combined Driving Event is one of five American FEI combined driving events. Radnor Hunt hosts the longest running Three Day Event in the United States. Dressage at Devon is the highest rated international dressage competition and most complete breed show outside of Europe.

Pennsylvania has one of the largest draft horse populations in the country and conducts one of the largest draft horse competitions in the nation (Keystone International Livestock Expo).

Many of these equine events are held at the newly expanded Farm Show Complex's Equine Center in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. This \$8 million facility expansion was constructed in 2002 to help meet the expanding needs of the state's equine industry.



Racing*

Horse racing has had a long-standing presence in Pennsylvania and is a significant and integral part of Pennsylvania's equine industry. In 2001, Pennsylvania's four race tracks held a total of 762 race days for both harness and Thoroughbred horses. Over 2.4 million patrons attended the track (1.8 million attendance for Thoroughbred and 597,155 for harness racing) and wagered \$941.6 million for Thoroughbred racing and \$259.5 million for harness racing. In total for 2001, the projected horse racing total handle (all wagering at all race tracks) for the state was \$1.2 billion. An additional \$432 million was wagered during the year on live (\$49.8 million) and simulcast races (\$383 million). Approximately 80 percent of the money wagered on harness and 76 percent from Thoroughbred racing is returned to the betting public with the remainder distributed among the state (in the form of taxes), purses for the horsepeople, and operating costs.

Approximately 6,177 owners, trainers, grooms, exercise riders, feed and tack suppliers, veterinarians, farriers, and other industry professionals occupy the stable area at the Thoroughbred tracks during the meets. In addition, 4,274 equine professionals occupy the stable area of the harness track. During the meets, the track employs additional people for security, concessions, maintenance, and mutual tellers that work on the front of the track.

Racing provides a significant economic contribution to Pennsylvania's horse industry. Horse racing in Pennsylvania has generated substantial economic benefits to the state and has been a vital cornerstone to the horse industry.

*Information taken from the 2001 Annual Report, State Racing Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.



Farm Work

The Amish community is a unique part of Pennsylvania's equine industry. The Amish horse and buggies are a common sight on Pennsylvania roads and a major attraction for visitors to the state. The Amish have a high regard for the customs and beliefs of their founders. They continue to plow and farm with horses and travel by horse and buggies. Many of Pennsylvania draft horses are used today for farming and logging.

Breeding, raising, training, and using horses for farm work continues to be necessary. There is still a need for a skilled, usable horse to work in fields and handle special tasks like logging timber, in addition to working cattle.

Rodeos

Due to increasing interest in the cowboy traditions, rodeos are among the horse industry's most popular spectator events, requiring many highly trained horses for a variety of events, from team roping and penning to saddle bronco riding. In January, Pennsylvania annually hosts one of the largest attended rodeos in the United States. This event attracts 15,000 people and is conducted during the Pennsylvania Farm Show "High School Rodeo."*

*Source: United States High School Rodeo Association, Denver, Colorado

Other Activities

Across the state, horses are involved in other activities from police work to polocrosse. Among the most rewarding uses of horses are therapeutic riding programs for children and adults. Riding a horse offers innumerable benefits to the rider regardless of physical or mental abilities. Pennsylvania is ranked fifth in United States in number of therapeutic horseback riding programs (according to NAHRA) and is home to the largest therapeutic riders' event on the East Coast. Pennsylvania's State Police Mounted Unit is one of the superior mounted units in the nation, serving at the inaugurations of many presidents. Senior citizens continue to ride for exercise and pleasure, enjoying the opportunity to experience our national forests and public lands.

The city of Philadelphia has its own inner-city equine community of police horses, carriage horses, work-to-ride youth programs, and even cowboy units that rodeo. Philadelphia County was reported to house nearly 1,000 horses. The Fairmont Park System has 100 miles of trails located in the middle of Philadelphia, where equestrians enjoy trail riding. The carriage companies add to Philadelphia's heritage with horses driving through the city streets.



Youth and Education

Horses are also utilized to educate youth and students about the responsibility of caring for a living creature. Pennsylvania is part of the largest Pony Club Regions in the United States. The 4-H Youth Horse Program is considered one of the best in the country. In Pennsylvania, approximately 7,500 youth are enrolled in 4-H clubs taking a horse project, 90 are National High School Rodeo members, 691 are U.S. Pony Club members, and hundreds are enrolled in specific breed youth associations and FFA. These equine youth programs help to develop life skills and promote knowledge of horsemanship and responsible animal care. Horses are utilized as teaching tools and as a means to improve life skills for all youth, including rural and urban youth, and youth at risk. Another role of the horse is to strengthen the family unit through work and recreation in horse activities. The well-being of children, youth, and families is essential to the well-being of our society, now and in the future, providing for a strong workforce and vital community.



HORSE OWNERS AND PARTICIPANTS

Many Pennsylvanians are involved in the horse industry. The number of jobs associated with the industry is endless. A partial list includes, but is not limited, to grooms, trainers, veterinarians, farriers, breed organizations, stewards, judges, announcers, publicists, commercial suppliers, tack shop employees, riding apparel designers, sale companies, accountants, saddle and harness makers, transporters, and other support industries such as feed and hay producers. Numerous Pennsylvania magazines, newspapers, and newsletters are devoted to horses and the equine events.

The University of Pennsylvania New Bolton Center has a world-renowned equine veterinary program. Several colleges (The Pennsylvania State University, Delaware Valley College, and Wilson College) in the Commonwealth offer an equine science curriculum. Numerous other schools provide equine courses.

In 2001, 10,451 people were issued licenses to work at Pennsylvania horse racing tracks (State Horse Racing Commission, 2001 Annual Report). Pennsylvania's racetracks, for example, require: security personnel, parking attendants, restaurant workers, mutual clerks, marketing, management and accounting staffs, as well as breeders, owners, trainers, grooms, jockeys, drivers, exercise riders, veterinarians, and feed and equipment suppliers.

Involvement in the horse industry is not limited to any particular demographic group. A horse can fit into any type of lifestyle, and horse owners are very diverse. The horse industry is a broad-based activity with stakeholders that range from track owners and Olympic riders to large numbers of recreational and show horse riders, small acreage owners, moderate and low-income families, and stable employees and volunteers

CONCLUSION

Pennsylvania's equine industry is a diverse and thriving industry that supports a variety of activities and businesses. The equine industry is a major contributor to the state's economy through employment, tax dollars, and assets. Moreover, the value of the state's horse industry extends to all residents. Equid are valued for their companionship and use, enhancing the state residents' quality of life. Equid play an essential role in Pennsylvania's Amish community as they are heavily relied on for transportation and farm work. Knowledge of the current size and character of the Pennsylvania equine industry is essential to help shape the future of this industry.



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