



# Maryland Horse Forum 2019

*"Taking the reins of the industry's future"*

## Final Report

August 8, 2019  
Goucher College, Baltimore, MD

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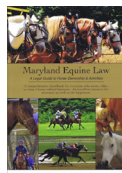
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Anne Litz, Maryland Horse Industry Board

Jennifer Reynolds, University of Maryland Equine Studies Program

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## Maryland Department of Agriculture

*Office of the Secretary*

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Dear Maryland Horse Community,

As a Maryland farmer, I have always known our state to have a strong equine presence; but as your Maryland Agriculture Secretary since 2015, I have learned just how critical our horse sector is to the overall success of our state agriculture industry and the entire state of Maryland.

Maryland is home to more horses per square mile than any other state. From horseracing and competitions to the nearly 800 stables that teach lessons, board horses, and provide therapeutic riding opportunities for thousands of Marylanders — our state equine industry is thriving.



A 2018 economic impact study by the American Horse Council found Maryland's horse industry adds more than \$1.3 billion to Maryland's economy and impacts more than 21,000 jobs. Additionally, the study found that 705,000 acres of land in Maryland are used for horse-related purposes, helping to keep valuable farmland in production.

The Maryland Horse Forum, held every five years, convenes over 200 equestrian leaders and stakeholders to discuss current issues facing the industry and ways to ensure its future prosperity. From educating the public about horses at the 40 established Horse Discovery Centers around the state to upgrading the Maryland Horse Park System through improvement projects like Fair Hill International — we have made strides in strengthening the industry since the last forum in 2014.

The Maryland Horse Forum serves as a reminder of just how passionate and dedicated our state's horse enthusiasts are. My sincerest thank you to everyone who participated in the 2019 forum, because of your commitment to the industry, Maryland will remain a world-class equestrian epicenter for years to come.

Sincerely,

Joseph Bartenfelder  
Maryland Secretary of Agriculture



## Maryland Department of Agriculture

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Animal Industries and Consumer Services

Larry Hogan, Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

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Dear Maryland Horse Enthusiast,

On August 8, 2019, more than 250 caring and committed leaders in Maryland's equestrian community gathered at Goucher College to share knowledge, experience, ideas and concerns, with the ultimate goal of helping shape the future of the Maryland horse industry.

This was the fourth Maryland Horse Forum, which has been held every five years since 2004. This year in an effort to empower our young leaders, the event was co-chaired by Anne Litz from the Maryland Horse Industry Board and Jennifer Reynolds, from the University of Maryland Equine Studies program.

Led by the newly-formed Maryland Equine Transition Services (METS) program as presenting sponsor, a total of 29 equine organizations and businesses underwrote the event, held for the first time at Goucher, which is renowned nationally for its intercollegiate riding team.

Previous ideas that have been discussed at the Forum and then pursued include the development of a Maryland Horse Park System, now coming to fruition with the initial \$25M development at Fair Hill; a strategic marketing plan for MHIB which spawned the Horse Discovery Center and Touch of Class Awards programs; how to deal with the unwanted horse population, which helped result in the METS program, land use and much more.

Please read the action items emanating from this year's Forum in three main areas: Participation, Promotion and Education; Horse-Keeping and Welfare; and Land Use, Legislative and Liability. Various groups within the industry are being tasked to study the concerns and recommendations for each of these topics; create a follow up report; and then put these ideas into practice by the time the next Forum rolls around in 2024.

Our profound thank you to Dr. Amy Burk, tenured chair of the University of Maryland Equine Studies Department and her staff and students for compiling the information and then authoring this report.

Please feel free to contact and add your voices, ideas and energy to the groups working to find solutions to these many challenges.

Thank you for your commitment to Maryland's horses and horse people.

Neil Agate  
President, MD Horse Council

Jim Steele  
Chair, MD Horse Industry Board



## Executive Summary

### Overview

The Maryland horse industry is a vibrant and robust economic driver in the State of Maryland that encompasses a diverse array of people, land uses, businesses, and equestrian activities. Like many agricultural industries, the Maryland horse industry faces a multitude of challenges that may, if unaddressed, pose a significant threat to the future prosperity and growth of the industry. Therefore, every five years, the Maryland Horse Industry Board along with its industry partners, hosts a one-day statewide open forum to bring together representatives from all sectors of the industry to devise strategies to counter current issues facing the horse industry.

This year's event, the 4th Maryland Horse Forum, was held on August 8, 2019 at Goucher College and had over 250 people in attendance. A pre-forum survey of Maryland horse industry participants helped identify the most pressing issues they felt needed to be discussed which included 1) participation, promotion, and education, 2) horse-keeping and welfare, and 3) land use, legislation, and liability. The following is a condensed summary of the key issues, proposed action items, and suggested follow-up from the twelve discussion sessions at the Maryland Horse Forum.



Committee member Beverly Raymond (far right) of the MHIB checks in with attendees at the Horse Forum



## Participation, Promotion, and Education

### Key issues:

- There is a general feeling of concern by horse industry participants that the general public sees the horse industry as either elitist, expensive, hard to access, abusive, and of little consequence to the state.
- More needs to be done to communicate the significance of the horse industry as it relates to Maryland's economy, cultural and historic heritage, and health and well-being of its horses and human participants.
- Information specifically related to the care, management, and enjoyment of horses is in many places and hard to find on the internet.
- Need to update the 2010 Maryland Equine Census to address the current numbers and broken down by counties

### Action items:

- Increase promotion efforts clarifying the value and significance of the horse industry to create a more positive opinion by the public
- Create a one-stop online information resource in regards to care, management, and enjoyment of the Maryland horse.
- Increase promotion of existing youth horse programs to increase youth participation in the industry
- Encourage more organizations and businesses to develop internships as a way to recruit and train the future workforce.
- Engage in efforts that preserve and protect The Preakness Stakes in Maryland.

### Follow Up:

- Assigned to the Maryland Horse Foundation, University of Maryland Equine Studies, Maryland Horse Industry Leadership & Marketing Roundtable, comprised of more than a dozen industry organizations that meets informally most months, as well as other interested parties.

## Horse-Keeping and Welfare

### Key issues:

- There continues to be a great deal of horses in need of transition to new owners
- The cost of keeping horses is increasing and horse ownership is becoming less of an option for more people
- Education and planning resources regarding end of life decisions for horses is lacking
- More needs to be done to reduce catastrophic injuries to racehorses

### Action items:

- Develop a robust and wide-ranging network of participants willing to help a horse in need of transition
- An industry-wide initiative should occur to prepare the entire industry for handling disease outbreaks and natural disasters along with existing emergency response teams in MD. Within this plan, large equestrian venues with high horse traffic (racetracks, fairgrounds, show complexes) are encouraged to develop biosecurity plans. In addition, a broad industry-wide communication strategy should be developed between private horse owners, equine businesses, and public equestrian facilities in regards to disease outbreaks/emergencies
- The Maryland Jockey Club is encouraged to be more transparent in the efforts they are currently engaged in to ensure racehorse welfare
- Support a statewide effort to streamline animal control laws regarding abused and neglected horses is needed

### Follow Up:

- Assigned to the MHIB Welfare Committee, METS, Beyond the Wire, Maryland Racing Commission Safety Committee, Equine Welfare Committee, MD Fund for Horses and other interested parties

## Land Use, Legislative, and Liability

### Key issues:

- Loss of farmland and recreational open spaces to development for non-agricultural uses drives up prices of farmland, eliminates equestrian activities, and keeps new horse farm owners from starting equestrian businesses in Maryland.
- Making a living in the horse industry is become more difficult due to horse care costs including horse and farm insurance
- Horse owners need a better understanding of what resources are currently available to them regarding land preservation, zoning regulations, and legislative topics
- Lack of consistency across county in relation to laws regulating practices related to horse husbandry land preservation, zoning regulations, and legislative topics

### Action items:

- Increase incentives and regulations to keep farmland being used for agricultural purpose
- Improve education and outreach regarding land preservation programs and zoning regulations
- Enhance education and outreach in equine business management to increase profitability
- Increase communication of horse industry needs through annual horse industry day in Annapolis and local grass roots efforts
- Continue to stymie laws allowing Sunday hunting
- Work with insurance providers to bundle rates for participants in the Maryland horse industry
- Elimination of redundancies in stable licensing between county and state programs
- Explore ways to lower insurance costs for farm and business operators

### Follow Up:

- Assigned to the Maryland Horse Council, Maryland Horse Breeders Association, the Maryland Jockey Club, lobbyist representatives and other interested parties



Goucher's Equestrian Director Jen Smith and Rocky, a horse to teach in the Goucher Riding Program



### Maryland Horse Forum Planning Committee Co-chairs

Anne Litz, Maryland Horse Industry Board  
Jennifer Reynolds, University of Maryland  
Equine Studies Program



Steuart Pittman on Salute the Truth

## Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman's Forum Speech Video Transcript

*Congratulations to all of my friends who produced the 2019 Maryland Horse Forum. I wish I could be with you in person. This new job as Anne Arundel County Executive has taken me pretty far away from the horse industry. So far away that I am starting to see horses and horse sports through the eyes of the average Marylander.*

*I've gotten just enough distance that I can confirm what I've always suspected. Y'all are crazy.*

*When your horse has a little stone bruise, you are the one who suffers. You get massage and chiropractic done on your horse, but can't afford to see your own dentist. You fall off and break bones on a regular basis. Like politicians, you spend more time shoveling manure than you do in the saddle. The crazy part is that what I've just said doesn't offend you. You are probably chuckling with pride.*

*That's because the sacrifices that you make for your horses are born of the love that you have for them. The nurturing and the care that you provide to your animals are the essence of horse ownership and horse sports. It fulfills you. Most people on the outside don't see any of that. What they see is a powerful creature that obediently serves its master. For most of the last few hundred years that image has been romantic and inspiring. For most people it still is.*

*But today we have a growing segment of society that see what you do with your horse as manipulation, or even as abuse, of an innocent animal for pleasure. It's terrible, they say, that people make those horses jump, or make those horses run. And of course you roll your eyes and say, "look at the blisters on my hands from trying to slow the old bugger down."*

*It's frustrating. I know, but if there's one thing I've learned in politics it's, before you open your mouth, try to understand the perspective of the person you're talking to. Actually, horses taught me the same thing. Get into the horse's mind before trying to have any influence.*

*So that growing segment of the population that sees a horse with a rider on its back as a victim, is obviously working from a set of assumptions very different from yours. What matters is that just like you, those folks care about horses. They are feeling a bit of the same passion that you feel. They are actually yearning to connect with the horse the way you do.*

*If you can accept what I just said, then suddenly the horse industry has growth potential beyond what most of us have imagined. We just need to tell the right story. Here is how I see the story of people and horses. It is the story of relationships. It's how a human being chooses to listen, to wait, to build trust, to nurture and support. It's how a powerful beast, a part of nature, accepts a human being into its world. It is how that beast teaches honesty, loyalty, trust, and work ethic to a modern human race that desperately needs to re-learn those lessons.*

*It's a story we can tell at racetracks, at horse shows, at Discovery Centers, at Fair Hill, in art, in clinics, and on farms.*

*It's already been told in books and movies, and when it's told well it sells.*

*Why bother, I'm sometimes asked. Who cares if the horse industry grows or shrinks?*

**Here is why it matters.** *First*, a well managed horse pasture is second only to a forest in its ability to filter nutrients from stormwater that will go to our streams and our Bay. *Second* is simple. Jobs. Thousands and thousands of jobs. *Third* is big. Horses make us better people. Whether they are keeping restless teenagers out of trouble, healing veterans who have suffered from PTSD, or setting an example of tenacity and hard work by winning a Triple Crown, these animals bring out the best in us.

