Draft

Suffolk County Equestrian Task Force Report
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Suffolk County Equestrian Task Force Report

Introduction 4
Equine History of Long Island 5
Equestrian Population 6
Means to Identify the Current Equestrian Population 9
New York State Equestrian Survey: 9
Blacksmith Estimates: 9
Veterinarian Estimates: 10
Final Estimate 10
Equestrian Owners 10
Recreational Owners 10
Professional Owners 12
Equestrian Organizations 12
Equine Property Uses 12
Recreational Uses 13
Professional Uses 13
Riding Schools or Academies 13
Stables 13
Show Grounds 14
Others 14
Equestrian Professions 15
Equestrian Economy: 15
Equine Values 15
Equine Related Assets 16
Equine Expenditures 16
Equine Businesses 17
Equine and Equestrian Property Needs 18
Diet 20
Exercise 20
Veterinarian and Dental Care 20
Health Care Essentials 21
Farrier Care 21
Shelter 22
Fencing 22
Feed Storage 22
Manure Management 22
Challenges to the Industry 23
Zoning Regulations 24
Property Taxes 24
Operating Costs: 25
Insurance Costs 25
Public Land Access 25
Lack of Showground Facility 26
Task Force Recommendations 26
Site Plan Approach to Zoning Laws 26
Professional Site Plan 27
Recreational Site Plan 27

Equine Activity Liability Statute 28
Suffolk County Equestrian Center 28
Cooperatives 29
Equestrian Survey 29
Appendix 30
Appendix I Breed Discription 30
Appendix II – Discipline Discriptions 32
Appendix III – Equine Estimate Averages 40
Appendix IV – Equestrian Organizations 42
Appendix V – Sales Tax Estimates 47
Appendix VI – Suffolk County Soil and Water Best Management Practices 48
Appendix VII – Suffolk County Town Equestrian Codes Appendix VIII – Equestrian Trail Access 51
Appendix VIII – Equestrian Trail Access 52
Appendix IX – Recommended Professional Site Plan 56
Appendix X – Resolution 187-2009 57
References 60

Introduction

When the Suffolk County Legislature, at the request of Legislator Jack Eddington, passed Resolution 187-2009 on March 24, 2009, they authorized the creation of the *Suffolk County Equestrian Task Force (Task Force).* "The small horse farm is a piece of Suffolk County's cultural heritage, as well as our current economy and tourism industry. As I see more and more horse owners sell their farms and move out of state, I realized something must be done to help protect this resource."

To address these issues, the legislation directed the Task Force to study and analyze the various issues relating to the equestrian industry. This report will provide a detailed look at the history of the equine population on Long Island, the challenges horse owners and those in the industry have faced in recent years and provide turn key recommendations for local governments to adopt to facilitate this industry's success and provide for its longevity for years and generations to come.

With Suffolk County's long history as a rural, agricultural community, the equestrian industry has become entwined and entrenched as a part of our cultural heritage. In fact, Suffolk County can boast having the nation's oldest continually operating ranch, Deep Hollow Ranch, located in Montauk.

As Suffolk County grew with new residents seeking a suburban lifestyle, the equestrian industry which acted as an attraction for this migration eastward also found itself a victim of development. Over time, many horse farms succumbed to housing pressures and paddocks turned into cul-de-sacs. Many new residents, who never experienced living next to a horse property, quickly decided that the charm of the horse farm that drew them to Suffolk County was no longer desirable. Further, as the small horse properties were bought by non-horse owners, the number of lots in the equestrian inventory gradually shrank.

Despite this development, however, some pockets of equestrian communities remained and continue to quietly exist today. Many of these equestrian friendly neighborhoods border New York State, Suffolk County or local Town park properties that offer bridle trails, horse paths and other equestrian related facilities. Currently, there are 10 such Suffolk County park facilities, 8 New York State managed equestrian facilities, 5 Department of Environmental Conservation areas, and numerous other riding trails maintained by the 10 towns and 32 villages. Increased access and awareness of these available resources and identifying new resources remain a goal of the Task Force.

Like many other communities in Suffolk County, the Hamlet of Medford once boasted a robust equestrian community and was commonly referred to as 'horse country'. Yet, as development pressures on the industry caused the number of properties utilized for equestrian purposes to dwindle, the remaining owners struggled to remain viable business entities and cover basic costs. It was this struggle that brought them to Legislator Jack Eddington.

At first, their vision was to mirror Suffolk County's Farmland Preservation Program which allows large land owners to retain use and ownership of their property through the County's purchase of development rights, thereby protecting the property from future development. This program applies to farms which are larger than 7 acres and are actively producing an agricultural commodity. Attempting to expand the farmland preservation program to the equine industry, however, proved more complex than anticipated. The unique characteristics of the equestrian

industry and the myriad of municipalities within Suffolk County presented only further complications. Most equestrian properties, both professional and recreational, are less than 7 acres in size and have very low gross receipts. Further, existing zoning laws, which vary by town and village, often made operating these small businesses not only difficult but virtually impossible without violating local codes.

The goal of the Task Force was to bring together the voices of those with varied experiences to collaborate on a comprehensive solution. The members included horse owners, representatives from the equine business community, as well as representatives from various levels of government.

The directive of the legislation included such tasks as identifying the present size of the industry, including but not limited to the number of equines, the number and size of properties used for equine purposes, the number of equestrian organizations, and support services; such as, veterinarians, farriers/blacksmiths, saddlery and tack stores, feed distributers, and manure removal businesses.

The Task Force is also challenged with enumerating the various governmental factors that impact the industry throughout Suffolk, including zoning, liability insurance, New York State Agricultural Districts, Suffolk County Farmland Preservation Programs, available trail networks and others. Lastly, based upon these findings the Task Force may make recommendations to help preserve the equestrian industry both for the cultural and economic benefits provided by the industry.

Equine History of Long Island

Probably no animal has been as important to human history as the horse. The horse has been, and continues to be, a noble and loyal partner to humans willingly providing many services to the world around them. It is an unthankful act on our part that the equine existence is taken for granted and that their needs are overlooked. Humans have forgotten the past services that have been unselfishly given by the horse.

Some services are no longer needed, but should not be forgotten. At one time before the steam and petrol engines were invented, horses were the fastest form of transportation on land. Our nation was explored and built on horseback. Suffolk County is home to the nation's first commercial farmers and is presently the largest agricultural producing county in New York State. We have tractors now to plow fields, but who was it that first pulled the plow – the horse!

Even after the invention of the "iron horse," the horse was called in to assist with our very own Long Island Railroad. There were earlier railroads built with the intention of using horses to pull the cars. In addition to this service and "in spite of the fact that the Long Island Railroad was built with the intention of using steam locomotives, it used horses in some places from the beginning, and probably as late as 1895." Early records, circa 1800, state that in areas too steep for the primitive locomotives, horses were used to pull the cars up the hills one car at a time. Then again, horses stepped back onto the track during a period in the 1850's when locomotives were difficult to purchase (Long Island Forum).

Long Island was home to America's first measured racecourse, which was set up on the great Hempstead Plains in the spring of 1665 (Long Island Our Story).

Their use by messengers and soldiers has turned the tide of many a battle. Horses have held, and still do hold, government positions. Along 25A there are still markers from Benjamin Franklin, our first Post Master, who set them up for mail deliveries by horses. The Pony Express

deliveries are no longer, but there are still mounted police units; and, at Fort Bragg the horse assists in training our soldiers and serves as a mode of transportation for our soldiers in remote areas of foreign countries not easily traversed by vehicles.

The medical field is utilizing the kindness of the gentler side of this caregiver. Therapeutic riding is a venue to train and exercise, while providing a source of enjoyment from which both mentally and physically challenged children and adults can benefit. Most recently, miniature horses are being trained and utilized as guides for the blind.

While researching the history of horses on Long Island, it was noted that in "Long Island; Our Story" horses were mentioned or photos of horses were within 44 of the stories. Horses are credited with pulling carts and wagons; carrying their humans; bringing the supplies, ice, fruits, and vegetables; plowing fields; pulling trolleys and train cars; installing gas and telephone utilities; participating in battle; traversing Long Island in front of stages creating historic byways – now a network of thoroughfares; herding for the cattle ranches; and for Native Americans, the first Long Islanders, in addition to these services horses were a source for a whole lot more.

