

# HORSE

## BREDS:

Arabian, Tennessee Walker, Thoroughbred, Morgan, Paint, Appaloosa, Hanoverian, Quarter Horse, Hackney, Belgian Draft, Friesian, Clydesdale, Hafinger, Andalusian

## HORSES 101

*Equus* is the scientific term used for modern-day equines (horses). There are more than 300 breeds of horses and ponies around the world! While many people think a pony is a small horse, horses and ponies are different, although related and quite similar. The main distinction between a horse and a pony is height. Ponies and horses also have different bone and muscle structures. Ponies tend to be stocky with shorter legs, wider chests, and heavier bones. Simply put, a horse is always a horse, and a pony is always a pony.

Modern-day equines are classified into four different groups that are based on their size. The four groups are miniatures, ponies, lightweight horses, and heavyweight horses (draft horses). Miniature horses are the smallest of the entire horse family and cannot exceed 34 inches when fully grown. Ponies must stand less than 58 inches high when fully grown and weigh less than 800 pounds. Lightweight horses have thin legs, small bones, and weigh less than 1,300 pounds. Heavyweight horses have thick, sturdy legs, large bones, and weigh more than 2,000 pounds.



HORSE



PONY



MINIATURE



PONY



LIGHTWEIGHT



HEAVYWEIGHT

## VOCABULARY

**COLT:** a young male horse.

**DRESSAGE:** a skilled style of training and riding.

**EQUINE:** any member of the *Equus* genus, or group of animals with hooves, slender legs, and a mane, including horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, and zebras.

**FARRIER:** a professional who trims horse hooves and changes horseshoes.

**FILLY:** a young female horse.

**FOAL:** a baby horse.

**GAIT:** the horse's motion of walking, stepping, or running.

**GELDING:** a male horse that is not used for breeding.

**HAND:** an ancient unit of measurement now standardized at four inches.

**HERD:** a group of horses.

**HIPPOLOGY:** the study of horses. Also, a contest for young horse lovers to test their knowledge of horses.

**MARE:** a female horse.

**MOUNT:** to get into the saddle of a horse by putting a foot in a stirrup and lifting the other leg over the saddle.

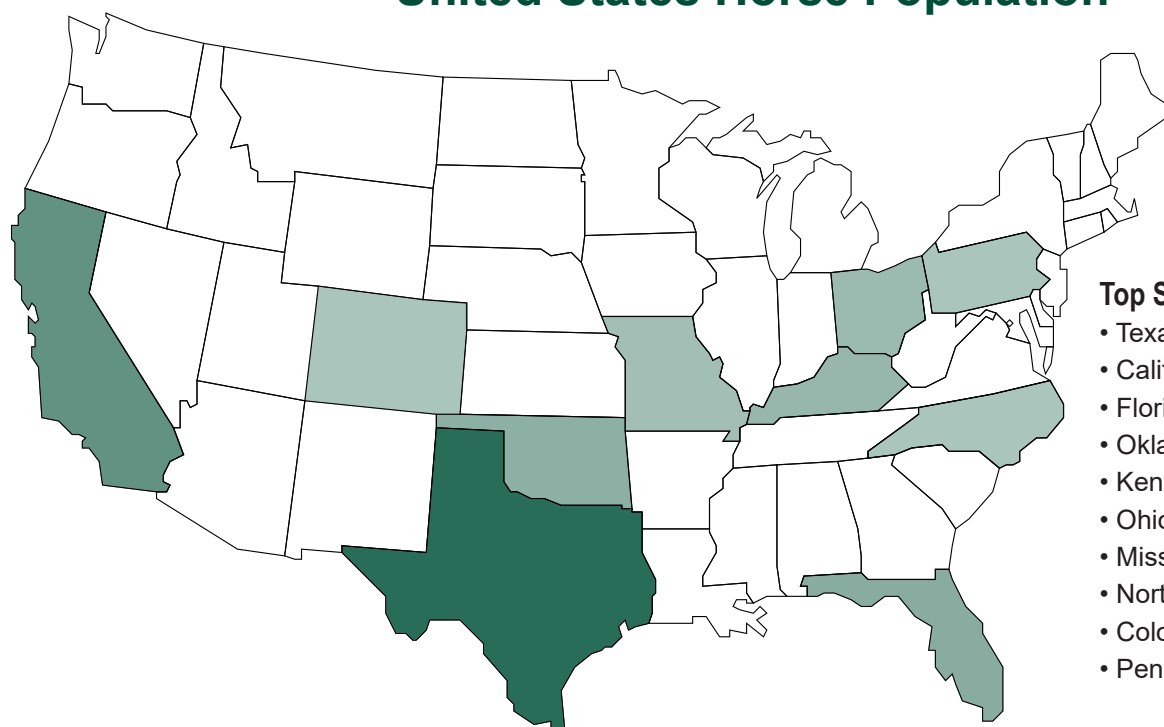
**MUSTANG:** wild horse of the Western Plains. "Mustang" means ownerless.

**STALLION:** a male horse used for breeding.

**TACK:** the equipment used to ride and care for a horse (bridle, saddles, etc.).

# HORSE

## United States Horse Population



**Illinois**  
Horse  
Population  
**178,000**

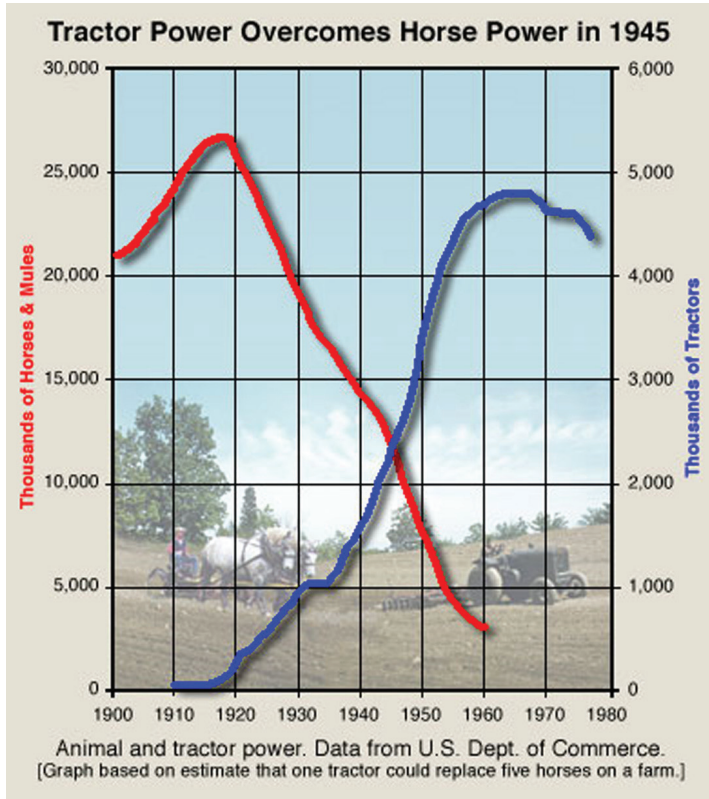
### Top States of Horse Population

- Texas: 767,100
- California: 534,500
- Florida: 387,100
- Oklahoma: 326,000
- Kentucky: 320,000
- Ohio: 307,000
- Missouri: 281,000
- North Carolina: 256,000
- Colorado: 256,000
- Pennsylvania: 256,000

## History of Horses

- **Ice Age**—Horses found across current Europe and Asia.
- **4000 BC**—Horses first domesticated.
- **770 AD**—Iron horseshoes first used to improve transportation by horses.
- **1206 AD**—Horses used by Genghis Kahn, leader of the Mongols, in warfare for first time.
- **1300s**—Medieval knights and horses in armor used to honor the kingdoms.
- **1800s**—Horses are an important part of settling the new frontier of American territories.
- **1860**—Pony Express established. It was a mail delivery system that ran from April 1860 to October 1861.
- **1863**—General Ulysses S. Grant rides his horse, Cincinnati, to Appomattox Court House to negotiate the end of the Civil War.
- **1875**—First Kentucky Derby Takes place. 10,000 spectators watch Aristited race 1.5 miles to win.
- **1914**—Horses played a valuable role in World War I.
- **1930s**—Entertainer Roy Rogers selects a palomino horse named Trigger to be his mount in film and on television through the 1950s.
- **1945**—Tractors replace horses as primary worker on American farms.
- **1960s**—Mr. Ed rises to stardom as a talking horse on a television show with the same name.
- **1963**—Black Jack is the name of the riderless black horse that leads the funeral of President John F. Kennedy.
- **1973**—Secretariat wins the US Triple Crown (Kentucky Derby, Belmont Stakes, and The Preakness Stakes). His records in each race still stand today.
- **1980s**—Safety became a key issue for horses and riders, especially rules regarding wearing riding helmets.
- **1996**—Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia included groundbreaking research into equine health at high temperatures.
- **2007**—The horse genome sequence was published. Medical advances made for treatment of various injuries.
- **2022**—9.2 million horses in the United States.

