

CONNECTICUT

Horsepower



University of Connecticut
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Jenifer Nadeau
Assistant Professor
Department of Animal Science
University of Connecticut

Farhed Shah
Associate Professor
Department of Agricultural and
Resource Economics,
University of Connecticut

Anita Chaudhry
Doctoral Student
Department of Economics and
Finance, University of Wyoming

Jose Maripani
Doctoral Student
Department of Agricultural and
Resource Economics,
University of Connecticut
and Assistant Professor
Department of Business and
Economics, University of
Magallanes-Chile

The horse has played a predominant role in the building of roads, clearing of land, and provision of transportation in Connecticut since its inception as a colony. Today horses continue to be important in the lives of Connecticut residents and are used for recreation, showing, work, and racing. In this publication, we share with you the main findings of a study that analyses the characteristics and economic values of the horse industry in Connecticut. To download the complete report, please visit www.horsepower.uconn.edu.

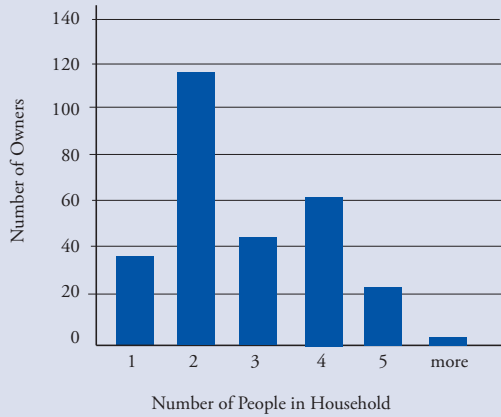


Key Results of the study:

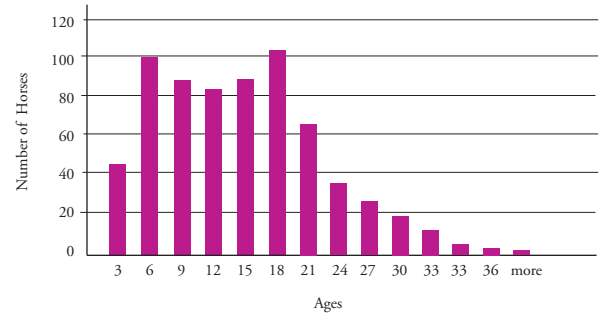
- There are 43,059 horses in the state
- 38,065 horses are privately owned
- 4,994 horses are owned by businesses
- 88% of horse owners are female
- Average age of the horse owner is 45 years
- For owners, recreation (55%) and showing (31%) are the main uses of horses
- There are 550 horse-related businesses
- Boarding (25%), providing training and lessons (17%) and breeding (16%) are the main activities carried out by equine businesses
- The total annual business income is \$38,962,000
- The total value of horses owned by businesses is \$32,192,600
- The total value of horses owned privately is \$284,840,395



Household Size of Horse Owners

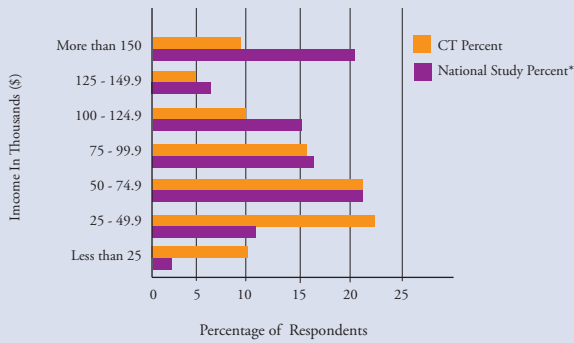


Horse Age Distribution



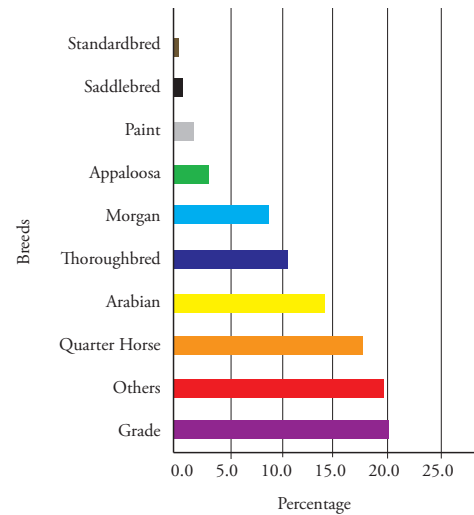
- The majority of horses in Connecticut are 6-18 years of age

