

## Equine Movement and Disposition of U.S. Equids, 2015

Equids are transported throughout the United States and internationally. Understanding the economic and animal health implications of equine movement is of vital importance to the equine industry.

As part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Animal Health Monitoring System's (NAHMS) Equine 2015 study, data were collected regarding equine health and management practices from a representative sample of operations with 5 or more equids in 28 States within 4 regions.<sup>1</sup> The 28 States represented 71.8 percent of all equids in the United States and 72.1 percent of all U.S. farms with equids. The 28-State target population represented 71.6 percent of all equids on farms with 5 or more equids and 70.9 percent of farms with 5 or more equids in the United States.

More detailed information on the study design and sampling methodology is available in NAHMS Equine 2015 tabular summary reports at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/nahms>.

One goal of the Equine 2015 study was to gather information on equine movement on and off equine facilities. Moving equids can pose the risk of introducing infectious disease.

### Results

Overall, 57.8 percent of operations transported any resident equids<sup>2</sup> by vehicle off the operation and back in the previous 12 months. The percentage of operations that transported resident equids off the operation and back by vehicle varied by region, ranging from 50.0 percent in the Southeast region to 70.0 percent in the West region (figure 1).

#### <sup>1</sup> States/Regions:

**West:** Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, Oregon, Wyoming

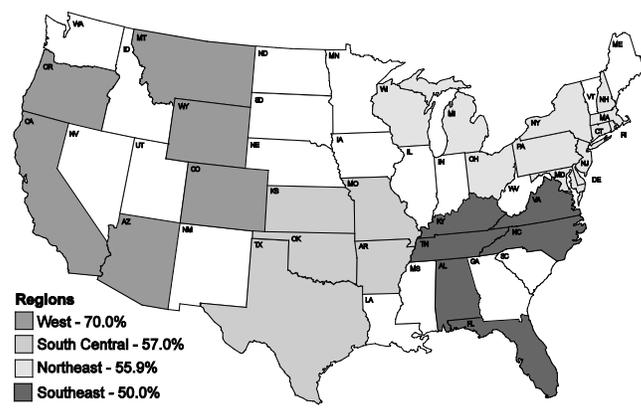
**South Central:** Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas

**Northeast:** Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Wisconsin

**Southeast:** Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia

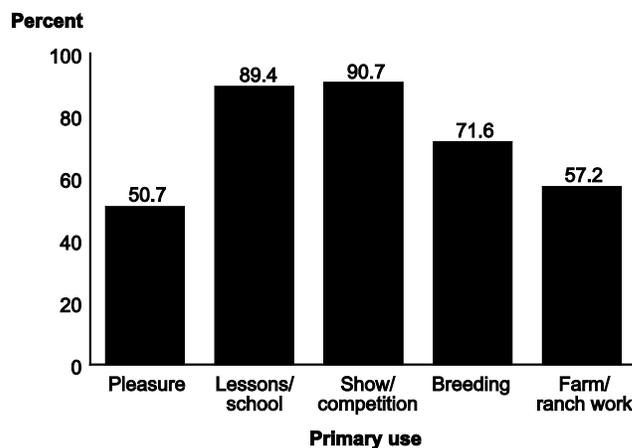
<sup>2</sup> For this study, a resident equid was defined as an equid that spent or was expected to spend more time on the operation than on any other operation.

**Figure 1. Percentage of operations in which any resident equids were transported off the operation by vehicle for any reason and then returned in the previous 12 months, by region**



The percentage of operations that transported any resident equids off the operation and back also varied by primary use of equids, ranging from 50.7 percent of operations that primarily used equids for pleasure to 90.7 percent of operations that primarily used equids for showing/competition, not betting (figure 2).

**Figure 2. Percentage of operations in which any resident equids were transported off the operation by vehicle for any reason and then returned in the previous 12 months, by primary use of equids**



A higher percentage of large operations (20 or more equids) transported any resident equids off the operation and back by vehicle compared with small (5 to 9 equids) and medium (10 to 19 equids) operations (78.5, 51.1, and 67.8 percent, respectively).