Theodore Roosevelt, an avid horseman, was from Long Island and after the Spanish-American War brought his troops and horses to Deep Hollow Ranch, the oldest continually operating cattle ranch in America, located in Montauk from Camp Wikoff for recovery. The whole country, mostly New Yorkers, traveled out there to watch the cowboys, culled from the east and west coasts demonstrate their abilities. President William McKinley attended and asked Roosevelt to run for Vice President. Roosevelt, who truly enjoyed riding once slipped his secret service boys and rode from Oyster Bay to Sayville when he was President.

Horses have been exploited for every use possible. Several cultures drink mare's milk; and horse hair is used for violin bows, mattresses and lining for clothes, horsehide is made into fine cordovan leather, and glue is often made by boiling horse bones and cartilage. Even their immune systems produce life-saving tetanus anti-toxin, while their manure is commonly used for fertilizer and was sometimes even used for fuel.

An article written for the Long Island Forum, August 1946, tells of the final example of a historical use of horses on Long Island. Early records of the Town of Oyster Bay note the use of horses playing an important role in transactions, specifically land transactions. Apparently horses were used to purchase land. Considering the intent and purpose of this report it is without a doubt the most ironic historical use.

Modern day uses of the horse and other equine species are seen all about Long Island. Mostly, horses are used for recreational purposes and fill a role of a special kind in a working relationship. Our "recreation" is a 365-days-a-year commitment. Although considered a sporting companion, it is not just about riding and owning a horse; this is really a way of life – a way of life that is worth preserving on Long Island.

Equestrian Population

The equestrian population consists of a wide variety of breeds that are utilized for many different purposes ranging from the racing thoroughbred to a farming donkey. The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYS DAM) in coordination with the United States Department of Agriculture, National Agriculture Statistics Services, conducts periodic surveys of the equestrian community statewide, and completed the most recent survey in 2005.

The Survey estimated that there were a total of 197,000 equines throughout New York State and 15,300 in the Long Island and NYC region (LI NYC region). It ranked Suffolk County 6th in the State with inventory of 6,200 head and Nassau just ahead at 5th with 6,300 head.

While the number of equines reported held steady statewide from 1978 to the 1988 survey, there was a significant drop of 14,000 equines (168,000 total) representing 7.7% of the reported population after the 2000 Survey. Such wide variations in the State Survey totals leads the Task Force to believe that other factors caused a significant decrease in reporting. Several explanations have been suggested. One reason for the decline could be the implementation of new and stricter zoning laws causing equine owners to either underreport or not participate in the Survey. Additionally, outreach may also have caused problems, as members of the community reported that the Survey was only forwarded to those who responded to previous surveys. It is encouraging that there was a significant increase (17%) in the number of equines reported in 2005, which also was the largest number of equine reported all the years that the survey has been conducted.

There are concerns among active members of the equestrian community that the Survey's results maybe skewed as it is unlikely that all equine owners were contacted or responded. So while it cannot be used solely to determine the number of equines in Suffolk, it can provide some assistance in deriving the general characteristics of our equine population. It separated the equine breeds into six main categories: Racing Breed Horses, other Light Horses, Draft Horses, Ponies, Miniature Horses, and Donkeys and Mules. (See Appendix I)

If we assume that the Survey's responses are generally a reflection of the overall true equine population then we can develop a general picture of the types of equines within Suffolk County. Therefore, we can deduce that most equines (92%) within Suffolk are of the light horse breeds, including racing breeds, and the remaining four types only constitute 8% of the equine population. Below is Table 3 from the Survey that reports total equines in a district by type.

Table 3. **EQUINE BY TYPE AND DISTRICT, NEW YORK, 2005**

District	Total Equine	Light Horses 1/	Draft Horses	Ponies	Miniature Horses	Donkeys and Mules
Northern	7,400	5,700	800	400	300	200
Northeast	6,400	5,000	600	400	300	100
Western	37,900	31,100	2,600	2,300	1,500	400
Central	32,300	26,100	2,500	1,900	1,200	600
Eastern	29,100	24,600	1,300	1,800	700	700
Southwest	14,700	11,200	1,700	600	800	400
Southern	11,400	9,200	1,000	500	400	300
Southeast	42,500	36,600	1,300	2,700	1,200	700
Long Island and NYC	15,300	14,100	300	600	200	100
STATE	197,000	163,600	12,100	11,200	6,600	3,500

1/ Includes racing breeds.

The following table applies the Survey ratios per breed to the Task Force's estimated equestrian population to determine the approximate head for each breed residing in Suffolk County.

Total Number of Equine	All Lightweights	Standardbred	Thoroughbred	Quarter Horses	Appaloosa	Arabian	Morgan
11,700*	10,770**	6% 645	45.4% 4,885	19% 2,045	.7% 75	.7% 75	.7% 75
Pinto/Paint	Warmbloods	Crossbred	Other Light	Draft	Ponies	Miniature Horses	Donkeys and Mules
2.1% 225	7.2% 775	9.2% 985	9.2% 985	2% 235	4% 467	1.3% 150	.7% 80

*Total estimated equine in Suffolk County
** Based upon Survey Ratio that light breeds constitute 92% of total equine population in LI NYC region

The New York State Equine Survey went further to also provide six distinct categories of uses for which each different type of equine may be utilized: pleasure, breeding, racing, competition or sport, lesson and specialty uses.

According to the Survey, pleasure uses representing 36.6% of the responses were the largest category for equine throughout the state as well as in the LI NYC region. Any equine used primarily for recreation use such as, trail riding, hunting, pleasure riding, pleasure driving, 4-H and other youth programs were considered pleasure uses. The pleasure uses were represented by large proportions of all types and breeds of equines.

The second largest category of uses fell under the racing category, defined by any horse kept primarily for the intention of racing whether or not a pari-mutuel event. This category represents 17.6% of the respondents within the LI NYC region. This category also offers the greatest possibility of deviation based upon areas within the larger defined region, as there are two major racing facilities located outside of Suffolk County (Belmont Park in Nassau County and the Aqueduct in Queens).

Competition and sport use (14.4%) is a category that could most easily be confused with personal use. These equine are used primarily for showing, polo events, as well as both eastern and western competitions. Given the large number of associations that organize such events and that many participants own only a few horses, the responses to this category could easily be confused for a pleasure use horse.

Breeding equines, as defined as broodmares, stallions and foals born within the calendar year of the survey represented 9.8%. Lesson use (11%) are any horses used primarily for instruction or training and specialty use (3.3%) which includes equines riding stables, therapeutic riding, day camps, and driving type activities are two very closely resembled categories as both uses typically relate to a business or professional enterprise. As does the last category, other (7.2%), that encompasses such activities as police and farm work animals.

Total Number of Equine	Breeding	Lessons	Competition	Racing	Pleasure	Specialty	All Other
11,700	1,150	1300	1,685	2,060	4,280	385	840

While the Survey provided for a general categorization of uses of the equines within the community, there are very specific disciplines within each category. There are nine English disciplines, twelve Western disciplines, and other activities related to parade horses, driving, and vaulting disciplines available in Suffolk County for equestrians to participate in local competitions or perform in local events and parades. Last but not least trail riding is an overall favorite enjoyed by many equestrians regardless of their customary discipline; however, Competitive Trail Riding or Endurance Trail Riding competitions are not held in Suffolk. These events require large spans of land and given the dynamics of land management, it is difficult to plan locally. (See Appendix II)

Means to Identify the Current Equestrian Population

The Task Force will proceed in a variety of manners to attempt to derive the actual number of equines within Suffolk County and will be able to rely upon these general percentages as a means to achieving that task. Estimates of the number of horses in Suffolk County were derived through three methods; based upon the Survey and based upon the normal workload for the existing Blacksmiths and Veterinarians working in the area. The three different totals were then averaged together to produce a final estimate of equines in Suffolk County.

New York State Equestrian Survey:

According to the Survey, in 2005 Suffolk County was home to 6,200 equines, an increase of 400 or 7% from the 2000 Survey counts. Suffolk's total equine head count represented 40.5% of the total LI NYC region count of 15,300. Many individuals throughout the community will dispute these numbers as low based upon reasons previously discussed. However, lacking other resources to rely upon these two ratios will be carried forward to assist in the determining estimations.

