



January 27, 2026

The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) appreciated the opportunity to comment on Docket No. 2026-00341 Submission for OMBG Review; Comment Request; Re-instatement.

As the national governing body for the equestrian sport designated by the Ted Stevens Act, we strongly support APHIS's request to reinstate the information collection process necessary to conduct the NAHMS Equine 2026 Study. The previous equine studies have been essential to the equestrian industry specifically identifying critical gaps in education, outreach and research related to equine health and welfare. The information gathered during previous studies focused on horse premises practices but provided limited information regarding equestrian event venues.

The 2025 multistate Equine Herpesvirus-1 outbreak originating from an equine event demonstrated the devastating impact of infectious disease with the equine deaths as well as disruption of equine events. Although this outbreak primarily involved barrel racing horses, our USEF hunter jumper and dressage events were impacted and canceled due to fear of unknown disease spread.

Protecting equine health and future of equestrian sport relies on knowledge of risks and appropriate mitigation measures. The proposed NAHMS Equine Event study is extremely essential to advancing equine health at equine events and preventing future infectious disease outbreaks. We are relying on this national study to provide the much-needed data to drive scientific research into appropriate disease mitigation measures.

We strongly support the 2026 Equine Event Component of the NAHMS Study and look forward to the study launch and results.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Katie Flynn".

Katie Flynn,
Equine Health and Biosecurity Veterinarian
United States Equestrian Federation.