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The National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) Equine Study gathers information from many facets of the industry regarding equine health and wellness. These non-regulatory studies provide vital data for horse owners, veterinarians, and industry stakeholders to address health gaps and improve welfare. This data is critical to supporting industry knowledge of gaps in supporting good biosecurity and welfare, USDA and industry disease preparedness and prevention, and supports industry education for owners. Personally, I rely on the information gathered from the equine study to do better as an owner, a traveling competitor, and as a mentor for youth through 4H and similar programs. The equine industry was hit with a severe outbreak of EHV1-neurological last November; having research and knowledge for biosecurity purposes was extremely critical in containing the virus as much as possible and prevented even more animal life loss than occurred.

The livestock, agricultural, public health, and equine industries/sectors all benefit from these studies, and I would encourage those in charge of implementing and continuing to fund this program to do so. We need the Equine Study, and I *want* money spent towards this *needed* research.