Strictly relying on the Survey, the Task Force suggested applying the 5 year growth rate found between the last two survey years to estimate the 2010 equine population. Suffolk experienced a reported 7% growth during this period, which if continued at the same rate in the following five years would result in an estimated population of slightly over 6,600 equines in Suffolk in 2010.

Blacksmith Estimates:

The blacksmith or farrier service is an important need as all equines require regular treatments of their hoofs, with the application of horseshoes and trimming hoof growth. This regular service is as critical to a horse's health and well being as a regular oil change is to an automobile. Therefore, the task force attempted to determine a possible equestrian population based upon the workload of the farriers in the LI NYC region. Determining an exact count is difficult, and there is potential for both overestimation and underestimation as some owners do not care for their equine as well as others.

An active, local farrier, Jerry Tripiani, stated; "some farriers are busier than others and we never work a 40 hour week, usually 6 days and 10 to 12 hours a day in the season, maybe 40 in the slower winter months. Not all horses are shoed with 4 shoes. It takes approx 1 hour for 4 shoes, 2 front and just trimmed hind feet takes 30-35 minutes" Following Mr. Tripiani's suggestions, the calculation based on the farrier-based estimate of the population was separated into an 80/20 split. Eighty percent of the equines on Long Island would have shoes and trims performed every six weeks as an average normal hoof need and the remaining 20% would only get the hoofs trimmed two times a year. There are approximately 75 to 80 farriers in business in LI NYC

region, who all travel from farm to farm to ply their trade. Given a typical 40 hour work week and taking travel time into consideration, a farrier will see one horse per hour. We derive our estimates for the maximum and minimum ranges and took the average. By applying Suffolk's Survey proportion of 40.5%, we estimated that the total farrier-based population estimate in Suffolk is 13,000 equines.

Veterinarian Estimates:

Like the farrier, the veterinarian is equally an important part of the equestrian industry. While the horse may seem to be a large and sturdy animal, keeping it in good health requires regular check ups and medical treatment. Most owners will ensure that their horse or other equine will see a veterinarian twice a year.

We took testimony from Dr. Howard Flynn, a local veterinarian and member of the Long Island Veterinarian Association. According to Dr. Flynn there are approximately 17 to 20 active veterinarians who serve the equestrian population on Long Island. Like the farrier the equine veterinarian often travels and works a typical 40 hour work week. Just considering the normal routine visit a veterinarian will typically see an average of 2 horses per hour. Therefore, using a similar procedure as we did with farriers, we were able to estimate a veterinarian-based total of estimated 15,500 located within Suffolk County.

Final Estimate

It is clear that the estimates based upon known existing businesses far surpass any estimates produced by the Survey; even after applying the Suffolk or New York growth rates, 7% and 17% respectively. Therefore, to produce a final estimate an average of the three different methods to derive Suffolk County's equine head count was taken providing a total of 11,700. It is likely that the estimate is low by industry standards, yet, it remains a significant number that would place Suffolk County among the top ranking of equines throughout New York State. (See Appendix III)

Equestrian Owners

The equestrian community and horse owners are often perceived to be the sole purview of the elite; one immediately thinks of polo, the Hampton's Classic and the Belmont Stakes. However, these stereotypes couldn't be farther from the truth. Most horse owners are not wealthy, but are rather middle class individuals who choose to make equestrian activities part of their life. Some owners are purely hobby owners, who ride on the weekends or in their off time. Others actively use their horses and their properties as a way of earning a living. For the purpose of the Report, the Task Force has decided to separate horse owners into two separate categories: Recreational and Professional.

Recreational Owners

Recreational owners are those who own their animal specifically for their own enjoyment; much like those who own classic vehicles for a hobby. Recreational owners may enter their horse in competitions, shows or races, but do not derive regular income from such activities. The pleasure, competition and sport uses as identified by the NYS Equestrian Survey likely constitute the large majority of recreational owners' inventory.

There are generally two different groups of recreational equine owners, those who keep their horses on their own property and those who board them. The boarders typically find themselves with two different options: full board and rough board.

Full board provides for the complete care for the day to day needs of the horse including feeding, bedding and stall maintenance. Often the full board offers options for other needs such as grooming, training and exercising the animal. Some boarding operations will also provide clipping, tacking, shipping, training and lessons for horse owners who show or compete with their horse. The larger and more expensive facilities may even have comfortable lounges, indoor arenas, manicured rings and large grass turnouts. Depending on the location, size and services available full boarding can cost between $350 and $3,000 per horse per month.

SAMPLE BUDGET PER HORSE PER YEAR		
FEED:		
Hay	*(20 lbs. per day x 365 days = 7300 lbs. or 3.65 tons x $275 per ton)*	$1,003.75
Grain	*(4lbs. per day x 365 days = 1460 lbs. or 29 - 50 lbs bags x $17.50)*	$507.50
BEDDING	*(4 bags shavings per week x 52 weeks or 208 x $6)*	$1,248.00
VETERINARY SUPPLIES AND CARE:		
Immunization	*(Fall and Spring)*	$200.00
Deworming	*(6 times per year x $11.00)*	$66.00
Dental and Misc.		$170.00
Farm call charges		$75.00
FARRIER:		
Shoeing	*Front Shoes only at $120 / 6 times per year*	$720.00
	Full shoes at $160 / 6 times per year	$960.00
Trimming	*$50 / 6 times per year*	$300.00
TOTAL	*(Feed, Bedding, Veterinary + Farrier average)*	$5,050.25

Rough boarding is often a less expensive alternative for an equine owner capable and willing to provide for some of the care themselves. Each barn owner establishes different arrangements with rough boarders, which can range from an equine owner who strictly rents a stall and does all the associated work to care for the equine to a combination of the barn owner providing the feed, hay or bedding. Rough board also varies with the amount of work the equine owner is able to put in and can range from providing labor to $300 per horse per month.

The owner who keeps their equine on their own property must ensure that they provide for all the needs of their animals. This includes purchasing feed, hay, supplements, tack, as well as cleaning the stalls, disposing of manure and a long list of other associated responsibilities.

The costs of owning a horse will vary for each owner depending on his or her availability of time, labor and property. The Survey utilized overall expenditures throughout New York State to determine an average cost of owning a horse of $5,594. The estimate includes such expenditures as boarding, training, advertising, and labor; all items that the recreational owner may do without.

Horsekeeping on a Small Acreage is a 'how to' book for the recreational equine owners who keep their animals on their own property. It provides a very basic budget to help the owner determine minimum yearly costs to owning a horse. The Task Force utilized the following sample budget to develop an estimated operating cost per horse for this type of owner. Substituting current prices for the budget items of hay, grain, bedding, veterinary and farrier services, we estimate that the minimal cost per horse at $5,050.25.

In comparing the two, it is also important to note that the Task Force estimate does not include other unavoidable costs such as manure removal, property taxes, insurance costs, utilities and other items.

Professional Owners

In addition to the recreational horse owners, there are those that utilize their equine to generate revenue or for work related purposes. The equines uses typically associated with the professional owner include racing, therapeutic programs, training, riding schools and lessons, but also may include work related uses such as driving, farming, and police work. While most of the professional owners keep their animals on their own property; it is not unusual to find racehorse breeds with more than one owner and stabled at a track barn where the animal can be trained for a life on the racetrack.

Equestrian Organizations

Currently, there are approximately 20 organizations throughout Long Island that cater to the equestrian community (Appendix IV). The groups vary in size of membership depending on the foundation upon which it was formed. Some groups are geographically based, others are formed based upon a specific equestrian discipline, and others yet for the horse breed or uses. What all of them have in common is each has a mission of educating the public and promoting the equestrian community, land preservation and management, and trail maintenance.

Equine Property Uses

The numbers of equestrian properties and property owners is another feature of the equine community that presents a challenge in identifying. The very large majority of equine properties are those between one and ten acres. The Survey defined each property utilized for equine purposes as an operation and listed the LI NYC region as having 1,800 such places utilizing a total of some 50,000 acres. Operations were divided into 5 main categories, commercial boarding and training, commercial breeding, crop/livestock farms and non-commercial/non-farm uses. An overwhelming number of respondents to the Survey identified their operation as non-commercial/non-farm with 1,350 or 75%.