*So please know that your service to the horses in your care and the industry that supports horses is not only giving meaning to your life, but is also making the world a better place.*

*And thank you for giving me the opportunity to share these thoughts.*

*- Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman*

## Introduction to the Session Reports

The Maryland horse industry is a vibrant, historically significant, and economically valuable part of Maryland. It is large in size and scope and its equestrian activities intersect Maryland's urban, suburban, and rural landscapes. There is also much diversity in the industry including the type of people and how they participate, breeds and uses of horses, types of private and public equestrian facilities, and the businesses that provide goods and services. The Maryland horse industry contributes thousands of jobs and billions of dollars to the Maryland economy on an annual basis. In addition, its recreational activities provide Maryland citizens with an enhanced quality of life, health, and well-being.

In an effort to form a more unified message to the general public and to legislators in Annapolis, the Maryland Horse Industry Board created the first ever Maryland Horse Forum in 2004. With each forum comes a final report that outlines the industry's action plans for the next 5 years. Since the last horse forum in 2014, numerous efforts have been created to ensure the prosperity and growth of the industry including the creation of forty Horse Discovery Centers, a monthly "Touch of Class" industry award, an increase in horse farms enrolled in land stewardship certification programs, a redevelopment of equestrian activities at Fair Hill, and the formation of the Maryland Equine Transition Service which helps transition horses to new owners.

Also since the last horse forum 5 years ago, much has happened in Maryland and the world. The local and national economy has enjoyed steady growth including the addition of jobs. However, climate change has led to more unpredictable weather for our horse farmers in Maryland including violent storms, droughts, and floods. Farmland continues to be lost to suburban development at a rate that threatens survival of equestrian activities in many parts of the state. For now, a career in the horse industry remains a viable way of life for thousands of individuals, and the horse industry remains a major factor in Maryland's agriculture.

The following report was developed to summarize the current issues facing the future viability of the Maryland horse industry and recommended action items to combat those issues. As such, this document may serve as a roadmap for the Maryland horse industry to follow for the next 5 years.



Maryland Horse Forum 2019  
Final Report



**2019 MARYLAND HORSE FORUM AGENDA**

Thursday, August 8, 2019  
Goucher College, Baltimore, MD

8:00 am	Registration, Light Refreshments in Rosenberg Gallery		
9:00 am	9 AM Welcoming Remarks in Kraushaar Auditorium		
<b>Location Topics</b>	<b>Merrick Hall Participation, Promotion, Education</b>	<b>Kraushaar Auditorium Horse-keeping and Welfare</b>	<b>Kelley Lecture Hall Land use, Legislature, and Liability</b>
9:30 am - 10:30am	<b>Perception of the Horse Industry</b> <i>What is the current perception of our horse industry? How does that differ from what we know to be true? How do we address this as an industry?</i>	<b>Unwanted Horses in Need of Transition</b> <i>What is in place to help with those horses who can no longer be kept by current owners? What more needs to be done in this area?</i>	<b>Land Use and Availability</b> <i>How can we keep horse farms, horse farms? Discuss land preservation options and how to keep land available for next generations with limited space and increasing development.</i>
10:45 am - 11:45am	<b>Recruiting and Retaining the Next Generation</b> <i>How do we move people from being intrigued to invested in the Horse Industry? What are barriers to participation and how do we overcome them?</i>	<b>Safeguarding our Horses' Health</b> <i>How are infectious disease outbreaks communicated to horse owners and event managers? What else do horse owners need to know?</i>	<b>Existing Regulations Affecting Horse Owners</b> <i>What are the current regulation issues in your area? What are the best ways to address zoning and environmental challenges to horse farms?</i>
12pm-1pm	Lunch and Networking: Cafeteria		
1:15 pm - 2:15pm	<b>Protection and Use of Recreational Riding Spaces</b> <i>How can we drive home the importance of maintaining horse trails and show facilities for the overall community? How do we make horse facilities attractive and well used by horse people?</i>	<b>Doing Better by our Horses</b> <i>Where should we concentrate our efforts regarding welfare concerns? Are we transitioning our horses well? Legislation versus educating welfare: what is the best for our horses?</i>	<b>Legislation Affecting the Industry</b> <i>Discuss what legislation will come up in the next session, what horse owners should be aware of, and how to be involved. What issues do you think should be in front of our legislators?</i>
2:30 pm - 3:30pm	<b>Education Availability and Impact</b> <i>What is currently available? What kind(s) of education are horse people looking for? How do people want to receive information? Are we educating for the jobs that are out there?</i>	<b>Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse</b> <i>Perception of Horse Racing, reality, and moving forward. What does Maryland have in place to ensure Racehorse welfare? What more could be done at the different levels?</i>	<b>Economics, Insurance and Liability for Horse Owners</b> <i>What are the biggest issues involving insurance and liability facing horse owners and businesses? What are the economic challenges with operating a horse business? What help do horse owners and business need from the Maryland Horse Industry?</i>
3:30pm	Summary Remarks and Touch of Class Presentation to Kaymarie Kreidell		
4 pm - 6 pm	Reception Sponsored by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association. Music by the George Mayo Family Band Doorprize give aways of a Blower and Push Mower from Equine Equipment at 4:30 - Must be present to win! Tours of Goucher College & Stables Available		

marylandhorseforum.com

# Session Reports

## Participation, Promotion, Education

### Perception of the Horse Industry (Audience=68)

#### Concerns:

- Lack of diversity with respect to race and ethnicity within the horse industry.
- Negative news events are the ones most shared, and focused on heavily by the public and media.
- Hard for the industry to mount a public relations campaign due to costs.
- Financial barriers make access to industry and participation difficult.
- Maryland is not generally regarded as a “horse state” as it should be by the public, however Fair Hill could bring more National and International promotion.
- There is a sense of apathy, lack of focus on the industry by the public.
- The perception of horse people in general is negative (crazy horse people, focused heavily on one thing, elite group).
- There is a public perception of horse sports being “dirty”, widespread doping of horses, abuse of animals, etc.
- Public and legislatures falsely believe horse industry members should not receive financial assistance for anything because they are rich enough to pay for it themselves.
- Industry is often perceived as exclusive rather than friendly and inclusive.
- The public lacks knowledge that there is a robust horse industry in the state.
- The public does not understand how diverse the industry is with respect to types and uses of horses, riding disciplines, jobs, support industries, participant age and income, etc.
- The general public does not understand the environmental benefits and emotional benefits of the horse industry and equine interactions.
- People do not know how many horses we have in Maryland, and how (and by what routes) they can be accessed by the public.
- Backyard horsemen are the backbone of the industry yet lack resources and a voice in the industry.
- The Horseland Tent at MD State Fair lacks industry participation, despite it being critical to our outreach mission.
- Overall, the industry requires more participation (both internal and external) to promote, educate, and change negative perceptions of the industry.

## **Recommendations:**

- ★ Ensure public and our own members are aware that Maryland has a vibrant and robust horse industry that is a leader and role model for other states.
- ★ Make horses available to groups that normally do not have the ability to interact with horses (e.g. library, senior homes).
- ★ The Horseland tent at MD State Fair reaches 50,000 people and is a resource that needs to be utilized as a great education tool for the public.
- ★ Leave our farms and go out into the public to promote the horse industry.
- ★ Develop horse farm volunteer programs for high-schoolers.
- ★ Increase advertising and marketing of our industry to the general public.
- ★ Use simple messages to promote the horse industry to the public.
- ★ Use grass roots efforts to promote 4-H, Pony clubs, FFA and other youth organizations to non-riding youth.
- ★ Use our voice to communicate our message, not let someone else talk for us.
- ★ Engage association members to reach out to them for support (AQHA, FEI, APHA, etc). Encourage reaching farther into associations and other connections.
- ★ Put together a PR committee to promote the industry properly and accurately.
- ★ Make the public aware of issues in the industry, like loss of farmland.
- ★ Make known the options that the industry has for participation, careers, and support.
- ★ The racing sector needs to improve their promotion of their good welfare practices via social media and their website. The web presence is antiquated. They need to direct the conversation better.
- ★ Control our message better by utilizing a PR firm to change mainstream perceptions.
- ★ Encourage grassroots efforts in improving communication at the local and state level.
- ★ Promote the horse industry. It is thriving, and important.
- ★ Increase educational opportunities and make them more readily available.
- ★ Develop training programs that provide an entry into the equine industry.
- ★ Public riding opportunities should be available and affordable for all.
- ★ Provide education for industry jobs.
- ★ Increase outreach to youth about educational and professional opportunities.
- ★ Provide education for members of the horse industry.
- ★ Utilize libraries and schools for educational programs about the horse industry.
- ★ Establish statewide educational standards for riding instructors.
- ★ Utilize the county and state fairs as an outreach opportunity.
- ★ Partner with businesses to encourage non-traditional internships (not strictly equine science).
- ★ Promote horse discovery centers to the public and within the industry.
- ★ Travel the world and experience the horse industry in other areas, to better recognize the incredible opportunities we have in Maryland.
- ★ Promote diversity within and outside the industry.

