

Movement of U.S. Equids, 2005

Equids are transported throughout the United States and internationally. Understanding the economic and animal-health implications of equid movement is of vital importance to the equine industry. One goal of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Animal Health Monitoring System's (NAHMS) Equine 2005 study was to compare trends in the movement of equids from 1998 to 2005.

For the Equine 2005 study, NAHMS collected data on equine health and management practices from a representative sample of operations with 5 or more equids in 28 States within four regions.* The 28-State target population represented 78.0 percent of equids and 78.6 percent of operations with 5 or more equids in the United States. Interviews were conducted from July 18 through August 12, 2005, and 2,893 equine operations provided data on equine health and management.

Some estimates in this information sheet are compared to estimates from Equine '98, NAHMS' previous study of the U.S. equine industry. For the evaluation of changes and trends, the data used to generate estimates based on the Equine '98 study were re-analyzed to represent operations with five or more equids present on January 1, 1998. Therefore, estimates for comparing the two study periods are based on 3 points of commonality: same 28 States, data collection performed by National Agricultural Statistics Service enumerators, and same reference population of 5 or more equids.

Of operations participating in the Equine 2005 study, 40.3 percent identified their primary function as "farm/ranch" and 37.0 percent identified their primary function as "residence with equids for personal use." A resident equid was defined as an equid that spent or was expected to spend more time at the operation than at any other operation, whether or not it was present at the time of the interview. The operation was its home base.

*Regions:

West: California, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming

Northeast: New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania
South: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia

Central: Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin

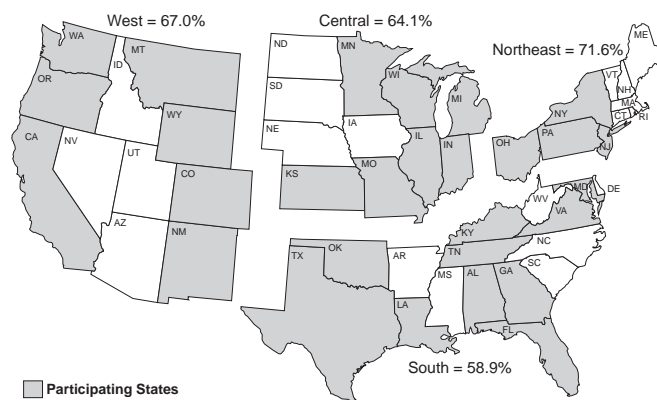
Movement of equids can pose the risk of introducing infectious disease. Both the Equine '98 and 2005 studies addressed movement of equids on and off equine facilities.

Results

The Equine 2005 study found that overall 63.4 percent of operations moved resident equids off the operation and back during the previous 12 months (whether or not by vehicle). This percentage is lower than that reported in Equine '98 where 80.7 percent of operations had moved equids off the operation and back. Operations with a primary function of farm/ranch work and residences with equids for personal use accounted for much of the difference, as these operations moved equids less frequently in 2005 than in 1998, and farm/ranch work operations accounted for a larger percentage of operations in 2005 than in 1998.

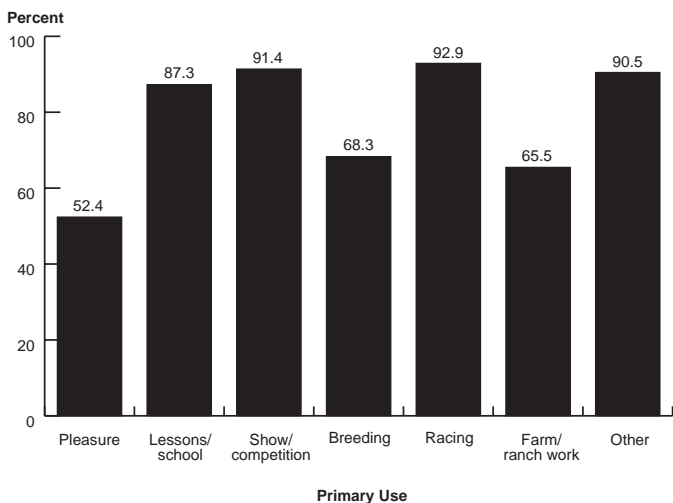
In 2005, the percentage of operations that moved resident equids off the operation and back varied by region, ranging from 58.9 percent in the South region to 71.6 percent in the Northeast region (see map below).

Percentage of Operations that Moved Resident Equids Off the Operation and Back (Whether or Not by Vehicle) During the Previous 12 Months, by Region-2005



The percentage of operations that moved resident equids off the operation and back also varied by primary use of equids, ranging from 52.8 percent of operations where the primary use of equids was pleasure to 92.9 percent of operations where the primary use was racing (figure 1).

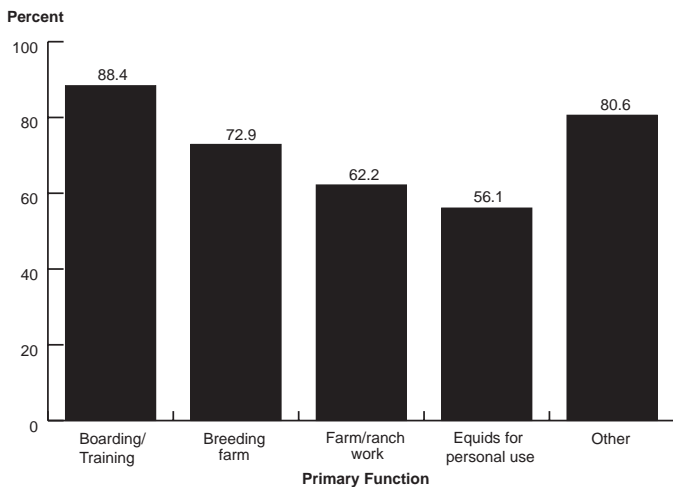
Figure 1. Percentage of Operations that Moved Resident Equids Off the Operation and Back During the Previous 12 Months, by Primary Use of Equids-2005



A higher percentage of large operations (20 or more equids) moved resident equids off the operation and back compared to medium (10 to 19 equids) and small (5 to 9 equids) operations (79.4, 72.5, and 58.2 percent respectively).

A higher percentage of operations with a primary function of boarding/training and breeding farm (88.4 and 72.9 percent, respectively) moved resident equids off the operation and back compared to operations with a primary function of farm/ranch work and residence with equids for personal use (figure 2.)

Figure 2. Percentage of Operations that Moved Resident Equids off the Operation and Back During the Previous 12 Months, by Primary Function of Operation-2005



One-third of all operations (32.9 percent) reported a maximum one-way distance resident equids traveled and returned of less than 100 miles, while 8.3 percent reported a maximum one-way distance of 500 miles or more. Approximately one of four operations where the primary use of equids was show/competition and racing, (27.6 percent and 21.4 percent, respectively) reported

that resident equids traveled a maximum one-way distance of 500 miles or more.

The percentage of operations that transported any resident equids by vehicle off the home operation and returned during the previous 12 months decreased from 73.5 percent in 1998 to 58.4 percent in 2005. Of those operations in 2005 that transported equids by vehicle, the majority (94.8 percent) transported equids at least once within State, and 41.7 percent made 10 or more trips within State. Approximately one-third of operations that transported equids by vehicle (34.3 percent) transported equids to an adjacent State, and 11.9 percent transported equids beyond adjacent States. Less than 1 percent of operations transported equids to Canada (0.7 percent), Mexico (0.3 percent), or outside North America (0.2 percent).

In 2005, 19.0 percent of operations had nonresident equid visitors that stayed for less than 30 consecutive days, which was similar to the percentage reported in 1998 (20.9 percent).

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