



February 10, 2026

The New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, which represents more than 6,000 Thoroughbred owners and trainers in our state, appreciates the opportunity to comment on Docket No. 2026-00341: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Reinstatement.

We wholeheartedly support APHIS' request to reinstate information collection to conduct the NAHMS Equine 2026 Study. The previous NAHMS Equine Studies have provided key information that allows the industry to identify critical focus areas for targeted education, outreach, and research related to horse health and welfare.

The 2025 multistate EHV-1 outbreak, which originated at an equine event, demonstrated how devastating infectious disease can be. Loss of equine life and widespread disruption of equine activities was a critical industry impact. Protecting equine health depends on understanding disease risks and consistently implementing effective mitigation strategies.

The proposed NAHMS Equine Event Study will deliver essential data and insights needed to strengthen equine health protections at events and help prevent future infectious disease outbreaks. The industry relies on large scale studies such as these to protect the national herd from issues related to disease and neglect.

Biosecurity and the containment of infectious disease is a real concern for the Thoroughbred racing industry. Just last year, we had several cases of strangles that resulted in quarantines at Saratoga Race Course, and there have been numerous EHV-1 outbreaks at tracks around the country over the past five years.

The US horse industry contributes \$177 billion in value to the US economy, involves at least 7.2 million horses, and over 2 million horse owners in the US. On top of that, it provides 2.2 million jobs to Americans.

NAHMS is vital to ensure that our equine population at the racetracks and across the country is protected. We look forward to the study launch and results.

Sincerely,

Andy Belfiore
NYTHA Executive Director

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