### *Continued Recommendations for Perception of the Horse Industry*

- ★ Connect health and wellness to horse ownership and riding.
- ★ Reach out to the entertainment industry to increase the inclusion of horses in that media.
- ★ Encourage our members to collaborate across disciplines, businesses, organizations, youth groups, barns, etc. for the mutual benefit of each other, our horses, and the industry.
- ★ Foster interdisciplinary unity and inter-relations. Trail riders should invite other groups (4-H, pony club, etc) to trail ride.
- ★ Continue to unify the industry to have a common voice and improved communication.
- ★ Bring back horsemanship.
- ★ Need to raise awareness about the horse world being an “industry”.

## **Recruiting and Retaining the Next Generation (Audience=84)**

### **Concerns:**

- ➔ Children are naturally drawn to horses, but to engage those children the whole family needs to be engaged.
- ➔ Millennials don't often want to farm so we are running into a generational issue of who wants to do the hard work of farming.
- ➔ Investment doesn't stop at horses, its every aspect of horse ownership including land stewardship and horse care.
- ➔ Financial barriers are restrictive. Horses need to be more than a hobby, because a living cannot be made off of horses, the economics of horses needs to be transformed.
- ➔ Riding disciplines have become more segregated from each other. Need to increase exposure, sampling, and support across equine disciplines.
- ➔ Dense populations of people are far removed from horses and horse farms.
- ➔ Youth are intimidated by horses and riding because they lack knowledge about them.
- ➔ There is a lack of familiarity amongst parents about the benefits of having youth participate in horse care and riding.
- ➔ Industry needs to focus on retaining its participants by appreciating that some clients and/or horses are better suited for other disciplines.





## **Recommendations:**

- ★ Increase field trips of youth to horse discovery centers and other educational horse industry locations.
- ★ Create vocational and scholarship opportunities for youth even as early as K-8.
- ★ Increase the number of horse-related programs to students in local high schools.
- ★ Create a speaker's forum, such as on the MD Horse Council website so schools can easily find people to come and speak about horses.
- ★ Empower youth to learn more about horses and to become involved in the industry.
- ★ Use Maryland Horse Discovery Center/Maryland Horse Industry Board curriculum in schools to teach not only about horses, but life skills as well.
- ★ Repurpose a school bus to make a mobile teaching lab.
- ★ Promote the variety of careers in the horse industry to the rising generation to show that they can make a living with horses, through a variety of ways.
- ★ Create a mentorship program for youth.
- ★ Encourage horse industry participants to be willing train individuals new to the industry that have no experience.
- ★ Support the Equiery in creating a directory of internships by creating those opportunities and sending them the information.
- ★ Focus our efforts on increasing social media presence and promotion. Use Instagram, social media, advertising.
- ★ Tap into youth that use technology to fulfill their equine interests via apps and online horse games.
- ★ Increase the number of spokespeople delivering one message to encourage people to get involved.
- ★ Understand that we need to reach out to both people already invested in the industry and those who have never worked with horses.
- ★ Get out of comfort zones and take horses to non-conventional locations.
- ★ Open our farms to people that are interested in what we do. Be inclusive of people who want to be involved in our close knit community, to gain confidence, and gain physiological benefits.
- ★ Increase the number of horse discovery centers and programs like them that allow people to come and experience horses.
- ★ Start recruiting youth when they are young because it is that stage where there is the most beneficial entry point in the industry.
- ★ Ask that barns partner with 4-H, Pony Club, and Future Farmers of American clubs to increase education and participation with youth.
- ★ Increase free educational opportunities and farm open houses.
- ★ Increase the number of horse facilities closer to Baltimore City. Revive historical parks and buildings with support from local community and state.

## Protection and Use of Recreational Riding Spaces (Audience=33)

### Concerns:

- Inconsistent trail etiquette causes confusion.
- There is a lack of public knowledge of Department of Natural Resources and Trail Riders of Today maps.
- Legal entry points to trails need to be enforced.
- No real time updates for trails.
- There is a lack of volunteers maintaining trails.
- Different footing is needed for various disciplines at different facilities. This is an expensive challenge.
- Equine-only facilities are not valued by the non-equine community.
- Horse facilities are not well promoted and are not seen as economic drivers within the community.
- Not every county has its own equestrian facility that can be made available to the riding public.
- Equestrian youth are not given the same access to public parkland as other youth sports (soccer, softball, etc.).
- Department of Natural Resources is understaffed.
- Some equestrian facilities, like Prince George's Equestrian Center, are underutilized. Why?
- Suburban sprawl eliminates use of public lands for equestrian activities.
- Costly access fees for some equestrian facilities prohibits their use.



## **Recommendations:**

- ★ Open up public owned lands (local, state, and federal) not available to hikers and bikers available to horseback riders. These massive properties are closed to any use because they're not suitable for bikers/hikers but could be riding trails.
- ★ Allow horse trails to be multipurpose (hiking, walking, biking, and riding), therefore encouraging the whole community to maintain those trails and be educated on proper etiquette.
- ★ Have a plan in place when using public trails and educate on proper trail riding practices.
- ★ Advertise health and welfare benefits of trail riding for both horses and humans to the community. Ensure that zoning and planning officials understand the need for these places, especially if they are multi-use.
- ★ Initiate an "adopt a trail" program.
- ★ Make trail access by horseback available, which may require county and state cooperation.
- ★ Find more funding to pay people as opposed to relying on volunteers for trail upkeep.
- ★ Post signs at beginning of trails with emergency numbers, location, and owner/overseeing body of the property.
- ★ Continue to work with private landowners and Department of Natural Resources for trail maintenance and promotion.
- ★ Showcase trails to horse people from other disciplines. Encourage them to use them and get out and enjoy these spaces that they may not usually use.
- ★ Make horse riding facilities more attractive by setting standards for facilities (e.g. must have bathrooms, fencing should be safe, footing should be safe, etc.).
- ★ Improve public horse facilities by offering better trailer parking, covered arenas for all-weather use, so that more groups can use them and they are more appealing to others.
- ★ Encourage public to support the use of public funds to create public riding facilities by allowing non-equestrian use of the facility (e.g. farmer's markets, graduations, etc).
- ★ Make public and local government aware that equestrian facilities spur economic development of local businesses and tax income to the city and state.
- ★ Create grant programs for horse farms operators so that they increase the use of their facility and/or improve access into their facility by the public.
- ★ Add county economic figures and stats to annual report so that county commissioners can see those impacts in their community.
- ★ Ensure that an equine representative is present at zoning and planning meetings, and have a succession plan in place.
- ★ Use high school volunteer hours and scout programs to collect man-power to maintain facilities.
- ★ Spread the word about Facebook pages that make trailer sharing accessible.

## Education Availability and Impact (Audience=46)

### Concerns:

- Many horse owners are not well educated on proper care and nutrition.
- Open access programs are not always available to under-privileged youth.
- It is not easy for instructors and trainers to obtain certifications.
- There is a lack of sustainable farms.
- Incompatibility between horse industry and companies is a problem. (Pipelines vs. trail riders, private property vs. fox hunters).
- Certified, educated farm managers are not properly compensated.
- The public is unaware about the positive impact of horsemanship on youth.
- Industry can be intimidating and scary to try to enter.



## **Recommendations:**

- ★ Promote 4-H, U.S. Pony Club, School Riding Programs, in school, and Horse Discovery Centers.
- ★ Go to local schools to talk about 4-H and pony club opportunities.
- ★ Youth programs should partner with their county parks and recreation programs to offer horse and riding opportunities - youth in elementary schools get all parks and rec programs promoted.
- ★ Take horses to schools and libraries.
- ★ Bring 4-H to every barn in Maryland.
- ★ Introduce more horse curriculum to schools.
- ★ Get more horse curriculum into public schools.
- ★ Allow the horse industry to be more accessible to underserved/underprivileged and at risk youth by putting money toward bussing the youth to the farms.
- ★ Develop Community college vocational classes that include education on all supporting equine services. Institute tax breaks for people to teach and instruct/associate professor at community colleges.
- ★ Develop online business classes to help horse owners.
- ★ Develop more community college/vocational classes.
- ★ Offer tax breaks to horse farm owners who participate in vocational classes.
- ★ Require continuing education credits for stabling licenses.
- ★ Make horse owners and businesses more self-sufficient at training.
- ★ Promote business education for beginner farmers.
- ★ Educate horse owners so that they can be better businessman and be more self-sufficient.
- ★ Standardize education requirements for all riding instructors.
- ★ Create a Mentor program (electronic library) so that questions can be answered in a timely manner.
- ★ Find accessible areas to give lectures and host educational programs and continuing education programs.
- ★ Develop an industry wide website and social media channel for education access to the horse community and public.
- ★ Industry needs to unify as a whole to communicate and send in information for a comprehensive multi-media platform for education.
- ★ Develop a statewide educational platform for new horse owners with incentives for joining and learning.
- ★ Design one site online that has all the resources that people need. Not just horse people, but the public too. Create a strategic plan and use a think-tank of individuals to come up with creating the database for this.
- ★ Create a Podcast with Maryland horse experts that can help direct people to already existing resources
- ★ Research platforms that already exist and contribute to a program that already works.
- ★ Generate an online list of experts that people can contact to discuss equine issues.
- ★ Promote eXtension more because it is a great national resource.

