



# **The Impact of the Horse Industry on the Commonwealth**

**Elisabeth Jensen**  
**Executive Vice President**  
**Kentucky Equine Education Project**

# Kentucky's Horse Industry by the Numbers

- **\$23.4 billion:** Value of equines and assets across Kentucky
- **Annual Impact**
  - The horse industry contributes nearly \$1.6 billion to the Commonwealth's GDP
  - From those direct effects, the horse industry's contribution ripples out into other sectors of the economy. Adding these ripple effects, feed, hay, supplies, etc., results in an estimate of **\$ 2.7 billion GDP**
  - Including the horse industry hospitality and tourism, the total economic impact reaches as high as \$5.2 billion and is growing every year.



# Example: American Pharoah's Impact on Kentucky (over the past three years)

- **\$45.5 million:** Estimated amount of revenue in stud fees based on publicly available numbers and industry calculations
- **\$2.7 million:** Paid in to Kentucky in state taxes on breeding alone
- Not included in this example are other way American Pharaoh has impacted Kentucky's tax revenue through equine tourism, increased interest in horse racing and more.
- **226:** Other thoroughbred stallions in Kentucky
- **4,532:** Active stallions among non-race breeds

# Example: Equine Veterinarians

- **335:** Doctors of Veterinary Medicine in Kentucky registered with the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP). There are many others not registered with AAEP
- **319:** employees at Rood and Riddle, one of the nation's largest equine vet facilities
  - **65** of which are veterinarians, caring for **25,000** horses
- These veterinarians are responsible for an incredible impact on local economies through their businesses, salaries, taxes and more.

Example: Pari - Mutuel Wagering

**Pari-Mutuel wagering has  
generated \$23,528.277 in total  
excise tax for YTD 2018**



KENTUCKY'S EQUINE  
ECONOMIC ADVOCATE

**Horses  
work**  
for Kentucky.

# Example: Working at the Racetracks in Kentucky

In 2017 KHRC issued over 19,000 licenses to workers at Thoroughbred and Standardbred facilities.

- This includes trainers and assistant trainers, jockeys, exercise riders, mutuel clerks, racing officials, farriers, dental technicians, veterinarians, event staff and numerous other functions.

# Kentucky's Horse Industry by the Numbers

- **242,400:** Equines in Kentucky including, but not limited to:
  - 54,000 Thoroughbreds
  - 42,000 Quarter Horses
  - 36,000 Tennessee Walkers
  - 14,000 American Saddlebreds
  - 14,000 Donkeys and Mules
  - 12,500 Mountain Horse Breeds
  - 9,500 Standardbreds
  - 7,000 Miniatures
  - 7,000 Ponies
  - 6,500 Paints
  - 5,500 Arabian and Half-Arabians



# Kentucky's Horse Industry by the Numbers

- **44,000 – 60,000:** Direct and indirect jobs in Kentucky
- **35,000:** Operations with at least one horse
- **17,275:** Thoroughbred mares bred to 227 Kentucky stallions in 2017
- **7,620:** Foals born in Kentucky in 2016 (34.6% of North America)
- **55%:** Share of Thoroughbreds in North America sired by Kentucky stallions





# Kentucky's Horse Industry by the Numbers

- **49%:** Share of Kentucky trail rides by out of state visitors
- **30.5%:** Households in Kentucky that contain horse enthusiasts
- **10%:** Share of Kentucky households that participate in trail riding, with the vast majority using public lands



# Kentucky's Horse Industry by the Numbers

- Primary use of Kentucky's equines:
  - 79,500 Trail riding/pleasure
  - 38,000 Broodmares
  - 33,000 Idle/not working
  - 24,500 Competition/show
  - 23,000 Yearlings, weanlings and foals
  - 15,000 Racing
  - 13,000 Other activities
  - 12,500 Work/transportation
  - 3,900 Stallions at stud

# Kentucky's Horse Industry by the Numbers

# #1

## Ranking in impact on Kentucky's economy



KENTUCKY'S EQUINE  
ECONOMIC ADVOCATE

**Horses  
work**  
for Kentucky.