The Survey results reflect what is well known about the equestrian industry in Suffolk, that it is largely a cottage industry operated on small properties that often double as the owner's primary place of residence. Each property is unique and could fall under a wide range of zoning codes including residential, commercial, light industry or farmland. With each different town and code are different regulations on the number of equines permitted on the property. Often these codes prevent an owner from boarding the number of equines necessary to be a viable operation, and therefore, it is likely that Survey respondents may not have identified their true use.

For the purpose of clarification and to provide a more accurate count, the Task Force has proposed new divisions for equine property uses: Recreational and Professional.

Recreational Uses

As discussed with the recreational equine owner, there are a number of individuals in the equine community who keep their animals on their own property. Typically, these properties are in residential neighborhoods and are 1 to 5 acres in size with a very limited number of equines. They do not generate revenue from their horse nor from the equestrian use of their property, though they may board extra horses on their property as a means to help offset their own costs. The Task Force will be identifying these properties as Recreational. It is the belief of the Task Force that the recreational properties constitute the majority of the equestrian properties both in numbers and in total acreage; however, it is difficult to identify specific numbers.

The various town and village codes pertaining to horse densities often make it difficult for even the recreational property owners to comply. Cost factors such as bringing in hay, feed, bedding, and insurance while removing manure all make it difficult for the small recreational owners to subsist in Suffolk County. Similar to all property owners in Suffolk County, property taxes are another large burden on the recreational owner. Yet, since they derive little to no income from their property or equines and they do not qualify as farms and as such do not qualify for farmland preservation programs that can provide assistance by lowering property tax rates.

Professional Uses

The professional use property is one through which the owner maintains equines or equestrian activities that are related to a business and the production of revenue. Typically an equestrian operation is a farm. A farm property maybe zoned as agricultural, commercial or even residential. The result is that the zoning standards for professional use properties are varied throughout Suffolk County. The major professional uses in Suffolk County are riding schools, boarding stables, show-grounds, along with other smaller uses such as breeding, track, retirement, lay-up and rescue barns.

Riding Schools or Academies

The riding schools on Long Island also offer boarding, and usually have summer day camps. They provide horses for lessons for riders of all skill levels from beginners through advanced. Many offer the opportunity to show at in-house shows as well as shows off the farm property. They are usually staffed with professionals and other qualified personnel.

In recent years, handicap riding programs have grown in number offering therapy to handicap children and adults. Some riding schools offer these programs in addition to the regular lesson schedule, while others are strictly for handicap riders. These riding schools can have their own facility or can operate out of another lesson/boarding barn.

Stables

Starting at one end of the spectrum is the full service, full board show barn offering all the amenities including comfortable lounges, indoor arenas, grooms, manicured outdoor rings, very large grass turnouts, extreme aesthetics, etc. Boarding and lessons are their primary source of income. Board cost at these types of stables will range from $1,500 upwards to excess of $3,000.

The next in the sequence is the basic large boarding barn with 50 or more stalls offering less services, but still very comfortable surroundings. These offer the choice of several boarding packages and trainers, indoor/outdoor arenas, a few grass turnouts, many smaller pens, etc.

Again, boarding is their primary source of income; however, some may do a large camp program. Board prices at these facilities can range from $900 to $1,500.

The smaller barn of about 12 to 25 stalls usually offers a variety of boarding options and full or rough board are both possibilities. Some barns are owned and operated by lesson professionals and others invite or allow freelance instructors and trainers. Some have grooms and additional help while some are fully operated by the owners. Some are strictly boarding, or lay-ups, while others offer a multitude of involvement. Most have nice, large, lit, outdoor rings and other amenities, but only a few have indoor arenas. Board costs at these barns can range from $400 to $900.

The next group is probably the largest and includes most barns which are located on residential properties. Barns of 10 stalls or less usually house the owners' horses and some boarders; full or rough, to offset the expenses of owning horse property. Some are located near parks with equestrian access for those interested in riding on the trails, and some are equipped with rings or other amenities for different disciplines. Some owners teach out of their yards, and often freelance professionals frequent these barns. Full board at these barns can range from $350 to $600, depending on the barn's location and proximity to parks and trails. Rough board is determined by the amount of manual work to horse needs ratio. Some people can get free board in exchange for their labor.

Show Grounds

Most of the privately owned properties that host competitions, of which there are about 12 in Suffolk are limited. Some offer just large fields with grass footing; manicured or not. Others have facilities such as fencing, space for competition offices, lavatory facilities, and various footings. Others have rings with sand or other manufactured footing, designated with fencing, small buildings equipped with electricity and plumbing for the use of office work and bathrooms. And still, others have large enough indoor arenas for winter events. Most are limited in space, making it difficult to have adequate parking for trucks, trailers, and cars.

Others

There are several breeding facilities, and a few track barns that do not offer lessons to the general public. They do, however, offer boarding to those who have a precise interest in breeding their mare, or preparing their horse for the racetrack.

There are a few lay-up barns that offer boarding and care for horses that are recuperating or convalescing, and will need veterinarian attention or specific care.

There are also retirement farms that offer inexpensive board to those who would like to retire their older horses, however, due to cost, they are very few in number, and many horse owners choose to send their horses out of Suffolk County for retirement.

Growing in popularity is the rescue barn, usually operated by a good-hearted soul who takes on horses bound for an unpleasant end. They usual finding the equines at sales and after rehabilitation try to relocate them with permanent homes. These barns can be privately owned or operated out of larger facilities.

Equestrian Professions

The various professional operations all require employees, both manual labor and skilled professionals to help them run. For some of the smaller operations, the owner and his or her immediate family may be the stable hand, instructor and trainer all in one. While in many rough board stables the customers are the manual labor.

There are several manual or unskilled employees that may work at a professional operation. The stable hand shovels out stalls, cleans paddocks and performs other day to day tasks of a farm. Groomers brush and preen the horse to help keep it clean and free from parasitic insects. Large facilities, especially those involved with racing, may have exercise riders and walkers who ensure the horses receive the proper amount of physical activity in a day.

Professionals are those who have acquired and honed their expertise through years of experience with horses and in the business, or in more recent years, have become accredited through a program, school, or college. There is a fine almost invisible line between a trainer and an instructor, as they often teach both horse and rider. Racehorse trainers train and maintain the physical condition of the horses, but also instruct jockeys in the techniques of riding each of their horses. Show horse trainers bring horses along the discipline at which they are proficient, but also teach riders to ride these horses. The word instructor is usually associated with the professional who teaches the novice rider at lesson barns or camps. It is also important to note that there are many professional trainers and instructors working in the equestrian industry who do not own horses or equine properties. They are freelance professionals and they work out of one or more facilities.

Breeding farms have their own professionals, educated husbandry which deals with the reproductive systems and genetics of equines. Often times a breeding farm would have a veterinarian either on staff.

Equestrian Economy:

Equine Values

The Survey listed the value of all equines in New York in 2005 at $1.83 billion, with LI NYC region having a total value of $447 million. The Survey ranks Suffolk County 6th in total equine population and 4th in total values at $126 million, representing 6.9% of all equine value throughout the state and 28.35% of the LI NYC region value. While the increase in the number of equines from the 2000 Equine Survey was just 7% our equine valued nearly doubled to an average equine value of $20,322. Nassau County, 5th in equine population, was 2nd with a total value of $221 million. The Survey listed the average value of an equine at $9,300, with racing breeds at $22,710 and warmbloods (a type of light breed) at $22,000 throughout the state. Given that thoroughbreds, with an average value of $27,600 comprised nearly half of the region's equine population (6,400) and that the region encompasses two major race tracks, it is clear that many of LI NYC region equines are of higher value than in many other regions of the state that have higher equine populations. In fact, Survey results show that the LI NYC region's equine values were second only to the Southeast region, which recorded a total of 42,500 head.

In 2008, the United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, who worked with NYS Department of Agriculture to develop the 2005 Survey, published the

2007 Census of Agriculture. The Census found that the total equine sales in Suffolk County at $557,000 for 156 equines sold for an average sale value of $3,570. Unfortunately, the Census data was woefully inaccurate as it reported only 1,677 horses and ponies in Suffolk County and an additional 692 in Nassau as compared to the 6,200 and 6,300 reported respectively in the 2005 Survey and our present Suffolk estimate of 11,700.