*Continued Recommendations Education Availability and Impact:*

- ★ Access Casino education money with a grant to make education available and sustainable.
- ★ Develop Public-Private Partnerships that create employment opportunities with livable wages.
- ★ Help individuals find their unique niches in the horse industry through mentorships.
- ★ Educate non-horse people about equine occupations in order to make horse industry jobs more desirable.
- ★ Make training and certification easy to obtain so that training can be a second income (like Lyft drivers have a second income).
- ★ Form meaningful apprenticeships that involve real educational opportunities that create a living wage employment funded by and partnered with corporations.
- ★ Incentivize young people to start working at the track and farms so they can gain experience.
- ★ Effectively train the next generation of Thoroughbred horsemen before they give up for more lucrative and less labor intensive fields.
- ★ Design a location where equine jobs are posted.
- ★ Turn Maryland into THE state for equine business and tourism.
- ★ Educate people that horse activities aren't just for the wealthy.
- ★ Make horse welfare programs in Maryland the best in the country.
- ★ Increase industry participation and awareness.
- ★ Provide more incentives for people to volunteer their time with youth.
- ★ Make the horse industry welcoming to all.
- ★ Require all farms follow best management practices and add sustainability practices to their farm operations.
- ★ Require Continuing Education for stable licensing.
- ★ Ask power companies to open up power lines for riding.
- ★ Create vocational opportunities for underprivileged youth.
- ★ Offer groom certification like those in Canada and England.
- ★ Utilize UME for more workshops.
- ★ Open up the racetracks for riding on non-race days.
- ★ Present affordable bombproofing clinics for horses.
- ★ Adequately fund therapeutic riding programs.



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Maryland Horse Forum 2019  
Final Report

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Baltimore Co. Executive  
Johnny Olszewski Jr.



Committee Member Cricket  
Goodall, Executive Director of  
MHBA



MD Sec'y of Commerce  
Kelly Schulz



Executive Director of MHIB  
Ross Peddicord



Cloverleaf SOA's Gina  
Maybee



Rosecoft Raceway Director of  
Operations Lisa Watts



Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program grads Camille Lee '18, Sara Gordon '17 and Tabitha Gregory '17

## Horse-keeping and Welfare

### Unwanted Horses in Need of Transition (Audience=42)

#### Concerns:

- Not all horses are unwanted. Some are wanted, but the owners are unable to care for them.
- Some owners are in temporary emergency and need short term assistance.
- Idle horses that could be in work are underused or not matched with possible rider options.
- Horse owners need to take responsibility for their horse's welfare.
- Horse owners aren't knowledgeable about euthanasia.
- New horse owners need better education in general horse care.
- County law enforcement agencies are not always well educated to respond to equine issues.
- The cost of keeping horses is on the rise as is the cost of living in the Mid Atlantic area.
- There is a shortage of homes for the number of horses in need.
- There are not enough transition/adoption programs.
- Not every horse is able to be placed (i.e. too dangerous, too lame) and euthanasia should be an option, reducing the stigma associated with it.
- Compare keeping cost of unwanted horse vs. cost of euthanasia.

#### Recommendations:

- ★ Develop a volunteer network to help elderly people care for their horses without needing them to be rehomed.
- ★ Form a network of lease horses that could be made available to summer camps during the summer.
- ★ Increase education about horse euthanasia.
- ★ Promote an accessible euthanasia service.
- ★ Educate people regarding development of end of life plans and planning for horses as they age.
- ★ Improve lesson barn/school associations.
- ★ Provide tax incentives for small farms.
- ★ Rescues in Maryland are doing good work.
- ★ Pass the SAFE Act.



## Safeguarding our Horses' Health (Audience=36)

### Concerns:

- There is no place to take sick horses at the racetrack or on many farms.
- Large facilities (racetracks and show facilities) should be required to have a biosecurity plan that is accessible online.
- Stables do not always follow recommended quarantine of new arrivals.
- There is a need for better announcements and education about outbreaks.
- Many feel a need for better communication from Maryland Department of Agriculture state office about quarantines. Currently announcements are sent out via email, press release posted online, and sent out via social media.
- Maryland Department of Agriculture should have an equine disease resource database.
- Not many people in Maryland know what to do if there is an accident with their horse.
- The state needs to have an emergency response plan in place for natural disaster response and evacuation plans for horses/large animals. Is this in place?
- Horse owners are unaware of who their closest first responders are so they are prepared to reach out to the nearest group rather than the most popular (like Days End Horse Rescue) which may not be the most reasonable responders depending on location.
- Emergency responders for humans and local/county shelters don't know who to reach out to for help when owners contact them with a large animal emergency.
- Equine disease communication center funding for the organization is collapsing; discussion in Florida seemed to be that there is little sustainability for ongoing service.
- The social backlash to news of disease outbreak incentivizes barns and vets to keep the news quiet.
- Spreading rumors, gossip, fear mongering, can lead to denial of service despite practical quarantine procedures.

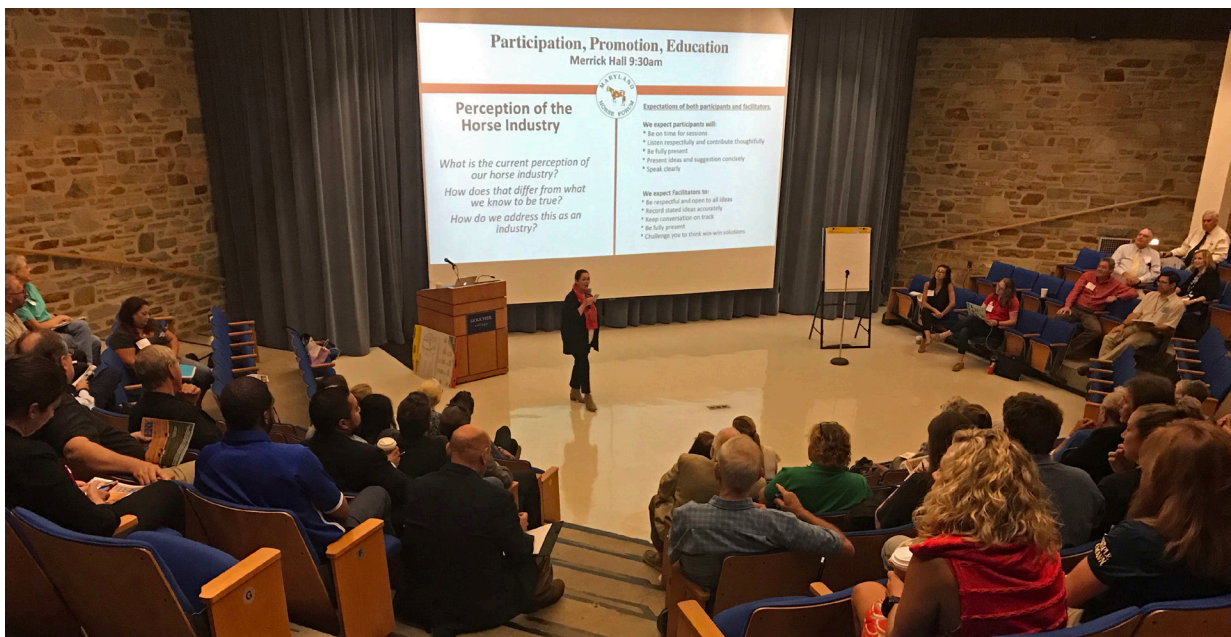
### Recommendations:

- ★ Promote the equine disease communication center.
- ★ Every horse farm should have an isolation area ready, especially the racetracks.
- ★ Develop a Text alert system at racetrack between trainers and owners.
- ★ Inform horse owners about MDStart which helps in times of emergencies.
- ★ Create a regional equine passport system.
- ★ Require an equine health certificate certifying Coggins, rabies, vaccinations, and normal temperature upon entrance to horse events. (Many in the audience said this is not feasible)
- ★ Build good relationships with the local fire department – safety checks and inspections, educate local first responders in case of an emergency, so they are individually familiar with a barn.
- ★ Assist with training needed for animal care services including fire departments and animal control.
- ★ Develop a hotline for equine emergencies.

## Doing Better by our Horses (Audience=51)

### Concerns:

- Inconsistent animal control laws create problems when dealing with issues across the state.
- Weak laws for welfare do not allow prosecution.
- Laws do not always align with horse community expectations.
- Regulations for horse care do not always align with the realities of horse ownership.
- Legislation made by people who aren't familiar with horse management does not consider realistic solutions.
- Industry needs to have more conversations about what would be reasonable to legislate, what are acceptable levels of care for horses.
- Uneducated first time owners do not understand proper care.
- Carcass disposal and few rendering/composting options make end of life decisions difficult.
- Negative publicity from individual welfare cases presents a poor image of the entire industry.
- Disabled horses present a challenge in rehoming.
- Retraining horses for new careers can be complex and expensive.
- Auction is perhaps not a solution.
- Indiscriminate breeding creates an overpopulation of horses.
- It is still legal to ship horses out of country to slaughter and sell them to ship for slaughter.
- Human life changes affect horses too.
- Aging horses who are no longer able to fulfill their purpose, and life changes for the owners that prevent them from being able to take care of horses, lead to unstable circumstances for the horses.
- The racing industry is taking a hit because of negative publicity and misinformation.
- Euthanasia has a negative stigma. There is a need for educating owners on quality of life and usefulness of a horse. Euthanasia may be the proper decision in some cases.