For operations that transported any resident equids by vehicle, half reported a maximum one-way distance equids traveled and returned of less than 100 miles, while 14.1 percent reported a maximum one-way distance of 500 miles or more. Approximately one-third of operations on which the primary use of equids was show/competition, not betting (33.1 percent) reported that resident equids traveled a maximum one-way distance of 500 miles or more.

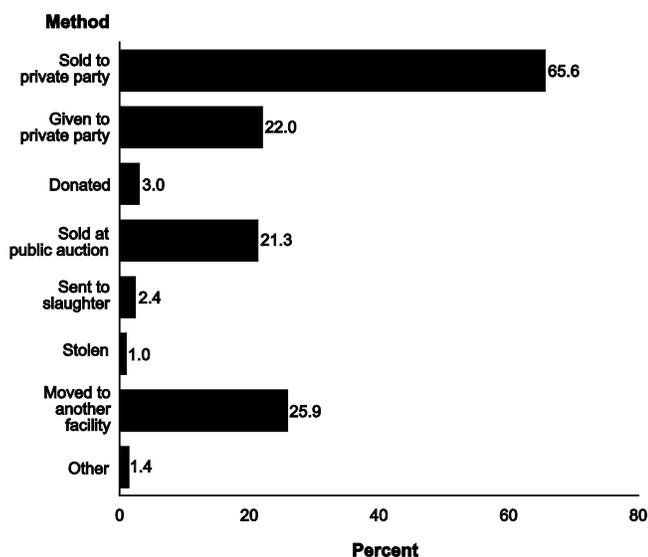
For operations that transported any resident equids by vehicle, 29.7 percent transported equids to an adjacent State, and 11.8 percent transported equids beyond adjacent States but within the United States. Less than 1 percent of operations transported equids to Canada (0.8 percent), Mexico (0.1 percent), or outside North America (0.7 percent).

## Disposition

Approximately one-fourth of all operations (24.6 percent) permanently removed one or more resident equids. A higher percentage of operations in the Northeast region (30.7 percent) removed one or more resident equids than operations in the South Central region (20.0 percent).

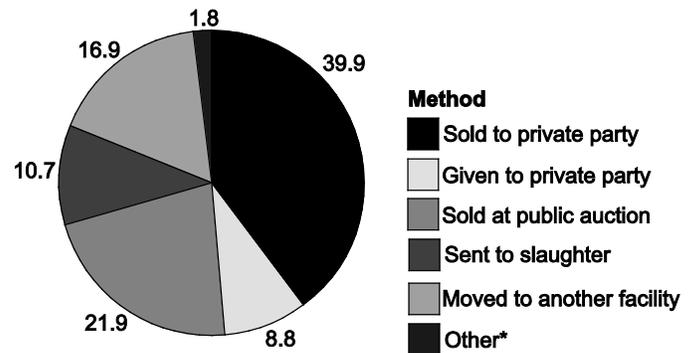
For operations that permanently removed resident equids, the majority sold resident equids to a private party (65.6 percent). Other common means of permanent removal included moved to another facility, given to a private party, and sold at public auction (figure 3).

**Figure 3. For the 24.6 percent of operations that permanently removed any resident equids in the previous 12 months, percentage of operations by method(s) of removal**



The majority of permanently removed resident equids were sold either to private party or at public auction (39.9 and 21.9 percent of permanently removed equids, respectively) [figure 4].

**Figure 4. Percentage of permanently removed resident equids, by method of removal**



\*Includes donated, stolen, and other specified.

Equids are commonly moved for competition, breeding, sale, and pleasure, such as transport to trailheads on public lands. The size and primary use of equids impact the likelihood of equine movement by vehicle. Most operations that had resident equids permanently leave the operation sold them to a private party.

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