Equine Related Assets

The Survey reported total equestrian related assets in New York at $10.4 billion including the $1.83 billion in equine values. The LI NYC region alone represents $2.5 billion of those values, including $447 million in equine values, representing 24% of New York's assest. The highest valued assets, as expected, are the land, fences and buildings that constitute our equine properties. In total, land related assets totaled $7.08 billion in the State and $1.888 billion in the LI NYC region or an average of $67,440 per acre. Like equine values, the property values in the LI NYC region are second only to the Southeast Region and far surpass land values in any other part of the state. It is important to note that this includes the values of both Belmont and Aqueduct Racetracks. If we assume that the equine value ratio for Suffolk County's equine (28.35%) holds true for all assets, than total assets within Suffolk would be $712 million of which, land, buildings and fencing is $556 million, vehicles and equipment at $35.6 million, tack and clothing $12.8 million and equine feed and supplies are $1.2 million.

	Total Equine Related Assets	Equine on hand	Land, Buildings, Fencing	Vehicles and Equipment	Tack equipment, and clothing	Equine feed and supplies
LI NYC Region	2,510,180,00	446,690,000	1,888,430,000	125,660,000	48,140,000	4,380,000
Suffolk County (28.35%)	$711,636,030	$126,660,000	$556,369,900	35,624,610	$12,763,170	1,241,730

*Values are derived from USDA-NASS-NYS DAM 2005 Survey Response

Equine Expenditures

The Survey went on to analyze the total expenditures and revenue for all equine related activities in New York State. Total expenditures topped $2.06 billion in 2005 a near 300% increase from total expenditures reported in 2000 of $704 million. Of that slightly over $1.1 billion were in operating expenses alone, which include a host of goods and services, such as farrier services, hay, grain and other feed, manure disposal, among many. Capital expenditures were just slightly less than $1 billion, which comprises of purchase of equines, equipment, and land and property related improvements.

In addition to the $2.06 billion in expenditures reported in the Survey the equine industry also generated over $445 million in revenue through equine and related sales, training, breeding, services and winnings.

Table 18. **EQUINE RELATED EXPENDITURES, NEW YORK, 2000 AND 2005**

Expense Category	Total Expenditures			Average per Equine	
	2000	2005	Percent Spent in New York 1/	2000	2005
	Thousand Dollars		*Percent*	*Dollars*	
OPERATING EXPENSES	**522,860**	**1,101,940**	**91**	**3,112**	**5,594**
Boarding	54,800	155,920	95	326	791
Training	2/	57,330	90	2/	291
Breeding Fees and Related Expenses	22,000	28,310	71	131	144
Farrier	23,400	52,160	95	139	265
Veterinary and Health Expenses	32,590	74,000	87	194	376
Shipping and Travel	14,810	31,010	82	88	157
Purchased Bedding	18,750	32,300	90	112	164
Value of Home-grown Bedding	NA	2,330	NA	NA	12
Purchased Grain	24,920	47,360	97	148	240
Value of Home-grown Grain	NA	1,490	NA	NA	8
Purchased Hay	59,120	55,660	94	352	283
Value of Home-grown Hay	NA	24,740	NA	NA	126
Mixed or Formula Feeds	16,700	15,630	85	99	79
Medicine	3/	14,870	87	3/	75
Supplies	11,050	25,400	90	66	129
Manure Disposal	NA	6,350	93	NA	32
Fees and Payments	12,780	29,520	82	76	150
Advertising and Marketing	4/	7,440	85	4/	38
Contract Services	4/	8,120	96	4/	41
Maintenance and Repair	37,190	69,910	85	221	355
Utilities and Fuels	22,930	35,140	95	137	178
Insurance Premiums	20,290	30,780	82	121	156
Rent/Lease Expenses	10,920	34,150	88	65	173
Miscellaneous	6,410	NA	NA	38	NA
Property Taxes	37,910	82,580	97	226	419
Interest	7,970	39,190	98	47	199
Labor	88,320	168,810	NA	526	857
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	**180,790**	**958,130**	**86**	**1,076**	
Purchases of Equine	49,460	254,000	69	294	
Purchases of Equipment	68,320	213,690	90	407	
Purchases of Land and Capital Improvements	63,010	490,440	92	375	
TOTAL	**703,650**	**2,060,070**	**88**	**4,188**	

1/ 2005 labor expenses are not included in Percent Spent in New York column.
2/ Training included with Boarding in 2000.
3/ Medicine included with Health in 2000.
4/ Advertising and Marketing and Contract Services included in Miscellaneous in 2000.

Utilizing the economic impact software IMPLAN (Impact Analysis for Planning), the Survey went on to attempt to derive a total impact of the equestrian industry on New York State's Economy. According to their estimates, the statewide economic impact of the industry is between $1.38 billion and $1.73 billion in 2005 dollars. If adjusted for inflation and assuming no change in size and scope of the industry from 2005 to 2010 the impact would be $1.54 billion to $1.93 billion.

In addition to the goods and services utilized by the equestrian community, they further contribute to our economy through property and sales taxes, and park permit fees. In fact, the Survey reported that $82,580,000 in property taxes was paid in New York State in 2005, over double the amount of property taxes reported in 2000. The Survey determined that the average operating expense per horse in 2005 to be $5,594, if one applies Suffolk's 8.65% sales tax rate to those taxable operating expenses, you would find that the average horse produces nearly $150 in sales tax yearly, or an estimated $1.755 million every year in Suffolk County (Appendix V).

Equine Businesses

There are a large number of businesses that provide goods and services to the equine community, which can generally be divided into two categories: those that are directly related to the equestrians and would not exist without the activity and those in which equines are a part of their overall business. Some direct services include veterinary and dental care, pharmacological services, feed supply, massage therapy, tack shops, groomers, boarding, farrier or blacksmith services, equine training, rider and driving schools and instruction, breeding, manure removal

and disposal, and show and competition facilities (both indoor and outdoor). Depending on the size and operation of each business the labor potential includes not only the principal provider of the service such as the instructor or veterinarian, but also assistants, bookkeepers, salespersons, and other laborers.

Other needs of the equine community include fuel supplies, insurance, utilities, vehicles and trailers, tractors and other farm equipment, fencing, building supplies, raw materials such as sand and gravel, realtors, legal services and advertising. In some instances niche businesses have formed out of this second category to cater specifically to the needs of the equine community, such as Long Island Horse Properties which provides equine real estate services.

As with almost any industry, there are a number of equestrian specific publications that range in issues from the general to ones focused on a specific discipline or use. One, *The Horse Directory* Magazine, is published monthly in Eastport and provides news and updates regarding equestrian activities, clubs and events throughout Long Island.

Many high schools have equestrian teams. Some area colleges and universities have teams that compete as part of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association, including Dowling College, St. Joseph's College and SUNY Stony Brook, some even offer scholarships. In fact the IHSA Zone 2 Region 4 consists of all the Suffolk teams, along with Hofstra University, C. W. Post, Molloy College, Nassau Community College in Nassau and New York University and Columbia University. Both Suffolk and Nassau Counties have or had up until very recently 4-H clubs with equestrian components that operated as a part of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Equine and Equestrian Property Needs

Horsekeeping is managed on different levels and is influenced by the individual needs of the horses kept at the facility. The individual equine needs coupled with the constant introduction of new products, development of new aids, and revised land management recommendations make it necessary and sometimes a requirement to make changes to a facility's site-plan. Elaborate, expensive facilities do not guarantee good horsekeeping, equally, simple facilities do not indicate poor care. Good management and proper care requires knowledge, dedication, and a sincere interest in the well-being of the equine.

Horse ownership is a substantial financial investment that requires time, hard work, and sincere dedication. As with any domestic animal or livestock maintained by humans, horses are completely dependent on their owners. It does not matter if the owner, hired barn help or farmhand tends to the daily chores; all needs are fulfilled by the caretaker. The following are some realities of horse ownership provided for the purpose of defining the needs of horses.