## **Recommendations:**

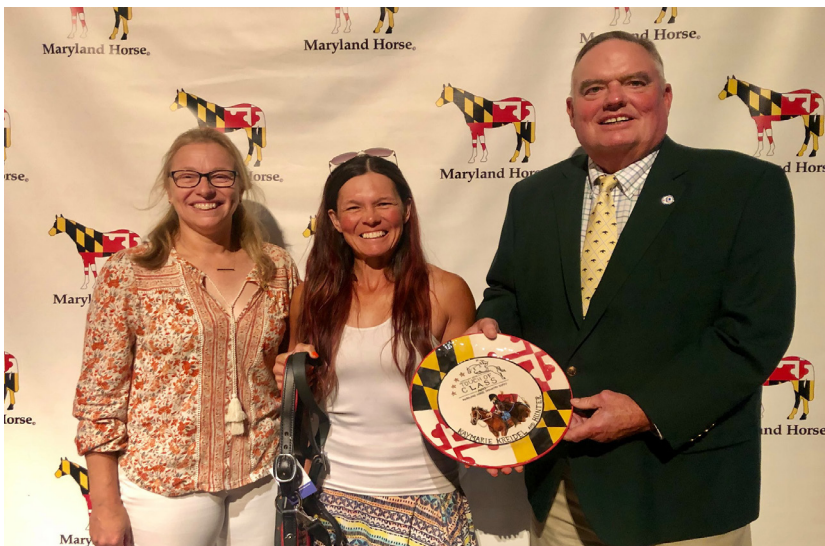
- ★ Develop universal standards of care for the Maryland equine industry.
- ★ Provide access to equine “health” insurance.
- ★ Control breeding.
- ★ Establish breeding legislation/licenses.
- ★ Require registration for breeding.
- ★ Enact mandatory microchipping to identify horses and then track repeated sales easily.
- ★ Keep and produce records of horses who are not sound.
- ★ Include horses in estate planning.
- ★ Develop a horse hospice program.
- ★ Promote transparency and holding people accountable within the industry.
- ★ Create a First Offender program – someone who has been cited by inspectors or animal control must complete a mandatory education program similar to the drunk driving program.
- ★ Create clear and concise rules about stabling, what applies to horses (shelter, enforced number of horses per acre).
- ★ Identify a centralized location where every horse person in Maryland can go to find all the information they need; this is missing, the resources and information is spread all over among institutions and organizations.
- ★ Develop a centralized information center.
- ★ Produce online education resources for first time horse owners.
- ★ Provide more educational resources available online.
- ★ Encourage people selling their horses to get new horse owners the education they need.
- ★ Educate the public about the equine industry.
- ★ Utilize different types of media and outlets (social media, movies, videos, articles) for education.
- ★ Construct centers for layups and retirement that are affordable to provide a place for horse retirement.
- ★ Provide resources to facilitate euthanasia and carcass disposal.
- ★ Make carcass disposal resources more readily available. There is great need for more facilities to dispose of horses through composting.



## Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse (Audience=54)

### Concerns:

- The integrity of the sport is in jeopardy.
- Public opinion is not positive.
- Education of the public is needed about how much the sport is regulated and values the safety of the horses and the jockeys.
- Quality and quantity of positive PR coming from multiple places is important.
- There is a lack of transparency in the health care and management of racehorses at racetracks.
- What is already in place to enhance racehorse welfare at the tracks is not well known.
- Racing surfaces need to be as safe as possible.
- There are still too many injuries and breakdowns.
- More research is needed on how to reduce injuries at racetracks
- Foster a faster transition for horses that don't thrive on the racetracks, including incentives for lack of injuries.
- Few veterinary facilities are available close to the racetracks.
- Overall, racehorses are not staying sound long enough.
- Racehorses need to be given a meaningful life after racing. Do we need to do more or just promote and enhance what we have?
- There is an ongoing need for funds for retirement for horses across breeds and disciplines.
- There is no formal code of ethics required for horseman.
- There is a struggle to engage a younger generation of racing and sport horse fans.
- If the sport disappears then the horses are obsolete.
- There is still a strong desire to keep the Preakness race at Pimlico.
- Racetrack redevelopment funds are limited in allowed use.
- Equine land use needs to be consistently viewed as agricultural.



Touch of Class Award was presented to Kaymarie Kreidel and her horse Hunter for their famous outriding in the 2019 Preakness by Jim Steele Pres. of MD Horse Industry Board and owner of the Maryland Saddlery Hope Birsh.

## **Recommendations:**

- ★ Only offspring of mares and stallions who each raced for 5 years and remained sound should be allowed to be registered.
- ★ Require a breeder's license before registering foals which requires training and education.
- ★ Limit the number of horses a person could register each year.
- ★ Stop excessive breeding.
- ★ Make racing a cleaner and safer sport.
- ★ Support a national governing body with strict testing standards.
- ★ Institute open medical records for racehorses and making the database available for all.
- ★ Ban all race day medication.
- ★ Ban the use of whips in racing.
- ★ Pass the Horseracing Integrity Act, build a sustainable industry wide business model with safety of the horse as its centerpiece.
- ★ Develop a Code of Ethics for horse racing, make it conditional on licensing.
- ★ Develop a code of ethics for horse breeding that involves being responsible for the horse at any stage of its lifetime (like AKC clubs have for dogs).
- ★ Develop a code of ethics as part of the licensing of horsemen.
- ★ Improve resources and funding available for aftercare/transitioning.
- ★ Educate the public further on horse racing and welfare measures already in place
- ★ Establish a pro-active media campaign.
- ★ Provide more public access to racehorses.
- ★ Convince the humane society that the use of Lasix is humane for horses.
- ★ Separate the Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing industry requirement for Lasix and also increase testing for additional medication for racing.
- ★ Enact harsher punishments for trainers who are doping horses.
- ★ Make good horse welfare the norm.
- ★ Educate owners about after-care.
- ★ Enable each horse to have a safety net for aftercare like social security.
- ★ Keep horses out of the slaughter pipeline.
- ★ Make euthanasia more affordable/available.
- ★ Defray cost of aftercare by requiring a fee for each foal born go to after care expenses.
- ★ Guarantee all horses have a good retirement, no matter what their age.
- ★ Provide solid after care policy for horses.
- ★ Retire a higher percentage of sound, sane, and useful thoroughbreds.
- ★ Increase transparency in the management of the racehorse and racing practices.
- ★ Ensure that all workout facilities for racing were of the same quality as Laurel's surface, ensuring consistency.
- ★ Apply best management practices from all states in Maryland.
- ★ Reduce injuries at the tracks.
- ★ Stop the horse from racing if it's not 100% sound and healthy.
- ★ Delay racing age eligibility until 3 years of age.

*Continued Recommendations Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse:*

- ★ Reduce injuries in racing.
- ★ Retire a higher percent of sound, sane, and useful Thoroughbreds.
- ★ Support the efforts of the Mid Atlantic Strategic Plan to Reduce Racehorse Fatalities and support all findings.
- ★ Develop a central body to oversee the welfare of the racehorse nationwide.
- ★ Gain the approval and interest by the public.
- ★ Show the value of horses to the non-horse owning public.
- ★ Engage and introduce younger generations to the pride of horse ownership.
- ★ Ensure race horse trainers and owners follow standards that are already in place.
- ★ Cherish our history and traditions.
- ★ Provide incentives to trainers who retire and rehome sound Thoroughbreds.
- ★ Create a branch of the MHIB to enact regulations for solutions to bettering the lives of Maryland Thoroughbreds.
- ★ Ensure Maryland stays a landmark for Thoroughbred breeding and racing.
- ★ Develop an interactive community outreach center where the aftercare, welfare, and other good work for racehorses and retired racehorses is showcased.
- ★ All sectors of our industry need to come together to educate the horse industry, join forces to have one uniformed message, improved education, transparency, public relations.
- ★ Fireworks, bringing in a younger generation of interest, reach out or study other major league sports to see what they do.
- ★ Increasing popularity of races, making them more family friendly events.
- ★ Fix up Pimlico and preserve our Triple Crown racetrack.
- ★ Building the sport is important as the more successful it becomes, the better it is for the well-being of the horses.



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Dr. Amy Burk of the University of Maryland



Chairman of the Board at the Maryland State Fair Gerry Brewster



Horse Forum Sign In



Committee Member Tracy McKenna, The Equiry



MHIB Chairman Jim Steele



Maryland Horse Council Executive Director Carrie Hull



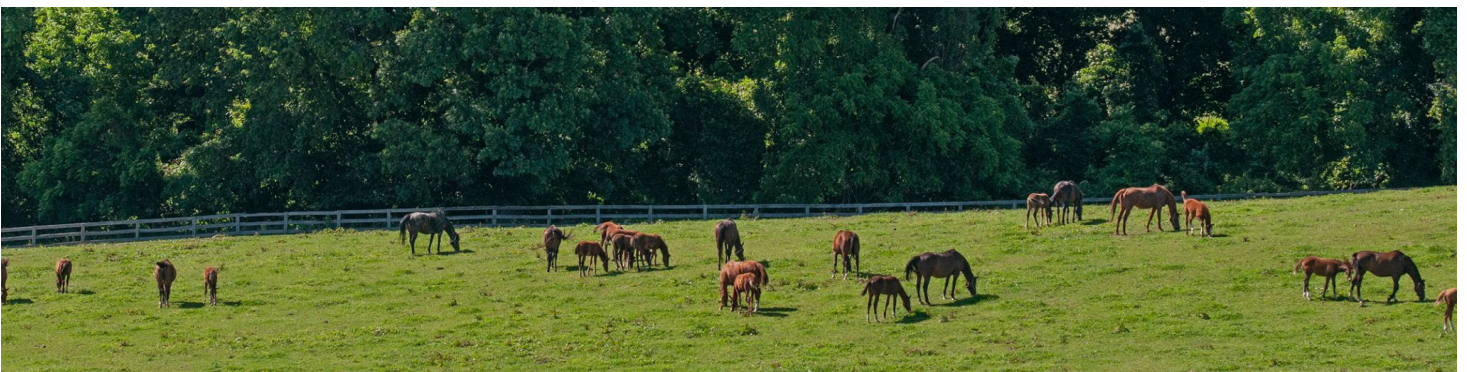
Mayo Family Band played at the reception.

## Land use, Legislature, and Liability

### Land Use and Availability (Audience=40)

#### Concerns:

- Loss of horse farms:
  - Sustainability of a horse farm as a horse farm.
  - Developers within counties seem to have an edge and it's causing the loss of horse farms and rural land quickly.
  - General intention to keep horse farms horse farms is decreasing, both publicly and privately.
  - Unless the state does something quick, it doesn't make economic sense to keep farms horse farms based on land value in most areas of Maryland. It's more lucrative to sell farms to developers. Some quid pro quo is necessary to stay afloat.
- Urban Rural Demarcation Lines, as in Baltimore County, are not being upheld. Too much rural land is being lost to urban sprawl.
- There is very little public funding for easements and other public land use.
- Loss of trail land and easements to various state entities and developers.
- There are misunderstandings between the policymakers in different municipalities and their rural counterparts, which leads to ineffective rules and a lack of knowledge of the rules and laws surrounding land use and preservation in the state.
- Not all counties allow for horse manure to be taken to the county landfill for composting.
- Horse farm operators lack knowledge of land preservation options and availability.
- Few resources like an Ag. Better Business Bureau type of directory or legal or public relations representation for tenants of farm land.
- The inability to mix different land uses to concentrate different horse services due to zoning and other regulations.
- Making a living in horse farms is difficult financially.
- Manure management is challenging on small and large farms.
- The horse industry seems to be too segmented, which prevents communication and organization around related issues.





