



### ***Varying reports regarding size of the U.S. horse population clarified by American Horse Council.***

Several figures have been circulated regarding the U.S. horse population in the last few months. The American Horse Council wishes to clarify these statistics to avoid confusion and misunderstanding of the data.

There are presently three major organizations that collect and publish data regarding the U.S. horse population, albeit with different target audiences and different definitions.

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The most comprehensive number comes from the 2017 National Economic Impact of the US Horse Population conducted by the AHC Foundation which counts 1,013,746 horse owners owning or leasing farms housing 7,246,835 horses in the U.S.

The USDA, National Agriculture Statistic Service (NASS) recently completed a census which counts only horses that are on working farms. This definition excludes boarding, training and riding facilities; as well as any other operation that fails to generate a minimum of \$1,000 in sales of equine products, defined as "breeding fees, stud fees, semen or other". NASS reports a total of 459,526 horse farms in the US, with an agricultural population of 2,847,289 horses.

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Written by CRM

Monday, 03 August 2020 03:51

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In addition, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) publishes a report on pets. While horses are defined as “livestock”, the AVMA study does ask owners about all types of animals in their care and thus publishes the number of horses reported. That number is 1,914,394.

The Food and Drug Administration utilized both the AVMA survey and information from USDA’s periodic surveys of farm animal populations to estimate the U.S. horse population at 3.8 million. FDA explained that population estimates are important for helping determine potential eligibility for drugs to be used for “minor uses”.

AHC President Julie Broadway noted “While NASS and AVMA statistics serve important purposes, only the AHC Foundation’s Study most closely reflects the total horse population in the US.” To purchase a copy of the 2017 National Economic impact Study go to [www.horsecouncil.org](http://www.horsecouncil.org) and navigate to the 2017 National Economic Impact of the US Horse Population study.

Press release provided by the American Horse Council.