

Author Full Name : Melissa Kitchen**Received Date :** 01/28/2026 03:22 PM**Comments Received :**

Writing in support of the NAHMS Equine study in 2026, as the information it provides is vitally important to the sustainability of the industry. I run a non-profit in the equine space and use data from this study regularly when looking at initiatives in both welfare and industry sustainability. This industry is seemingly under constant threat with the decrease of available lands, facilities and areas to recreate. These things alone have a ripple into so many other areas of the industry that it is making it harder for people to be involved and support. When the horse is an instrumental part of American history and culture having a more than \$177 billion dollar impact to the economy, we need all of the data we can possibly have to insure that it is a viable industry for years to come. In addition to running a non profit, I also work for the largest event and media company in the USA, sit on boards for organizations tying horses to mental health, veterinary care in underserved nations, college education and the American Horse Council - all groups which rely heavily on the data in this report to garner the support we need. I urge you to go forward with the study in 2026.