Annual Household Income of Horse Owners



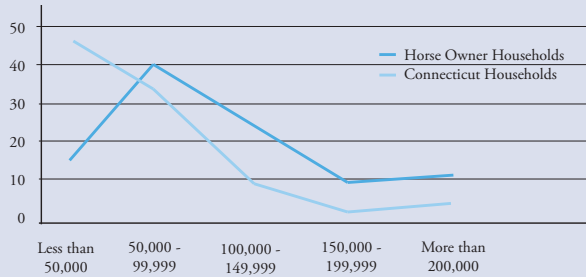
* Based on the American Horse Council Foundation's study in 2005

Horse Breed Distribution



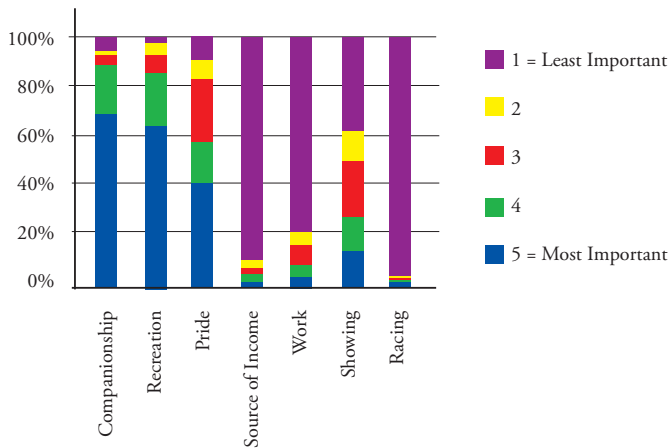
- The most popular breeds in Connecticut include Quarter Horses, grade horses, and Arabians

Income Distribution of Horse Owner Household and Connecticut Household

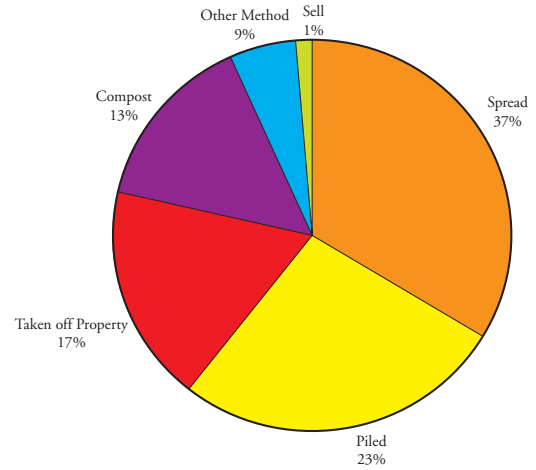


Horse ownership in Connecticut is best described as a personal recreational activity. Respondents were asked to rate the reasons for owning a horse on a scale of 1 (least important) to 5 (most important). The first bar corresponds to companionship. About 71% rated this as the most important reason for owning a horse, while 18% considered it the second most important reason. Similarly, the second bar shows that personal and family use and recreation are considered most important by 67%. Work, racing and source of income are the least important reasons for most people.

