



## **Economic Impact Study Confirms Florida's Equine Power as a Top National Horse Industry**

For immediate release

Feb. 7, 2024

For more information contact:

Brock Sheridan

352.732.8858

[bsheridan@ftboa.com](mailto:bsheridan@ftboa.com)

**Ocala, FL**— According to the recently released American Horse Council Foundation 2023 Equine Economic Impact Study, the Florida equine industry contributes \$12.8 billion to the Florida economy.

Florida Thoroughbreds contribute \$3.24 billion annually to the Florida economy, more than one-quarter of that horsepower.

The study commissioned by the American Horse Council reaffirmed the status of the Florida equine industry, and specifically Thoroughbred horse racing, as a major sports and agricultural industry within the state.

Florida remains the third-leading equine state by population (behind landmass-dominant Texas and California) with 335,000 head creating more than 112,000 jobs. Florida's 87,600 Thoroughbreds – one of every four horses in Florida – support 33,500 jobs total, or 30% of equine employment.

One-in-five Florida households participate in equine activities and more than 30% register as horse enthusiasts having owner, participant or spectator status. Florida lands dedicated to equine and equine-related activities total 561,000 acres.

“Florida, and specifically Marion County, has clearly maintained its rightful position as Horse Capital of the World® by population, participation and economic value,” Florida Thoroughbred Breeders’ and Owners’ Association CEO Lonny Powell said.

“Even better, Sunshine state Thoroughbreds are consistently a top-three leading producer of Thoroughbred runners and second-ranked source of national stakes-winners.”

The American Horse Council Foundation provides national, state and county level economic impact estimates. FTBOA funded the Florida and Marion County, Fla. reports. The Marion County report will be released in the coming weeks by FTBOA.

For more information on the national study, [click here](#).

	<b>All Florida Equine</b>	<b>Florida Thoroughbreds</b>
<b>Total Economic Impact (billions)</b>	\$12.80	\$3.24 (25%)
<b>Total Employment Effect</b>	112,000	33,500 (30%)
<b>Equine Population</b>	332,500	87,600 (26%)
<b>Equine Acreage</b>	561,000	

### **About the FTBOA**

*Established in 1948, the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association is a not-for-profit association with the mission of promoting the Florida thoroughbred. The FTBOA represents more than 1,300 thoroughbred breeders and owners internationally who breed, raise, sell, train and race horses born in the state of Florida. The FTBOA is located at 801 SW 60th Avenue in Ocala, Fla., the heart of one of the top equine regions worldwide and recognized as the Horse Capital of the World®.*