## **Recommendations:**

- ★ Document where all the farms are in the state so that we can help support them.
- ★ Form a directory of all resources out there like a more comprehensive version of what the Maryland Horse Council has available.
- ★ Increase land preservation incentives to alleviate financial difficulty of horse farming.
- ★ Protect “high risk” farms from development.
- ★ Create a network of resources and financial support for helping new farmers keep their horse farms sustainable.
- ★ Join together and present one common theme to the public and leaders that the horse industry is valuable.
- ★ Create a way for local groups to keep each other informed of: farms up for sale, new zoning, etc. proposals, important meetings/events. A method that is super easy: make an announcement, it gets emailed to the local horse alliance list, etc.
- ★ Develop a resource or centralized listing of local rules and laws.
- ★ Each county should form an “Equine Alliance” (either a more formal horse council type entity or more of a public interest group) of local supporters to go to county and city council meetings and other local forums to make their voices heard to policymakers.
- ★ Increase awareness of Maryland Recreation Act that allows equestrians to ride on lands for free with land owner protected from liability.
- ★ Establish public invitation and other specific PR events to promote hosting and communicating with policymakers and other public leaders at all of our different equine related events.
- ★ Neighbors should get together to preserve green space with private dollars.
- ★ Develop more education around the difficulties of profiting from horse farming and present other avenues for making money to allow horse farms to exist.
- ★ More public funding is necessary to afford a lobbyist or other paid public advocate to politick for the horse industry at the state level.
- ★ Horse farm operators should bring local representatives to the farms and local areas to make their voices directly heard and needs openly visible.
- ★ Utilize leaders for support and networking from many of the local riding and event planning organizations, who are also land users; not just the landowners.
- ★ Encourage “Green” and environmentally-friendly horse farms to help horses and people for the sake of land use and land preservation.
- ★ A flexible communication channel/network needs to be created to make communication easy such as the posting system @ freecycle.org.

## Existing Regulations Affecting Horse Owners (Audience=42)

### Concerns:

- Farms that do not have workman's compensation have issues retaining employees and treating them fairly, but it's also expensive for employers to get.
- Labor and housing associated with labor for horse farms – paying employees, other benefits and facilitation of labor, taxes and bartering for work.
- State licenses vs county or local licenses, there are conflicting regulations between licensing entities
- Unspecified regulations for meeting expectations of licensing horse farms.
- No repercussions for stables to enforce rules that are broken – catch-22 of jurisdiction over non-licensed stables to work towards compliance, may require laws changes.
- Maryland seems very expensive for liability insurance compared to other states. We also have different rules. The sign postage rule in PA was brought up many times, but it was argued that this rule doesn't actually help in liability and negligence cases for farm owners.
- Lack of clear definitions on zoning laws of spaces- agriculture vs. agritourism vs. recreational or private use, homeowners' associations, etc.
- Environmental Issues – Manure management, waterway management, density of horses or activity.
- Planning commissions that are more favorable to developers than to agriculture.
- Composting regulations need to be friendlier to private and commercial farming.
- Too many horses are kept on too little property, heavy use areas, etc.
- Mandatory easements take equestrian use land away from horses and horse people, yet are not always managed properly.
- Utility easements are not accessible to horseback riders.
- Liability insurance is expensive.
- Sunday Hunting results in loss of land use, trails, and green space
- Interesting conflict between public perception of regulations and insurance requirements vs the actual laws.



## **Recommendations:**

- ★ Establish a rating system for stables based on stable license inspections.
- ★ Increase public knowledge of horse farm licensing procedures and standards.
- ★ Compare the state and local license structure and look into needing only one or the other.
- ★ Make sure every county has a “Horse Alliance” to be publicly heard at public forums and public leaders on legal issues regarding horses.
- ★ Network with other interest groups, including Maryland Farm Bureau, to help make common goals and support for land use, preservation, and zoning law issues, etc.
- ★ Horse owners need to stay abreast of county zoning and other related issues- make their stance heard on those issues before they’re decided upon.
- ★ Reach out to small horse “farmettes,” currently zoned residential that don’t necessarily get the same benefits of being “agriculture” to be counted accordingly.
- ★ Involve Soil and Conservation Resources for planning and being a voice at public meetings, each county and district is run differently, there are opportunities there.
- ★ Discuss “capping damages” on liability rules and regulations.
- ★ Talk to Dept. of National Resources or Parks and Rec about developing more “horse-friendly” park land in Maryland.
- ★ Look at Best Practices instead of just identifying problems and make those successes publicly known to other localities through various networking events, venues, and avenues.
- ★ Request that a percentage of each county’s land be dedicated to equine use and activities.
- ★ Tax incentives should be made available for small horse farms.
- ★ High cost of insurance between different horse operations should be addressed.
- ★ Increase understanding of liability laws for liability insurance for horse farm owners and users/contractors.
- ★ State horse farm minimum insurance requirements, like cars.



Exec. Dir. MD Sports Terry Hasseltine and Co-Chair Mike Gill announce the new President/CEO of Fair Hill Committee Jeffrey Newman.

## Legislation Affecting the Industry (Audience=68)

### Concerns:

- Standardbred and Thoroughbred issues shouldn't be lumped together--keep them separate.
- Allowing Sunday hunting of deer should continue to be opposed by members of the horse industry
- Uncertainty whether gaming money is really going back to the purses.
- Horse industry members are concerned about losing the Preakness and Pimlico.
- There is a lack of availability of equestrian trails.
- Not enough resources are available to promote the Nutrient Management regulations and more farms need to follow the regulations.
- Concerns were raised that stopping horse slaughter has increased horse welfare issues related to hauling horses for longer distances out of the country.
- Disposing of carcasses has been more difficult because of lack of consistent rules across counties regarding disposing via county landfills, composting, burying, or burning, and lack of renderers in Maryland.
- Maryland roads have become more dangerous when trailering horses due to lack of education about hauling livestock by the other drivers.
- There isn't one centralized, online location for all state related services for horses in Maryland including legislation.
- General lack of information sharing on all state and local regulations affecting the horse industry
- Land use for equestrian purposes should be considered agricultural in all counties, not just some of the counties.
- Immigration workers need to be allowed to stay here longer or get more workers here as agricultural workers in the horse industry.

### Recommendations:

- ★ Increase communications between industry sectors regarding legislation affecting the horse industry.
- ★ Keep designation of horses as livestock rather than companion animals.
- ★ Increase Soil Conservation staff and the ability of staff to compete with the private sector to perform nutrient management consultations.
- ★ Obtain funding for training new employees in the equine industry.
- ★ Permit winter spreading of manure.
- ★ Enact legislation that requires neighbors to provide notice of spraying of pesticides.
- ★ Improve tax incentives for different types of equine services besides rescues.
- ★ Partner with other interest groups to oppose Sunday Hunting.
- ★ Develop "Approved" trail maintenance workers to work with the public entities that own or manage trails to allow horses on more trails.

*Continued Recommendations Legislation Affecting the Industry*

- ★ Encourage horse industry members to get involved by participating in the Maryland Horse Council and donating to their political action committee.
- ★ Encourage horse industry members to join county Farm Bureaus and attend their meetings and make their voices heard.
- ★ Protect gaming money going to purses for Harness and Thoroughbred racing.
- ★ Harness industry should be able to use video lottery terminal funds for marketing.
- ★ Allow sports betting at the racetrack.
- ★ Keep sports betting at racetracks and off-track betting parlors as they are needed to keep consumers there.
- ★ There need to be laws or education of the non-farm owning public in regards to how to drive around a truck and trailer hauling livestock.
- ★ We need one online centralized resource for legislative issues including government entities, major horse organizations, and legislators working on agricultural related issues.



Sessions at the Maryland Horse Forum at Goucher College



## Economics, Insurance and Liability for Horse Owners (Audience=30)

### Concerns:

- Economics:
  - It is becoming more and more economically challenging to be a horse owner in MD.
  - Owning or using land is expensive and it is a finite resource.
  - Younger or new farmers don't have access to capital to purchase land from aging landowners. More farm land will be lost until this is addressed.
- Insurance:
  - Liability insurance is expensive and limiting.
  - There is a need for more affordable trail riding insurance – trail riding is the “gateway” to future generations of horse enthusiasts.
  - There are currently no levels of insurance premiums for different types of horse businesses- higher liabilities with different types of horses or services (lesson horses vs. racehorses, etc.).
  - There is a need for more informed insurance agents about horse farming and horseback riding.
- Finding and keeping qualified and affordable employees is difficult.
- Businesses are competing with less reputable/short-term/pop-up facilities which makes it hard for some businesses to make a name for themselves. There is no rating or certification system in place to alleviate this issue.
- Transparency between state and local horse farm licensing programs is lacking. The rules are conflicting and confusing, making them hard to adhere to.
- Lack of knowledge of liability issues around land use, especially for new owners when people previously had a relationship of land use with the old owners.
- Lack of uniform certification standards for different facilities or horse service providers- cultural tendencies may prevent that.

### Recommendations:

- ★ Howard County has a model program to connect new farmers to older farmers looking to sell or rent out their properties. NextGen Program for MARBIDCO and Maryland Farm Link.
- ★ Get the next generation more actively involved in farm ownership and horse business ownership
- ★ Maryland Horse Council should make a centralized resource directory for economic and informational resources on economic, liability, and legislative issues for horse owners and businesses.
- ★ Develop Best Practices models for applicable programs and promote them to be developed in other localities or find the right contacts for these programs publicly. Next step, standardizing these practices for accountability and credibility.

*Continued Recommendations Economics, Insurance and Liability for Horse Owners*

★ Insurance

- Exploit economies of scale by trying to organize group plans for various insurance plans for horse owners and businesses. Farm Bureau relationships with insurance company has a model in place to leverage economies of scale.
- Enable equestrian groups to make a pot fund for “self-insured” riders/participants (e.g. like the rodeo organizations do for their riders).
- Work with insurance brokers to understand what coverage actually supports.
- Lobby insurance companies to bundle or rate services more appropriately.
- Lobby against insurance laws at the state level to update them to current market needs - especially separating racing needs from other horse use needs.