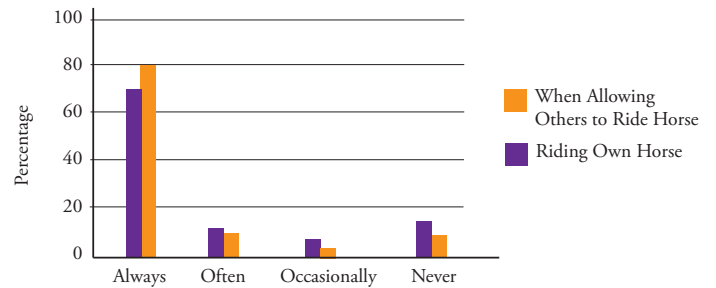
Reasons for Owning a Horse



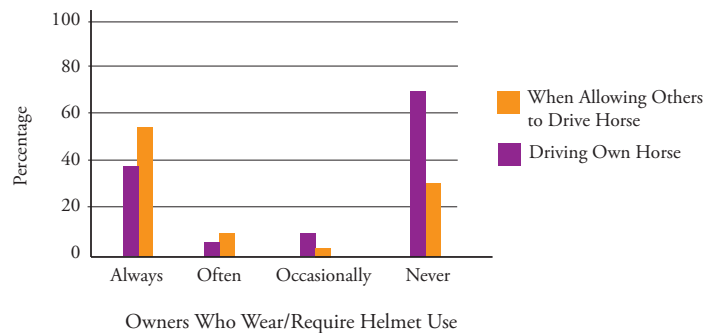
Manure Disposal by Horse Owners



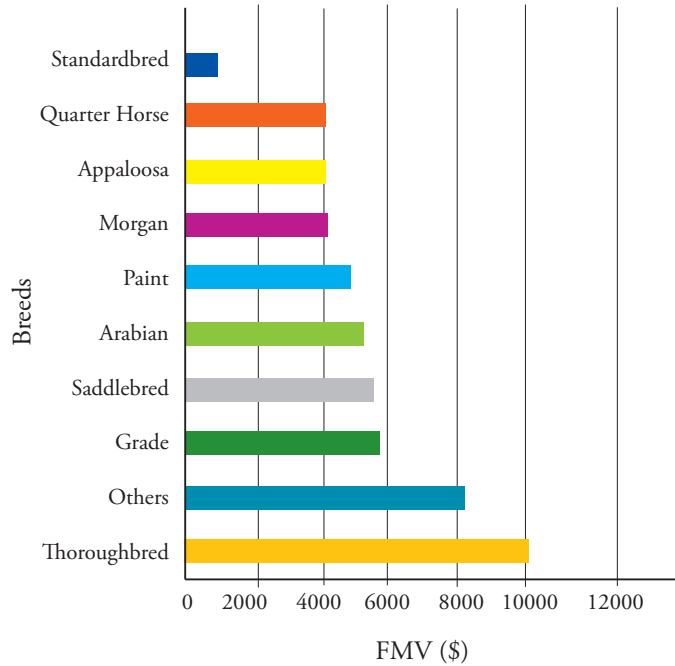
Percentage of Owners Who Wear a Helmet While Riding and Percentage of Horse Owners Who Require Others to Wear a Helmet While Riding the Owner's Horse



Percentage of Owners Who Wear a Helmet While Driving and Percentage of Horse Owners Who Require Others to Wear a Helmet While Driving the Owner's Horse



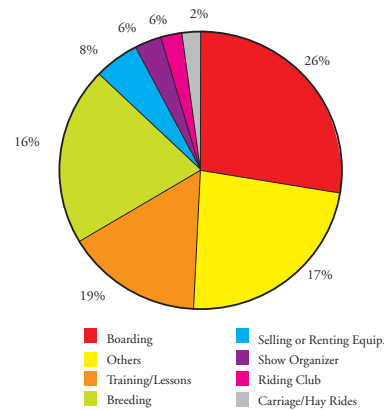
Average Fair Market Value of Horses by Breed



Annual Horse Owner Expenses

	Average
Feeding	\$2,187
Bedding	\$706
Repair	\$1,175
Veterinary Services	\$1,185
Blacksmith/Farrier	\$1,203
Insurance	\$675
Manure Removal	\$433
Utilities	\$249
Rent of Land	\$143
Equipment	\$646
Tack	\$874
Boarding	\$5,016
Supplies	\$363
Show	\$1,458
Training	\$1,766
Other	\$2,609

Types of Horse Related Businesses



- Overall the value of a horse as perceived by its owner is much more than its fair market value
- When asked if they were willing to sell their horse at fair market value, 80% responded negatively



- Over half of owners in CT do not board their horses
- Horses are kept on an average of 13 acres of land, 7 acres owned by the horse owner, the rest leased
- Horse owners expressed concern about access to greenways and trails
- Horse owners travel on average 4 miles to ride, 11 miles for trails, 21 miles for camping, 70 miles for shows/competition





Average Revenues for Horse-related Businesses

Fees	\$134,694
Sponsor and Advertising	\$4,150
Stall Rentals	\$49,916
Other Rentals	\$15,464
Other	\$96,395

Average Expenses for Horse-related Businesses

Utilities	\$5,652
Equipment	\$6,287
Labor	\$54,148
Advertising	\$5,358
Building and rental	\$25,258
Other	\$61,360

Average Fair Market Value of Horses and Horse-related Assets for Business

Horses	\$58,536
Equipment	\$40,930
Land	\$536,364
Structures	\$302,927
Other	\$68,500

Summary

- The horse industry is vital to CT's economy
- Personal and recreational use and companionship are among the most important reasons individuals keep horses
- Expenses incurred generally far exceed any monetary benefits from ownership
- Improvements in manure handling and helmet use are needed for individuals
- Horse related businesses provide important services to society but may require additional public support



www.cthorsepower.uconn.edu

For More Information Contact:

Dr. Jenifer Nadeau
Assistant Professor

Equine Extension Specialist
University of Connecticut
3636 Horsebarn Rd. Ext. U-4040
Storrs, CT 06269-4040
jenifer.nadeau@uconn.edu



University of Connecticut

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources