

# Oregon's 1994 Preliminary Equine Impact Survey

A. White and L. Coates-Markle

In June of 1994, the Oregon Agricultural Statistics Service (OASS) conducted a commodity survey that included an estimate of the number of equines (horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, miniatures, and zebras) in Oregon. After completing the survey, equine owners were asked to complete a follow-up questionnaire designed by Oregon State University (OSU) to learn more about Oregon's horse industry. Estimates in this report are based on 173 responses from a random sample of 546 horse owners in Oregon.

Questions included:

1. Type of horse operation
2. Location of horses owned
3. Number of horses owned for profit or pleasure
4. An estimate of annual horse-related expenses for 1993
5. Total horse-related gross income for 1993
6. Attendance at horse-related competitive events or educational activities

## Survey results

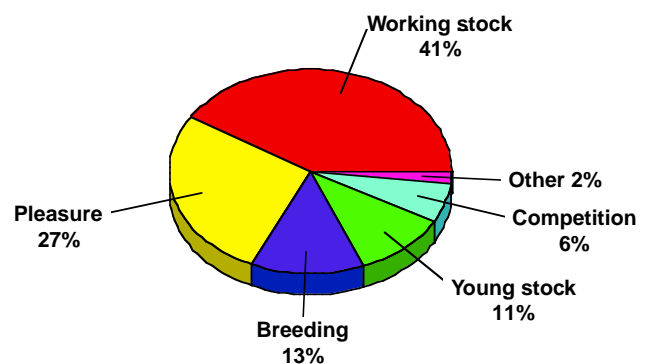
There were an estimated 110,000 equines in Oregon in 1993, and equine owners owned an average of four horses each. Eighty-seven percent kept their horses on their own land, 10 percent kept them elsewhere, and 3 percent kept at least one horse both on their own land and elsewhere. Fifty-three percent owned horses primarily for pleasure, 31 percent owned horses for both profit and pleasure, and 16 percent owned horses primarily for profit.

Forty-one percent of respondents used their horses primarily for working stock\*, 27 percent used them for pleasure, 13 percent for breeding, 11 percent for young stock, 6 percent for competition, and 2 percent for "other."

*\*The American Horse Council's 1994 Horse Owners Handbook reports that working-stock horses represent fewer than 10 percent of the horses in the U.S. The high percentage of working-stock horses in Oregon (41 percent) may be the result of under-surveying urban horse owners.*

Respondents reported that in 1993 they spent between \$0 and \$20,395 on horse-related expenses, with an average of \$460 per horse and an average total of \$1,840 per horse owner (\$460 x 4

State Distribution of Types of Horse Use

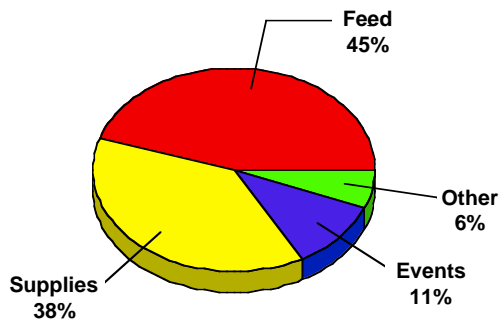


Angela White, director, Horse Center; and Linda Coates-Markle, former director, Horse Center; Oregon State University.



## Horse-related Expenses

Percentage spent per respondent



horses average per owner). Of the \$1,840 average total, \$831 was for feed, \$711 for supplies, \$193 for events, and \$113 for other items.

Horse-related gross income in 1993 ranged from \$0 to \$48,000 per respondent, with an average of \$16. Eighty-seven percent of respondents reported zero horse-related income, and the remaining 13 percent reported income ranging from \$200 to \$48,000.

Respondents attended an average of two horse-related events in 1993.

## Acknowledgments

Funding and logistical support for this survey were provided by the Horse Council of Oregon in cooperation with the OSU departments of Animal Sciences and Agricultural and Resource Economics, the OSU Survey Research Center, the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine, and Oregon Agricultural Statistics Services.

## For further reading

To order copies of the following publications, send the publication's complete title and series number, along with a check or money order for the amount listed, to:

Publication Orders  
Extension and Experiment  
Station Communications  
Oregon State University  
422 Admin. Services  
Corvallis, OR 97331-2119  
Fax: 541-737-0817

*Keeping Your Horse Healthy*, EC 1472, by Eva Sestric, Karen Keen, and Linda Coates-Markle (Oregon State University, Corvallis, 1996). 75¢

*Preventing and Treating Parasites in Your Horse*, EC 1473, by Eva Sestric and Linda Coates-Markle (Oregon State University, Corvallis, 1996). 75¢

*Preventing and Treating Colic in Your Horse*, EC 1474, by Karen Keen and Linda Coates-Markle (Oregon State University, Corvallis, 1996). 75¢

*Your Horse's Nutrition*, EC 1475, by Katia Engelhardt and Linda Coates-Markle (Oregon State University, Corvallis, 1996). 75¢

*Managing Your Pregnant Mare and Her Foal*, EC 1476, by Juli Ellingson and Linda Coates-Markle (Oregon State University, Corvallis, 1996). 75¢

If you would like additional copies of this publication, *Oregon's 1994 Preliminary Equine Impact Survey*, EC 1477, write to the above address.

You may order up to six no-charge publications without charge. If you request seven or more no-charge publications, include 25 cents for each publication beyond six.

We offer discounts on orders of 100 or more copies of a single title. Please call 541-737-2513 for price quotes.



Produced and distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. Extension work is a cooperative program of Oregon State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Oregon counties. Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials—without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, disability, and disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran status—as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer.