

Notes from the Vermont Horse Council's website.

Vermont is home to a very diverse Equine population of animals and owners.

The USDA office of statistics did a survey in 2019, and estimated there were between 8500 and 10,000 horses in Vermont, and 1300 equine facilities.

UVM Center for Rural Studies did two studies in 2019 on the economic contribution entities and the amount of money and measurable impact on the State economy.

- $\frac{1}{3}$ of horse owners in Vermont have their horses at boarding facilities
- $\frac{1}{4}$ of those surveyed owned, operated and earned income from equine activities in 2019
- 61 acres is the average acreage for boarding operations
- $\frac{1}{4}$ of these facilities are in land use
- Boarding operations and horse farms believe they contribute to country life, the environment and open landscapes

The study also looked at the competitive horse industry in Vermont and spending patterns, including competitors, vendors, and spectators.

- Dorset Vermont was listed as having 44% of competitions, followed by the Green Mountain Horse Association in South Woodstock Vt at 33%
- 72% of participants were not Vermont residents and spent a total of 3 to 4 days in Vermont
- This resulted in **22 million** in local economic activity in 2019

The study concluded that out of **51.5 million** in total equine related spending, **46 million** of these horse activities went to the state in forms of tax revenue, jobs etc.

Lack of availability of open land, traffic road and trail issues, and property taxes were several of the concerns of surveyed horse owners. Also, that the statewide decision makers were unaware of the cultural, health, environmental, and monetary contributions of the horse community in Vermont.