

***IMPACT OF THE EQUINE INDUSTRY  
ON THE ECONOMY OF CHESTER AND DELAWARE COUNTIES  
PENNSYLVANIA***

The equine industry is an important part of the agricultural sector of the Pennsylvania economy and the 10-County Southeastern region of the Commonwealth which includes Chester and Delaware Counties. Delaware Valley University was commissioned and funded by the Chester-Delaware County Farm Bureau to estimate the contribution of the equine industry to the economy of a 10-County Region of Southeastern Pennsylvania. This brief discusses the results of the survey and analysis for the Chester and Delaware Counties.

- ❖ The survey results indicate that there were more than 10,600 equines in the two counties in early 2017, six percent more than reported by USDA in the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Chester county accounted for the vast majority of equine in the two counties.
- ❖ Thoroughbreds and Warmbloods are the two most prominent equine breeds in the two Counties accounting for nearly 65 percent of all equine. Quarter Horses and Ponies followed in terms of popularity, each accounting for about 8.5 percent of equine.
- ❖ Survey respondents report that ten Townships have the largest equine populations in the two Counties, accounting for nearly two-thirds of total equine. London Grove Township leads in terms of equine numbers.

Table 1  
Equine Distribution Chester-Delaware County

|                           | Equine        | Share         |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| London Grove Township     | 2,034         | 19.2%         |
| Newlin Township           | 853           | 8.0%          |
| Franklin Township         | 706           | 6.7%          |
| West Marlborough Township | 680           | 6.4%          |
| Highland Township         | 647           | 6.1%          |
| East Fallowfield Township | 582           | 5.5%          |
| East Marlborough Township | 376           | 3.5%          |
| New London                | 356           | 3.4%          |
| West Bradford Township    | 347           | 3.3%          |
| Willistown Township       | 327           | 3.1%          |
| Other                     | 3,695         | 34.8%         |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>10,605</b> | <b>100.0%</b> |

- ❖ Equine industry participants spend nearly \$91.5 million on goods and services in Chester and Delaware Counties, with the largest spending categories accounted for by purchased feed and hay, purchases of equine, boarding expenses, equine related professional services including veterinary, health, and farriers, and capital improvements (including new construction).
- ❖ The equine industry directly and indirectly accounts for nearly \$117 million of additional economic activity for the economy of Chester and Delaware Counties.
- ❖ The equine sector supports nearly 2,700 jobs in all sectors of the County economy, of which 1,412 jobs are directly related to equine.
- ❖ The output and employment supported by the equine industry generates \$81.4 million in household income annually for County residents.
- ❖ As shown in Table 2 survey respondents report that more than half of equine industry participants in Chester and Delaware Counties are involved in trail competition and boarding and training.

Table 2  
Equine Involvement in Chester and Delaware Counties

|                            | Share of Respondents |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Trail Competition          | 31.8%                |
| Boarding./Training         | 24.1%                |
| Instruction                | 10.5%                |
| Breeding                   | 9.7%                 |
| Professional Services      | 8.5%                 |
| Racing                     | 7.4%                 |
| Academic                   | 4.3%                 |
| Agriculture/Transportation | 2.3%                 |
| Govt                       | 1.4%                 |
| Other                      | 13.8%                |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>100.0%</b>        |

- ❖ Pleasure riding is the most popular equine activity in the two Counties followed by hunting and jumping and Dressage and Eventing.

Table 3  
Equine Activities in Chester and Delaware Counties

|                            | Share of Respondents |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Pleasure                   | 26.1%                |
| Hunter/Jumping             | 18.4%                |
| Dressage                   | 18.1%                |
| Eventing                   | 14.6%                |
| Racing                     | 8.2%                 |
| Western                    | 8.0%                 |
| Driving                    | 2.9%                 |
| Endurance                  | 2.1%                 |
| Agriculture/Transportation | 1.6%                 |
| Other                      | 7.7%                 |
| Total                      | 100.0%               |

- ❖ The equine industry contributes to maintaining open space and land devoted to agriculture. Survey respondents reported devoting nearly 4,110 acres to equine activities with 60 percent of acres devoted to pasture, 20 percent to crops and 13.7 percent to forage.
- ❖ Survey respondents also reported preserving an additional 5,573 acres to agricultural preservation and agricultural and conservation easements.