★ Increase the number of lesson and rental stables in suburban areas.

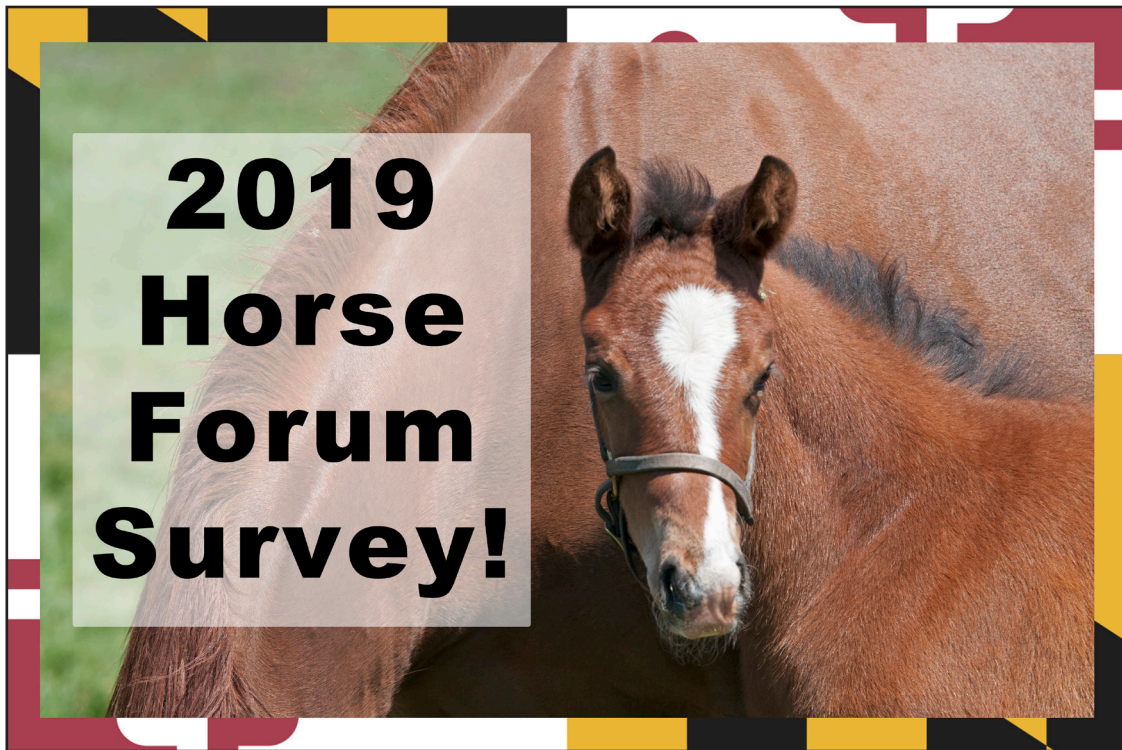
★ Broaden the exposure of horses to other groups, particularly to various mental health or medical groups



MHIB Board Member Jay Griswold, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Steve Connelly, and MDA Deputy Secretary Julie Oberg, are honored with Equiery Covers by the Maryland Horse Council President Neil Agate

Horse Forum Session at Goucher College





## Summary of the Pre-Forum Survey

Every five years, the Maryland Horse Industry Board joins together with other horse organizations to co-host an industry-wide Maryland Horse Forum. The goal of the Maryland Horse Forum is to encourage all members of the Maryland equestrian community to join together, share concerns and challenges, strategize, and identify ways to ensure the future viability of the Maryland horse industry. In order to better identify topics that members of the horse industry wanted to discuss at the forum, a brief online survey was conducted.

The online survey was developed using Qualtrics and asked participants how likely they were to attend the upcoming forum, in what Maryland county they resided, the type of horse-related activity they participated in (i.e. pleasure, business, spectator), and to rank the importance of a identified topics potentially affecting the future viability of the Maryland Horse Industry.

The topics listed were gathered from the previous Maryland Horse Forum pre-survey and also from members of the Maryland Horse Forum planning committee with knowledge of current events.

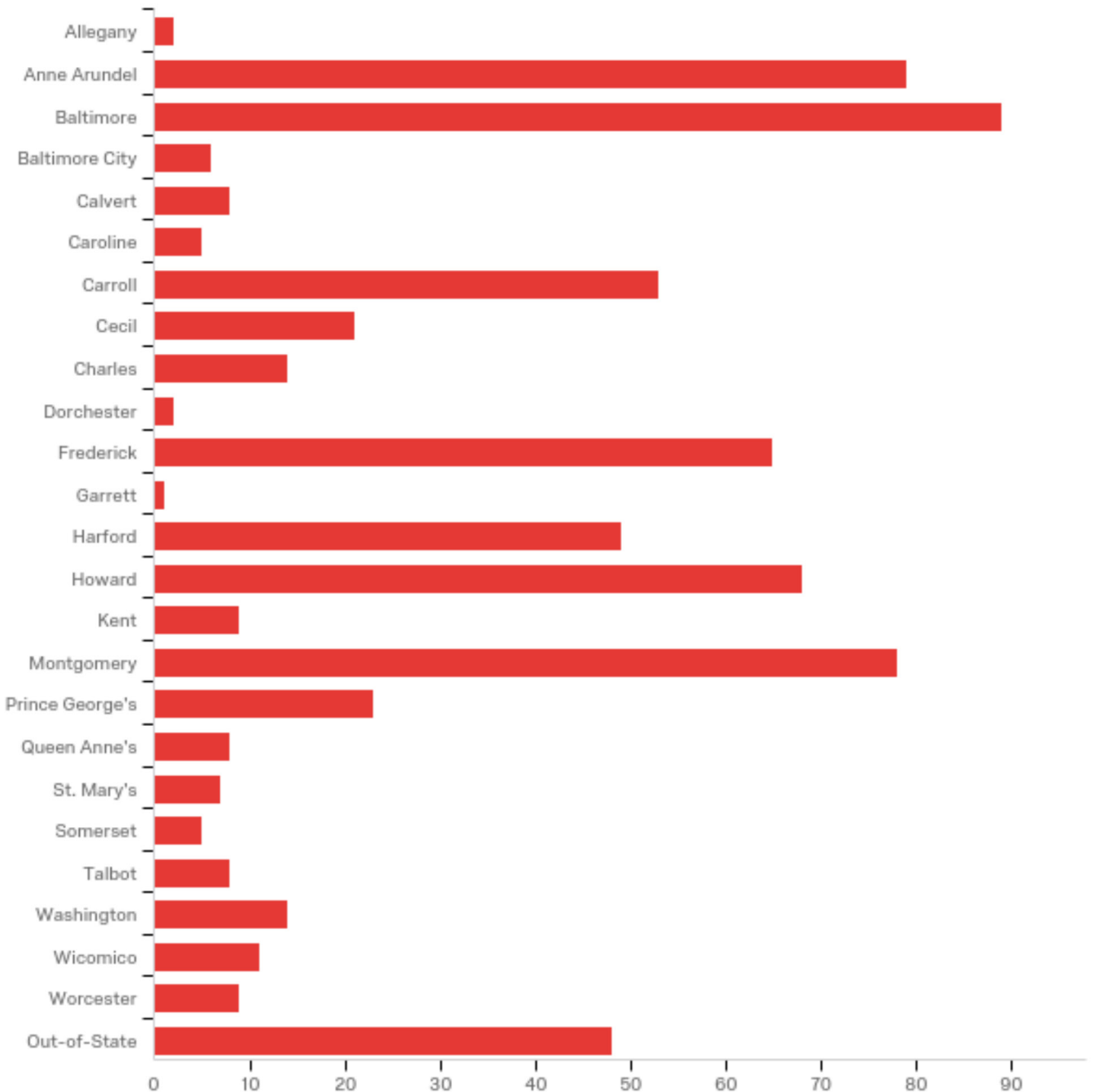
Forty-eight topics were identified and grouped into categories including horse-keeping and welfare, business and regulation, land availability and use, breeding, showing, and racing, and participation, promotion, and education. Participants were asked to rate topics as either not important, moderately important, or very important in their relation to affecting the future viability of the Maryland horse industry.

Participants were also asked to provide additional topics they thought were relevant to the forum discussion and who they thought should be invited to the horse forum. The survey was promoted on social media, e-mail, and online for approximately four weeks in March and April 2019.



