



AMERICAN
HORSE COUNCIL

INDUSTRY PRIORITIES

CURRENT AS OF NOVEMBER 2025



THE FARM BILL

Establishment of a Commission on the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Examination of the veterinarian shortage, especially in rural areas.

Additional research and health program funding targeted specifically to equines.

Support Center of Excellence for Equine (all breeds and disciplines).

FY 2025-2026 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS

Horse Protection Act	\$4M
Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant Health	\$4.7M
Rural Veterinary Workforce	\$13M
Natl. Animal Disease Prep & Response	\$70M
Natl. Animal Vaccine & Countermeasures	\$153M
Natl. Animal Health Lab Network	\$45M
Natl. Veterinary Stockpile	\$6.5M
Horse Census	\$15M

*AHC will request dedicated funding for equines for FY 2026



HORSE PROTECTION ACT

New rule delayed to February 2026

AHC convening regular working group to understand what members need for a functional regulation.

AHC submitting comments to USDA May 20 2025 regarding implementation delay of current rule and necessary updates to move forward.

2026 NAHMS EQUINE STUDY

2026 National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) Equine Study potentially delayed or cancelled.

Pilot studies have been cancelled with no rescheduled date.

A critical federal resource for identifying research priorities, guiding veterinary service access, informing emergency response, and improving disease control.

There is no other equine study which provides this diverse geographic comprehensive data set essential for the advancement of equine health and welfare.



GUEST WORKER VISAS

The equine industry relies on H-2A and H-2B worker visas.

Streamline and strengthen these programs to meet the significant labor demands that cannot be met by the domestic workforce.

Visa holders act as grooms, stable hands, exercise riders, and general farm work.

H-2 workers return to the same employers year after year, providing consistency, experience, and trusted care.

H-2 visas are temporary and do not provide a path to citizenship, residency, or naturalization.

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INDUSTRY PRIORITIES



USDA-APHIS IMPORT/EXPORT

AHC working on legislative solution to better support high performance horse travel for international competition.

AHC maintaining open communication with USDA to better address stakeholder concerns with the import/export process.

Staffing Issues at ports limiting holiday shipments, delaying quarantine inspections and releases, and more.

User Fees increased 35%+ with equine increases disproportionately high compared to other livestock species, effective January 10, 2025.

TAX CODE

Protect the nonprofit tax exemption to ensure critical services not reduced.

- Operating costs will increase for horse rescues, therapeutic riding centers, and other educational and service providers.
- Aspects of renewing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) would help farm and ranch families, many are sole proprietorships or pass-through entities.
- Maintain estate tax exemption so farms can pass to family without large bills or sales.
- Preserve the Standard Deduction.
- Protect the Qualified Business Income deduction to allow farmers and ranchers organized as “pass through” entities to deduct 20% of business profits from taxable income.
- Support Equipment Investment to make it more affordable to invest in new machinery.



NEW WORLD SCREWORM

New World Screwworm has been detected in Mexico for the first time in decades with recent detections only 70 miles from the US border.

Mexican border currently closed to all livestock imports but reopening in stages over the next several months.

Sterile fly production used to fight Screwworm is at 50% capacity of what is needed.

Congress needs to approve funding to rapidly build a sterile fly facility in the United States.

Stay up to date at: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-emergencies/nws>

TARIFFS

President Trump announced a wide range of tariffs on imported goods, which includes horses and horse products coming from most countries in spring 2025.

Active base 10% tariffs on imported goods from all countries except Canada and Mexico.

Horses, semen, embryos, hay, hay products, grain, shavings/bedding, vehicles, construction materials, tractors, agricultural technology are all imported to the US at high volumes.

Implementation has been unpredictable, to keep updated check the AHC website at:

horsecouncil.org/project/tariffs-the-horse-industrys-journey-into-the-great-unknown/



CHECK OUR PODCAST

Listen in the first Tuesday of each month to Julie and Emily as they take over Horse Radio Network. Guests include all aspects of the industry, and episodes conclude with a legislative and regulatory update on current topics.

<https://horsecouncil.org/podcasts/>

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