There are the human factors that will influence the site-plan and the amenities included in that site-plan and should include some of the following questions. *Time*. A horse requires a minimum of two visits a day to tend to his needs and a general look over. How many hours a day does your schedule allow for repairing facilities and tack, feeding, cleaning, grooming, and exercising your horse? *Hard work.* The daily needs mentioned above include shoveling manure, toting bales of hay, carrying water, giving a vigorous grooming, and an exercise program for your horse. Are you physically fit or capable of hiring the personnel to perform these sometimes "back-breaking" labors yourself? *Trade-offs.* Owning a horse may mean giving up other things you like to do, need, or want; including sleep, warmth, and comforts. It is inevitable your horse will become ill at bedtime, get injured as soon as you have plans, or slip on the ice during the fiercest storm of the century. Are you willing to make the sacrifices and put your horse first

when necessary? *Legal.* Horse owners have a legal obligation to their horse and members of the community. Have you educated yourself with the laws and rules and met all requirements for your area?

Horses are organic creatures with behavior patterns that have been a part of the horse for 60 million years. To make coping with these behavioral traits worse, humans set a dangerous anthropomorphic trap by treating their horse like a human. The horse is not a human, nor should he be thought of as a pet; rather a partner. Understanding the following behavioral traits and the special needs of horses will assist with, if not dictate, planning a facility. *Gregariousness.* Gregarious animals are social, find safety in numbers, and prefer to move in groups. *Herd bound.* Often referred to as "barn sourness" occurs when a horse has not been socialized with the owner, this lends to insecurity away from other animals in the barn. *Pecking order.* As with people, not all horses get along. One horse in the group may battle for the alpha mare position by asserting dominance over the other horses and their owner. *Routines.* A horse has a very strong biological clock. Once a routine is established a horse's eating, drinking, and sleeping habits are set. *Nomadic.* The horse is an active born wanderer. A horse that does not receive sufficient exercise or have access to an ample amount of space to stretch his legs may develop vices (wood chewing, cribbing, pawing, weaving, tail and body rubbing, or stall kicking). *Senses*. Horses have keen senses for sounds and smells; absorb information through their lips, skin, and hairs (ie-is the electric fence on or off); dexterous lips that are capable of opening gates; always on alert; slow ocular adjustments for light; sees with both monocular and binocular vision which will cause image jump and visual distortions; and have an avid sense of curiosity. *Flight.* A horse that senses danger will more times than not, choose to flee over reassessing the situation. *Memory.* A horse has an excellent memory making it essential to do things right the first time.

A horse cannot be healthy and content without the basic needs: a clean environment, feed, water, shelter, exercise, rest, companionship, and veterinary and farrier care. *Cleanliness. Feed.* The type and ration of feed is determined on a per horse basis. Horses generally cannot eat feed together and must be separated during feeding time. The choice of grass and/or hay is dictated by availability, the amount is also determined on a per horse basis; but usually 20 lbs a day. Supplements can be provided as needed. *Water.* Horses drink between 4 and 20 gallons of water a day. *Shelter and protection.* Horses do not require air-tight heated barns; actually this is an unhealthy environment for a horse. Basically, all they need is a place to get out of the wind, hot sun, and avoid staying wet in cold weather. *Exercise.* Exercise is very important to a horses well being, but not all horses need to be ridden every day or require daily exercise. For non-riding days, ponying, lounging, electric horse walkers and treadmills are alternative exercise options. Individual exercise programs are developed for each horse. *Rest*. Horses rest in one of three positions: standing, sternal recumbent, and lateral recumbent. It is rare that a horse will lie down to rest or sleep. *Companionship.* Horses are social creatures that require interaction with its own species. *Veterinary and farrier care.* Good health management practices will keep veterinary and farrier costs down. There are some requirements to meet when a horse is being shipped out of the state he lives in. *Appreciation.* No one can live happily without it.

Horses and other equines come in many sizes from the petite, miniature horse to the large Clydesdale. Each breed has its own unique needs, often influenced not only by its size but also for the type of activity it is used for. However, in an effort to provide general baseline guidance, the Task Force will assume an average equine size to be 1,000 pounds. Based upon the average hose, the following provides a general overview of what any equestrian owner must provide.

Diet

The average horse needs to consume 1.5% to 3% of their body weight in food per day, or for the average equine between 15 and 30 pounds of food. The amount of food fluctuates based upon the equines daily regime as well as the season. A horse's diet should consist primarily of pasture grass and/or hay (70% to 100%) (Rutgers) and can be supplemented by cereal grains such as corn, oats, barley, wheat (UK). In addition, minerals such as calcium and phosphorus are important to a horse's health, which are most often provided to the equine to through the availability of saltlicks. A horse also requires vitamins A, D and E which may be added into its diet through the use of supplements (UK). A mature horse will also consume upwards of 10 to 12 gallons of water per day depending on its size and specific make up of its diet (NDSU).

While these averages provide a basic understanding of the nutritional needs of a horse, the means to provide those needs and the specific use of the horse will produce variations. Horses that are pasture fed will certainly require less hay, and likely ease the burden of stall manure removal. Horses that are in training for racing will require higher quantities of feed or higher mix of cereal grains. (NDSU)

Exercise

Exercise, or turn out time, is an important need to the equine and plays an important role in the digestive system of a horse. However, given the variety of uses for equines how it receives this necessary movement also varies. Pasture grazing not only reduces the need for hay and eases manure management but also provides for the exercise needs of the animal. In instances where pastures are not available, turn out in drylots or paddocks is an option. Provided that the drylots are properly cared for with adequate erosion control measures, proper drainage and manure management an active farm property can easily hold many horses in this capacity. Lastly, for those equines that are in training for shows or racing, or utilized for driving or riding programs turnout may be unnecessary all together as the animal will receive sufficient exercise through such uses. (Rutgers)

Veterinarian and Dental Care

As do their human companions, horses benefit from annual health checkups and need to be vaccinated against tetanus and other diseases. Keep in mind medical emergencies, which are always an unfortunate possibility, is an added health care expense that can cost several thousand dollars to treat. Therefore, veterinary visits are an essential part of the routine horse care required to maintain a healthy horse. The veterinarian will assist you to establish vaccination and deworming programs, genital care, recommend appropriate dental care and hoof care schedules, and monitor your horses overall health and condition. In addition, the veterinarian will make recommendations for the individual needs of each horse.

The veterinarian will also recommend that you know your horses "normal" and that you conduct a daily check of the horses well being. As far as the horse's general health and monitoring for health related issues, the veterinary examination will include recommendations for health care essentials, a check of the horse's temperature, pulse, and respiration. It may also include any or all of the following:

1. The horse is bright and alert with ears pricked and taking interest in his surroundings.
2. The coat is smooth and shiny and lying flat over the body.
3. Eyes and nose are free of any discharge.
4. Limbs are free of any heat and swellings.

5. Stands squarely on all four feet.
6. Eating well and chewing properly.
7. Manure should resemble damp balls that break up when hitting the ground and will vary in color slightly depending on diet.

Health Care Essentials

Keep up to date with vaccinations: Vaccinations are an inexpensive way to ensure your horse's long term health. Most horses are vaccinated twice a year. Spring and fall shots should be considered standard practice for all responsible horse owners. Show horses that travel to many events should be given additional booster shots (ie Equine Infectious Anemia (E.I.A.)) because they come into contact with so many horses.

Included in most vaccination programs are inoculations for: influenza (flu), rhinopneumonitis (rhino), eastern and western strains of encephalomyelitis (sleeping sickness), and tetanus. Other inoculations are available for common illnesses like rabies and equine distemper (strangles), EPM and West Nile Virus. Your veterinarian will recommend additional vaccines based on your geographical location and level of activity and travel. In addition to helping ensure that your horse will remain healthy, these vaccinations will give you a chance to meet with your veterinarian and get his informed opinion on your horse's condition.

Follow a suitable worming program: Since horses are constantly exposed to intestinal worms from the ground they graze on, they must be dewormed every six to eight weeks. Carrying a heavy burden of worms can cause serious illness or death in equines, so regular and timely treatment is crucial to your horse's health. Tube worming in the late fall and late spring may also be recommended.

Have your horses teeth checked regularly: Regular dental care has become an important part of health maintenance for today's horse. Proper teeth care can increase feed utilization, maximize horse comfort, and improve the overall health and performance of your horse. Examination of the horse's mouth is an important part of the routine veterinary visit. It should be noted that not all veterinarians perform the procedures, such as rasping or floating, utilized to manage the horses continually growing teeth; in which case a horse dentist would be recommended.

Genital care: Mares, geldings, and stallions will require genital care. In addition to examinations, the care and cleansing of the genitalia is a necessary part of your horse’s hygiene routine. If the owner is unable to perform the procedures for genital care, the veterinarian will take care of it once a year. Usually at the time spring shots are given. (Equine Veterinary Services)

Farrier Care

The farrier and his or her services are a critical component to the care and well being of any equine. The specific hoof care that each equine will require varies from horse to horse and even from foot to foot on the same horse. It is important to have a skilled farrier capable of evaluating each foot, trimming hoof growth and applying shoes as needed. Equines kept in pasture may not require shoes, but only regular trimming. Certain competition and draft horses may require shoes that provide for additional traction, while a reigning horse would not. The typical show horse will require shoeing every five to six weeks while, the casually ridden horse may be able to wait up to eight weeks. As with so many other equine needs, the specific use and type of equine will determine the frequency of farrier visits. (theHorse.com)

Shelter

A healthy equine, either horse or mule, is by nature capable to living outdoors. However, they will require shelter from extreme weather conditions. While shelter could potentially be natural, such as a grove of trees for a well fed animal, it is much preferably to provide a man-made structure. Barns and stables with stalls should have adequate space for the equine to lie down and freely move its head, be ventilated, dry, with safe and reasonably clean flooring. If the flooring is made from cement then bedding such as straw, wood chips or other material should also be provided (Rutgers). Run in and covered sheds may also provide adequate shelter from the elements.

Fencing

Horses are free-ranging herbivores and so naturally like to roam. They can and will often jump over or run through fences if they are spooked or decide that the 'grass is greener on the other side'. Therefore it is important to utilize fencing material that is clearly visible to the horse. The classic paddock fence style, made of wide wooden planks or a split rail style, demonstrate just that. However, diamond mesh fence and high tensile wire fence can be used, but it is recommended that streamers be placed along the wire to help improve visibility. Equines are known to struggle and fight significantly if caught in fencing material, so barbed wire is highly discouraged as it could cause significant damage to the horse. It is also recommended that fencing be installed set back from property lines to prevent a horse from nibbling on a neighbor's tree and avoid unwanted neighbors from approaching the horse.

Feed Storage

Taking into consideration the diet of a horse, appropriate accommodations should also be given to maintain the needed food for the animal for a two week period of time. Hay should be stored in a dry location to prevent molding and loss of material. Store grain feeds in metal or plastic bins to deter attraction of rodents and to protect them from insects – and your horse.

Manure Management

Given the quantity of food and water that a typical horse consumes in one day it is quite understandable that the horse will also produce a substantial amount of waste in a single day. In fact, the average horse will produce approximately 50 pounds of raw waste every day (around 35 pounds of feces and 2 gallons of urine). However, also given their diet, the majority of this waste is comprised of water and 12.5 pounds of solids (EnviroHorse).

As mentioned above, pastured horses do much of their waste creation in the fields which may reduce the need for collection and removal. However, those equines that are kept in stalls or drylots will require a more active management approach. The average horse in a stall will produce between 60 and 70 pounds of waste per day once soiled bedding is accounted. The type of bedding will impact the density of the material, but on average it will create 2.4 cubic feet of material that will need to be removed and properly disposed (Rutgers).

How to handle and dispose of this material has been studied and recommendations issued by many leading institutions including Rutgers, Penn State, and to assist in the preparation of this Report, Suffolk County's Soil and Water Conservation District in conjunction with the USDA (Appendix VI). Concerns around the disposal of manure center on three important items; run off and pollution, odor and pest control measures.

Manure has high levels of nitrogen, phosphates and potash, all which make it an excellent fertilizer. However, all also are pollutants once they enter ground or surface waters. Therefore, a dedicated area should be located on a property to either compost the material or for storage until it can be removed. Preferably the storage location should have an impervious base, with a backstop, located away from surface water and with sufficient drainage to a grass buffer area. It should be protected from rainfall to prevent leachate from forming. Leachate is the brown liquid that is the primary means for the pollutants to enter surface and ground water. Some owners have found the use of dumpsters, which can be carted away as an effective alternative to a manure pad (Penn State).

In addition, flies are often associated with manure in warmer months as their breeding season begins once temperatures exceed 65 degrees. A fly will lay its eggs in the top few inches of fresh manure, as it has the desired moisture for its larva to develop. A single fly can produce up to 300 million flies within 60 days in ideal conditions, which fresh manure reflects. Therefore it is important that any manure storage location remain fly proof either through the use of a tight fitting lid to the storage area, or something as simple as a tarp (Penn State).

In addition, as we all know manure odor can be offensive to the un-acclimated nose, especially in warmer months. To prevent odors from affecting neighbors, the manure storage location should be kept downwind from the stable facility and adjacent residential areas as best as possible. If prevailing winds shift with the season, placement should be based upon the direction of winds in the spring and summer when neighbors are most likely to be outdoors. It is also recommended to plant trees, large shrubs or even install fencing around the facility to control the odor and to improve the aesthetic look of the area (Penn State).

Lastly, proper setbacks should be considered when choosing a location to store the manure to minimize all of these potential problems. Optimally it should be located at least 50 feet from the property line, 200 feet from a residence or place of business and 100 feet from wetland, surface water and well sources.

Table 4. Minimum distances between manure storage/composting areas and other activities

Sensitive Area	Minimum separation distance (feet)
Property line	50
Residence or place of business	200
Private well or other potable water source	100
Wetlands or surface (streams, pond, lakes)	100
Subsurface drainage pipe	25
Water table (seasonal high)	3
Bedrock	3

(Adapted from *On-Farm Composting Handbook*, NRAES 54, 1999)

Rutgers Cooperative Extension, *Agricultural Management Practices for Commercial Equine Operations*

Challenges to the Industry

The equestrian community is facing many challenges that are severely impacting its ability to continue to exist in Suffolk County. Some challenges impact the professional owner, while others the recreational, and many more both. As a result of these challenges, more and more horse owners are moving out of Suffolk County and out of New York State in search of 'greener

pastures'. They find havens in Pennsylvania, Kentucky and many other places where property values, taxes and the everyday needs of the horse are all less costly.

Zoning Regulations

Suffolk County is home to 10 towns and 33 villages, each with the local zoning powers to regulate land uses. The result is a myriad of regulations on the numbers of equine permitted on a property, each with the capacity to impact or even prevent a horse farm from being economically viable. In the Town of Southold there are no restrictions on the number of equines permitted on property provided they meet minimum setback requirements. While in Brookhaven and Riverhead, both with substantial rural and farmland areas, a property must be a minimum of 10 acres to qualify as a horse farm or commercial boarding operation

In addition to creating confusion among the industry as to what is and what is not permissible from town to town, some of the more restrictive ordinances often make the operation of a smaller horse farm or commercial boarding facility as defined by New York State Agriculture and Markets Law impossible. For example, Brookhaven Town limits the number of horse per acre on a non-farm property to a maximum of two per acre with a maximum of 8 horses on a single property, with the expressed prohibition of boarding. The result of such restrictions is that many small operators run cash-based operations to shield their businesses and remain unnoticed by the town. (Appendix VII)

New York State Agriculture and Markets Law Article 25-AA Section 301provides a regularly used definition of farmland or land used in agricultural production. The definition is utilized to determine a farms eligibility to be added to a NYS Agricultural District. It states that the land should not be less than 7 acres and have been utilized for that purpose for at least the two previous years and generates average gross sales of $10,000, or for properties of less than 7 acres with average gross sales value of $50,000. The law further provides that a commercial horse boarding operation also qualifies as agricultural use provided that the property is at least 7 acres in size, boards no less than 10 horses and generates $10,000 in gross receipts from the boarding of the horse. Such definitions clearly limits an equine farm to those engaged in either breeding, other crop production or commercial boarding operation and omits other equine related activities such as hack horses, trail riding and riding academies.

Property Taxes

Like any property owner in Suffolk County, property taxes are a daunting challenge to the equine property owner. While every town and village assesses properties differently, generally a commercial property is assessed at a higher value than residential and farmland. This is perhaps the greatest dilemma for the small professional owner who does not qualify for the horse farm standard. This owner risks assessment of their property as commercial if they report their activity. A commercial assessment with a barn, stable or other improvement can result in an increase in the tax rate for their property. Whether these concerns are founded or not it has certainly led to a lack of accurate reporting of equine activities.

