THE IOWA EQUINE INDUSTRY: THE BILLION - DOLLAR FACT$ 
THE EQUINE INDUSTRY IS AGRICULTURE

FACT: The Iowa equine industry annually produces goods & services valued at $862.5 million.
FACT: The Iowa equine industries annual contribution to the G.D.P. (Gross Domestic Product) is $474.8 million
FACT: There are 35,800 equine farms & 47,000 equine owners in Iowa. 145,000 Iowans are involved in the industry as owners, service providers, employees and volunteers. Even more participate as spectators.
FACT: There are 199,220 equine in Iowa ranking Iowa 17th in the nation.

FACT: The total value of all equine-related assets in Iowa is $8.3 billion
FACT: Iowa equine are valued at $1.03 billion.
FACT: The Iowa equine industry directly provides 10,000 jobs.
FACT: Iowa equine owners hold over 2.1 million Iowa acres, which equals 5.87% of Iowa land.
FACT: Horse people own $5.6 billion worth of Iowa land, fencing and facilities.
FACT: Composition of Iowa equine operations are 62% personal or recreational, 13% working, 9% breeding, 7% other, 4% showing or competition, 3% boarding and 2% racing.

FACT: The State of Iowa receives more than $12.5 million each year from equine pari-mutuel wagering & fees.
FACT: Over 69% of Iowa equine owners trail ride on public land.
FACT: More than 50% of the direct expenditures bolstering the Iowa economy come from “hobby” horses ridden for enjoyment.
FACT: Horses in Iowa consume 1.4 billion pounds of hay & 436 million pounds of grain each year.
FACT: Iowa equine owners spend $503 million caring for equine, generating jobs & revenue in agriculture & agriculture service sector businesses such as equipment purchases, feed & bedding, veterinarian & farrier services, boarding, training & breeding fees, tack, grooming supplies, insurance, travel & lodging, capital improvements, advertising & other miscellaneous equine-related expenses.
FACT: Ten percent of Iowa equine owners have owned their equine less than 5 years while 40% have owned equine 30 or more years
FACT: 33% of equine owners will compete in some type of event during the year & 50% will attend an equine show, clinic and/or workshop.

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THE NATIONAL EQUINE INDUSTRY
FACT: There are 9.2 million equine in the U.S. valued at $10.3 billion, over 70% of which are involved in recreation or showing.
FACT: Equine rank as the fourth largest source of personal consumption for recreation in the United States.
FACT: 4.6 million Americans are involved in the industry as horse owners, service providers, employees & volunteers. Tens of millions more participate as spectators.
FACT: The industry has a $112.1 billion impact on the U.S. economy when the multiplier effect of spending by industry suppliers & employees is taken into account.
FACT: The equine industry pays $1.9 billion in taxes to all levels of government.

American Horse Council, 2005

THE FUTURE
Horse enthusiasts in Iowa face a number of challenges in the coming years. Zoning changes threaten to restrict areas allowing horses. Land use restrictions may limit the trails and recreational lands that are very critical to the vast majority of riders. Despite the challenges, there are many reasons for optimism. The outlook for the horse industry is bright and it will be advanced by the various Iowa equine organizations representing all facets of this immense and important industry.

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June, 2006