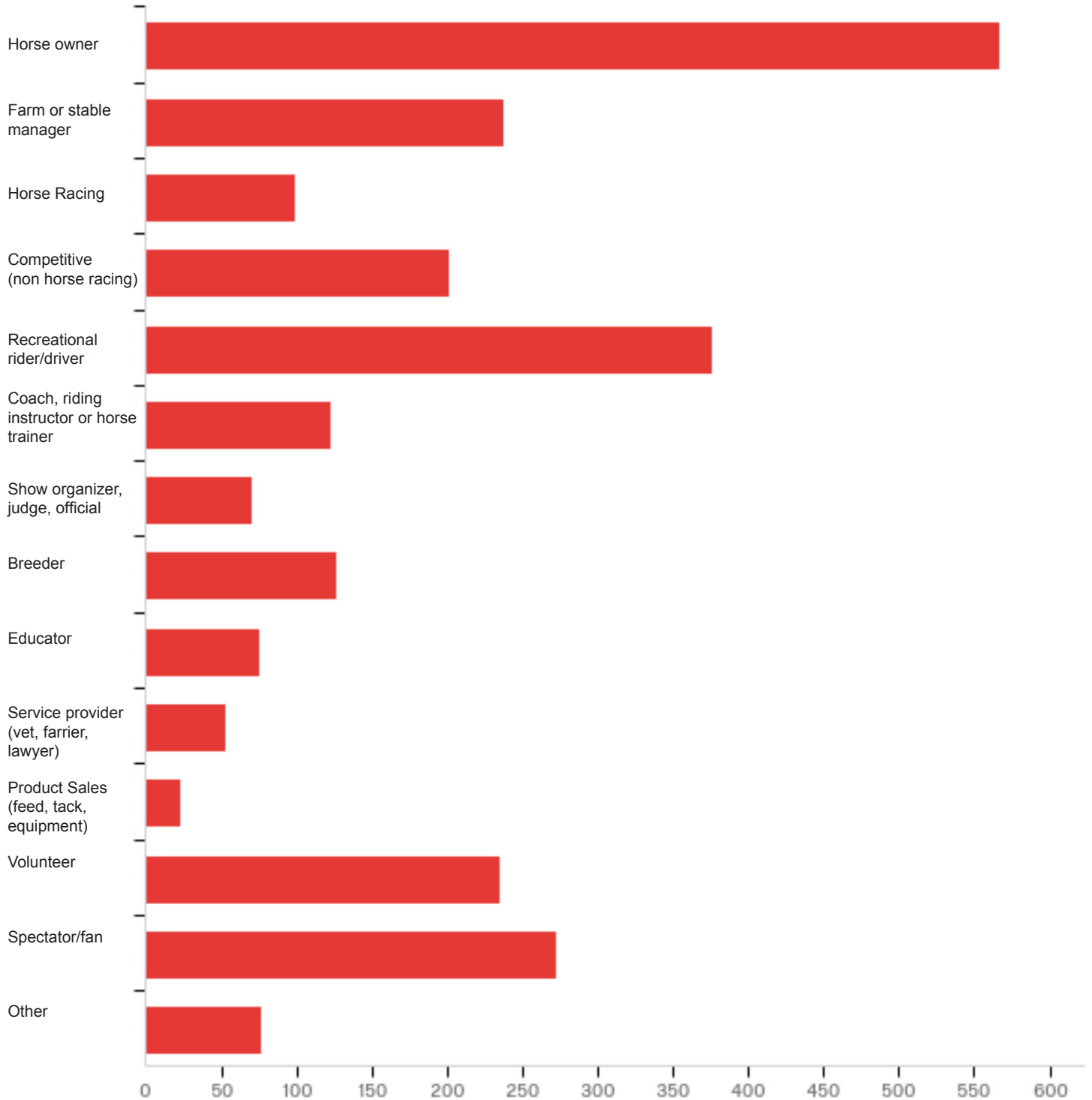
A total of 684 responses were recorded. Horse-related activities engaged in by participants varied extensively with the highest responses being horse owners (22%), recreational riders (15%), spectator (11%), farm owner (9%), and volunteer (9%).

**What Maryland county they resided in:**



Each county in Maryland was represented with the largest participation coming from Montgomery (12%), Baltimore (11%), Anne Arundel (10%), Frederick (10%), and Howard (10%) counties with approximately 9% of participants living out-of-state.

**What Maryland horse-related activities participants participate in:**



Only 22% of participants indicated that they were very likely to attend the Maryland Horse Forum with the others indicating they were either somewhat unlikely (39%) or very unlikely (39%) to attend.

Participants were asked to rank topics in level of importance affecting the future viability of the Maryland horse industry.

**Important (1)**

**Moderately important (2)**

**Very Important (3)**

**Issues participants identified as their top concerns using a 1 (important) to 3 (very important) scale.**

(Top means are listed below)

- **Unwanted horses and what to do with them: 2.75**
- **Outbreaks of infectious diseases: 2.72**
- **Recruitment of the next generation: 2.71**
- **Perception of horse industry: 2.70**
- **Knowledge base of horse owners: 2.70**
- **Land preservation: 2.65**
- **Availability of land: 2.65**
- **Injuries and breakdowns: 2.62**
- **Educational resources: 2.62**
- **Economics of owning a horse business: 2.60**
- **Communication within the horse industry: 2.60**

Participants provided 163 individual topics for consideration and a 115 individuals or groups to invite. Using the information provided, three tracks were developed with four topics of discussion under each.

- **Topics under Participation, Promotion, and Education** included Perceptions of the Horse Industry, Recruiting and Retaining the Next Generation, Protection and Use of Recreational Spaces, and Educational Availability and Impact.
- **Topics under Horse-keeping and Welfare** included, Unwanted Horses in Need of Transition, Safeguarding our Horses' Health, Doing Better by Our Horses, and Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse.
- **Topics under Land use, Legislature, and Liability** included Land Use and Availability, Existing Regulations Affecting Horse Owners, Legislation Affecting the Industry, and Economics, Insurance, and Liability for Horse Owners.

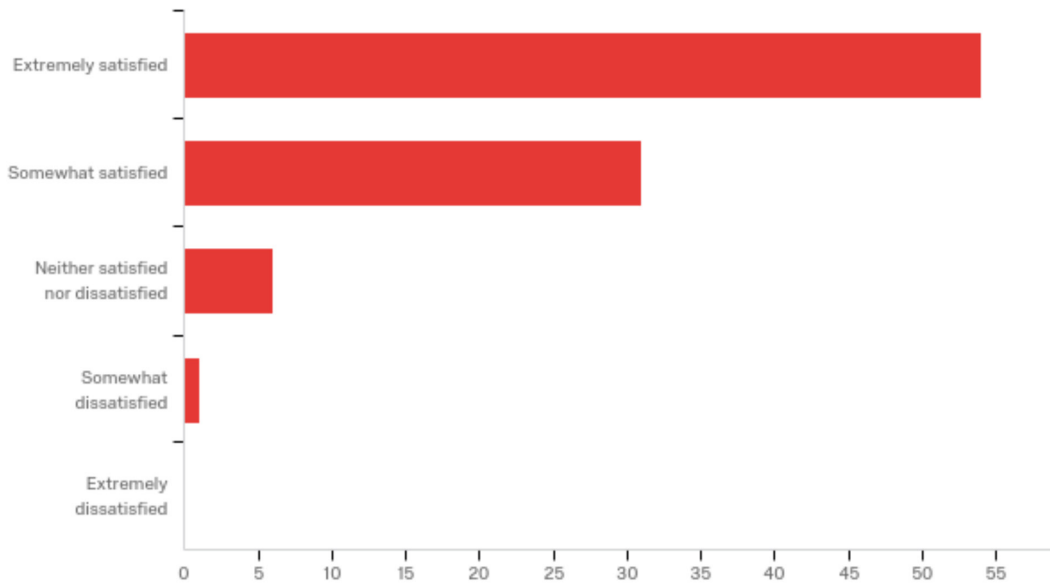
In conclusion, the findings from the pre-forum survey helped guide the Maryland Horse Forum organizers as to what issues should be discussed and ultimately how to structure the discussions at the Maryland Horse Forum.

# Summary of Post-Forum Feedback Survey

Following the Maryland Horse Forum held on August 8, 2019 at Goucher College, the forum organizing committee conducted a post-event survey to gauge participant satisfaction with the event. A 10-question online survey was developed using Qualtrics, and e-mailed multiple times to event attendees. Ninety-six responses were recorded from the approximately 250 individuals at the event.

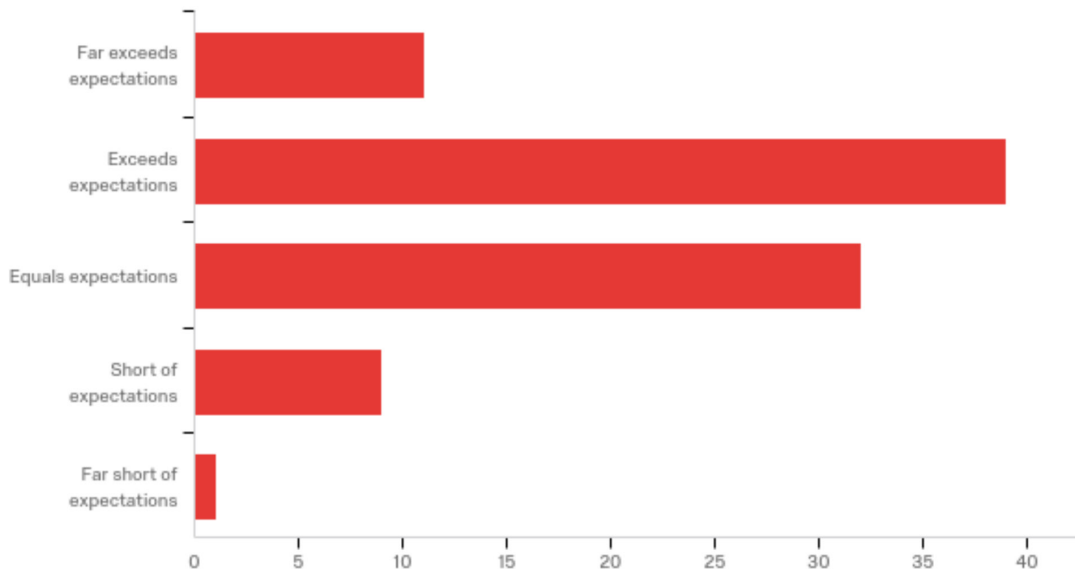
Participants were informed about the event mainly through e-mail (37%), social media (24%), or word of mouth (11%). The majority of the participants were extremely satisfied (59%) or somewhat satisfied (34%) with the event with only 7% of attendees indicating they were neither not satisfied nor dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied.

## Satisfaction of Participants at the Horse Forum:



The majority of attendees (54%) indicated that the Maryland Horse Forum either exceeded or far exceeded their expectations with 35% indicating it met their expectations. The remaining 11% felt the Maryland Horse Forum fell short or far short of their expectations.

## Level of Expectations Indicated from Horse Forum:



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## Maryland Horse Forum 2019

### Final Report

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The majority of attendees (86%) felt extremely comfortable or somewhat comfortable discussing topics at the event whereas 10% felt neither comfortable nor uncomfortable and 5% felt somewhat comfortable or extremely uncomfortable.

Sixty-seven percent of participants felt the time spent discussing topics was adequate whereas 9% felt slightly too much or far too much time was spent versus 24% that felt slightly too little or far too little time was spent discussing topics.

Participant feedback on their favorite part of the event varied and included networking, the ability to share opinions in a respected format, good event organization, and excellent location. In regards to improvements for the next forum, participants either indicated no improvement was needed or focused on how the event was moderated and organized including the limitations of discussing topics in a large lecture hall. Overall, the feedback from attendees indicated to the event organizers that the Maryland Horse Forum was well-organized, well-executed, and most importantly a good use of the participants time.



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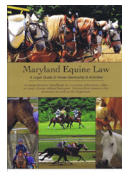
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