



There are over **95,000 horses** in
British Columbia



They live on
145,000 acres of farmland
supported by
7,200 Full Time Jobs
with
\$31.2 million employment income
For

\$740 million in economic activity

The Industry directly supports the agricultural community with **\$335 million** going to...



Professional Services
\$87.2 million



Feed & Bedding
\$125 million



Saddlery & Goods
\$32 million annually

Tourism
\$26 million



Commercial Boarding generates over
\$60 million in economic activity

Complete 2009 BC Horse Industry Report is available online at www.hcbc.ca/study

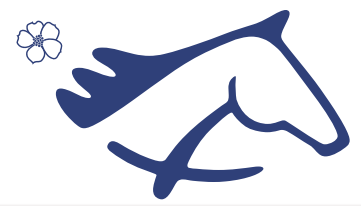
Funding provided by:



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HORSE COUNCIL BRITISH COLUMBIA



Equine Industry Study 2009



"Our BC Horses"

PICTURE OF THE INDUSTRY | 2009

VARIETY OF THE INDUSTRY

BREEDING

The BC 'herd' is approximately 95,000. An estimate of the value of production of horses in BC would be 10,000 horses per year. **An approximate total of \$30 million per year in primary agricultural production.**

LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION

It is no surprise that the interior of the province, with its abundance of grazing land and dry conditions, is a popular production area. Due to the proximity to markets, the south costal region also has a lot of breeding activity. Horse breeding farms are typically small (under 10 mares) and utilize medium sized properties (11 acre median). These farms invest more in buildings and equipment and are more likely to file farm business income tax statements (59% vs. 34%) than the average property with horses. Horses are a significant farming business with approximately **\$340 million of direct economic activity on farms.**

\$340 million of direct economic activity on farms



RURAL PROPERTIES WITH HORSES

THE PROPERTIES with horses has grown over the last number of years.

- 59% are farm businesses (as claimed on income tax files)
- 38% of horse properties breed horses
- 31% of horse properties produce other agricultural products
- 18% hire outside labour to maintain their horses

13,659 Properties in B.C. have horses



WHAT WE DO



Over 1000
certified coaches

900+ days of
competition across BC



Racing



**Logging
& Ranching**

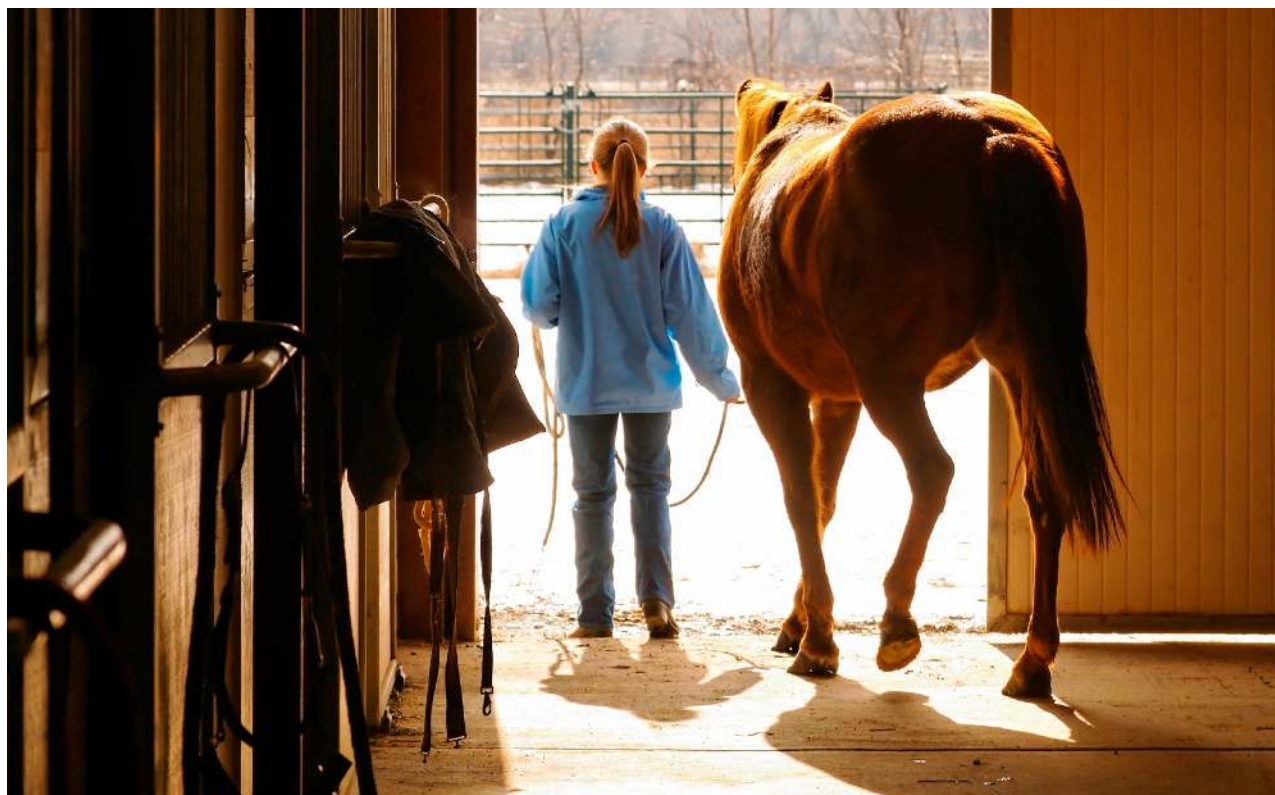
WHAT ELSE?

Horses are used for a variety of sports, in farming, as work animals, for therapy, recreation and tourism. Breeding has evolved over the years to allow the diverse use of horses for any number of activities within these sectors. This in part is what has made the horse such a valuable partner for humans throughout history. It also makes the horse industry a challenge to measure and quantify.



90% of the industry intends to maintain or increase it's involvement over the next 5 years

THE FUTURE



Optimism in the Industry

The survey results show the value of the horse industry to B.C. Horse owners are optimistic about the future of their industry and are committed to their horses' wellbeing. 90% of the industry indicates it intends to maintain or increase its involvement in the industry over the next 5 years. Lisa Laycock, executive director of Horse Council B.C. states, "HCBC is looking forward to developing programs that address issues

important for today's horseman. We appreciate the support of the B.C. provincial government and the Government of Canada for this important initiative." The survey was conducted in partnership with the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. Funding for the survey was provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program. This program is delivered in B.C. by the

Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. The purpose of the survey was to understand and document the scope and impact of the horse industry within B.C. A previous industry survey was conducted in 1998 and this new study provides data for comparison to monitor the growth of the sector. Survey respondents included the HCBC membership, racing population, breeders and agricultural voices.

\$740 million Economic Activity

Horse Council BC: The BC Horse Industry 2009 Study: www.hcbc.ca/study

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