# HORSE



In the 1920s, only a few large farmers owned tractors. In the 1930s, farmers were strapped for cash by the Great Depression, just like the rest of the nation. But in the 1940s, there were fewer economic and war-related restrictions. During World War II (1941-1945), U.S. farm hands were drafted or enlisted to serve the war effort. The farmers who were left were making money, and equipment manufacturers were told that making tractors was a patriotic duty. The end of World War II (1945) was the end of the career for many horses on the farm. At the end of the war sales of tractors skyrocketed, and the number of horses used on farms decreased.

## HISTORY WAS WRITTEN ON THE BACK OF A HORSE

Historians say that the first tamed horses were used for riding and pulling carts and were a fixture of many ancient civilizations. The use of horses enabled faster communication and travel, as well as alliances in war situations. Horses also helped transform agriculture.

As settlers came to America, they depended on horses for transportation, to pull heavy wagons, and to help clear the land and plow the fields. Horses were often the only link between settlements and towns. Even after the rail systems were developed, horses were the most popular means of transportation. Our early street cars and fire engines were horse-powered. Before the popularity of motorized vehicles, nearly every American used horses in many daily activities.

### THE POWER OF A HORSE

Horses are great for working and running. They have strong teeth, sharp ears, keen eyes, and a good sense of smell. A horse has larger eyes than any other land animal, except ostriches. A horse can look forward with one eye and backward with the other eye. They have wide nostrils to help them breathe easily, and long, muscular legs that give them strength to pull loads and run at fast speeds.

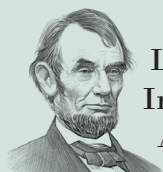
### HORSEPOWER

The term 'horsepower' was coined by the English engineer James Watt to mean how much work is done by an engine. Horsepower is a measure of force. Watt estimated the force of one horse, working eight hours a day, to be at 33,000 foot-pounds of pressure a minute. Watt concluded that a one-horsepower engine could pull about 50% more weight in a single day than one horse. Continued improvement of mechanical devices has further eliminated our reliance on horses for work.

The unit of measurement for power (the rate of doing work or transferring heat) is known as the Watt in honor of him.

### FACT:

The fastest Pony Express ride was **7 days, 17 hours** and was carrying President Lincoln's inaugural address.



Lincoln's Inaugural Address



## THE PONY EXPRESS

The Pony Express was a mail delivery system that ran from April 1860 to October 1861. Young men rode their horses at top speeds to deliver mail. At that time, mail took up to three weeks to travel from Missouri to California, so the public needed a better system. In the 18 months that the Pony Express was used, 183 different men delivered mail. Each rider covered 75 miles a day and they switched horses every 10 to 15 miles. Between 400 and 500 horses were used in the Pony Express system.

# HORSE CAREERS

Animal Nutritionist, Animal Geneticist, **Veterinarian**, Riding Instructor, Mounted Police Officer, Jockey, **Farrier**, Groom, Feed Salesman, **Exercise Manager**, Trainer, **Breeder**

## Economic Impact of the Horse Industry IN ILLINOIS

Total Value Added  
to the Illinois Economy

**\$2 billion**

Direct Contribution to GDP:

**\$1.1 billion**



Total Employment Impact:

**25,594 Jobs**

Direct Employment Impact:

**19,771 Jobs**

### The Racing Sector



Supports  
**9,565 jobs.**

Adds  
**\$766 million**  
in value to the  
state economy.



Racing Sector  
Total Economic Impact:

**\$1.15 billion**

### The Competition Sector



Total  
Economic  
Impact:

**\$630 million**



Supports  
**6,296 jobs.**

Adds  
**\$386 million**  
in value to the  
state economy.

### The Recreation Sector



Adds  
**\$269 million**  
in value to the  
state economy.

Total Economic  
Impact:

**\$429 million**



Supports  
**4,804 jobs.**

### The Equine Therapy Sector



Supports  
**275 jobs.**



Adds  
**\$12.6 million**  
in value to the  
state economy.



### Equine Rescues & Sanctuaries



Supports  
**275 jobs.**



Adds  
**\$12.6 million**  
in value to the  
state economy.

Horse Ownership, Equine Institutions & Profit Making Organizations, and Tourism Spending by Participants and Spectators combine for a

**\$3.23 billion economic impact**



used with permission of [www.horsecouncil.org](http://www.horsecouncil.org)