There are currently programs through New York State and Suffolk County that do assist in reducing the horse farms tax rate. Properties included in the NYS Agricultural District receive automatic farm status and a lower tax assessment in return for a commitment to remain in agricultural use for a period of seven years. In turn, the lower assessment over the same seven years assures lower overall property taxes. To qualify for inclusion in an Agricultural District a

property must meet definition in the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law previously explained.

In addition to the NYS Agricultural District program, Suffolk County has a Farmland Preservation Program designed specifically to preserve existing farmland throughout the county. Suffolk's Farmland program takes a slightly different approach and involves the purchase of the development rights of the farmland from the owner. By selling their development rights, the owner agrees to transfer the right to utilize the property for any purpose other than farming. In return, the owner receives a payment for those rights and over the long term a lower property assessment.

The relative smaller sizes of our horse farms, which are primarily boarding and riding facilities, and the general underreporting of business leave our average equine operation unable to take advantage of either the New York State Agricultural District program or the Suffolk County Farmland Preservation program.

Operating Costs:

The Survey put the costs of owning a horse at $5,594 per year, while the Task Force estimates for the recreational owner keeping the animal on their own property at slightly less at $5,050. Hay can cost upwards of $275 per ton or $7.50 for a 50 pound bale, which may sound cheap until one realizes that the average horse requires over 3.5 tons of hay per year, in addition to another half ton of grain. Additionally, around 8 to 12 pounds of bedding is used daily meaning over 1.5 tons of stray, wood chips or other material must be purchased. If one boards their horse, even in the most basic of facilities they are facing a minimum of $3,000 per year.

Manure, which in other parts of the state can actually be used to create revenue, is a major cost factor for the equine property owner who must pay to have it taken away. Each day the average horse produces 2.4 cubic feet of manure or close to 12 tons each year. A local composting facility takes in the manure at a rate of $10 per cubic yard, while some area carters will provide a 10 cubic yard dumpster at a rate of $260 per collection, provided it is collected every 7 to 10 days. As a result of the Task Force's research efforts, local carting companies have prompted their sales representatives to consider adopting new services specific to equestrian needs. However, there is no assurance that costs will be any lower.

Insurance Costs

The average horse property often must carry additional insurance to protect both for the safety of the equines on the property as well as those that may come in contact with the animal. The risk associated with owning and riding a horse will drive recreational owner's homeowners insurance up.

For the professional operation, they face the added expense of liability insurance. New York State is one of four states that does account for the inherent risk of riding a horse in its insurance laws. The result is higher liability insurance rates for any hack operation, which may provide such services as trail riding to the inexperienced rider. To grant the professional operation the ability to allow individuals to 'ride at their own risk' given appropriate precautions would greatly increase the viability of portions of the equestrian industry.

Public Land Access

Obtaining and then maintaining access to parks, preserves, and open space parcels has been quite a task for all authorized user groups. There are unique factors that affect equestrian access;

thereby increasing the need for a strong presence of equine organizations and civic associations, with a large equine population within their hamlet, at governing land management plan meetings.

There are a multitude of management possibilities. As previously mentioned there are 10 parks and parcels managed by the Suffolk County Parks Department, 8 New York State managed equestrian facilities, 5 Department of Environmental Conservation areas, and numerous other riding trails maintained by the 10 towns and 33 villages. (See Appendix VIII) The acquisition of open space parcels is another resource for recreational access. These parcels offer trail networks that are conducive to trail riding and other equestrian activities. Open space parcels are individually and/or jointly managed by different combinations of governmental agencies. In addition to the above-mentioned agencies, open space parcels may be individually and/or jointly managed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The management plan for a park, preserve, or open space parcel located within the Pine Barrens, including compatible growth areas, are also subject to guidelines and restrictions of the Pine Barrens Commission and recommendations from the Protected Lands Council. Another aspect of management plans for Suffolk County public land is that many parks, preserves, and open space parcels are adjacent to parcels owned and managed by public utilities, large land owners such as Brookhaven National Lab, sites whose use is still in question such as the former Grumman property, or may be adjacent to private property; each having its own unique challenges.

When attempting to take public wishes, needs, and concerns into consideration; land management under the best circumstances with one managing agency is an extensive process. The situations that involve two or more governing agencies become a full-time commitment. Then the added factor of the parcel location being within the Pine Barrens makes equine access extremely difficult to obtain and maintain.

Lack of Showground Facility

In the very near future, the United States Equestrian Federation, the umbrella organization for all rated horse shows, and of which Long Island holds over 50 shows annually, will be requiring certain updated amenities for their shows. This will surely cause several of these farms to no longer be adequate for those events. The Hampton Classic, which is held on private grounds, will need to revamp their offerings to be in accordance with USEF's new criteria.

Task Force Recommendations

The Suffolk County Equestrian Task Force has reached the conclusion that the equestrian community in Suffolk represents a sizable part of our overall economy. In addition, the community has a deep rooted significance to the rustic and agricultural heritage of Suffolk County. The Task Force has therefore reached several recommendations to offer potential solutions to alleviate the pressures on the industry and to ensure its continued viability in Suffolk County.

Site Plan Approach to Zoning Laws

Local zoning directly impacts the number of equines that can be kept on a property, the viability of a property as a professional operation and even the ability of a recreational owner to maintain a small barn for personal uses. There are many variations of management schemes in between two extremes, depending on the intended use of the property and the equines kept there. If you are a recreational owner time is limited and you can only plan to ride on the weekends, then keeping your horse on a drylot or pasture may be the best choice. For the horse that will be

ridden regularly and you have time for daily chores then keeping your horse in a stall in a barn may better suit your needs. This is especially true for the professional operation that offers riding lessons. Land management decisions must be based on the horse, its activity level and uses, and space availability.

The location of your property and its attributes play a large role when designing your site-plan. Specifically, the following factors should be considered: climate, water, topography, soil, other natural amenities, utilities and services, roads and access, pollution, number of acres, pests, and potential for future surrounding development.

Facility components included in the site plan will vary greatly depending on your long-term goal. Is the facility for professional or recreational use? Will it be a medical, breeding, training, or boarding facility that offers full-service, partial-service, or rough board, or for personal? Depending on the goal, some or all of the following may be included in the site-plan: barn(s) with stalls; runs, pens, paddocks, and pastures; storage for feed and hay, bedding, machinery, tack, and other equipment; training areas: round pen, arena, track, walker, tread mill, pool; work areas; grooming area, wash rack, shoeing and veterinary area, breeding shed, laboratory, office, tack room; driveways, walkways, and parking areas; shelter belts, wind breaks, wildlife areas; water and other utilities; fencing; compost pile and dumpster for manure management.

Taking all of these factors into consideration in designing a site plan for an equestrian property, the Task Force also recognizes that in Suffolk most equine properties will be close to or in the middle of residential areas, where other property owners do not own horses. Therefore, site plans should take into consideration means to minimize any potential conflicts.

Professional Site Plan

A working professional equine operation, in which the owner has engaged in running a business full time, can easily accommodate many horses on a smaller property than the pasture based horse farm. Few if any professional operations in Suffolk adhere to the pasture approach, but rather they rely heavily on the use of drylots, paddocks, and providing hay and feed for the stabled animals. Taking into consideration all of the needs of an equine, how those needs can be easily addressed even on a small lot, as well as the best management practices for horse ownership, the Task Force highly recommends a site plan approach to professional operations that neither limits the number of horses permitted on a property, nor the size of the property in use. Rather, a site plan approach that ensures best management practices are being met such as those that are well defined within the Rutger's Cooperative Extension, Agricultural Management Practices for Commercial Equine Operations.

The Task Force has recommended a slightly altered version of the Brookhaven Town standards for a Horse Farm (Chapter 85 Article XV). Should the code reduce the minimum lot size from 10 to 5 acres, with the ability to obtain a variance, it would encompass a large number of professional facilities. Further, such a change would also be more aligned with the current New York State Laws regarding a commercial boarding operation. (Appendix IX)

Recreational Site Plan

For the recreational property, that being generally no more than five acres, the local zoning authority should recognize that the amount of time that the owner will commit to the regular maintenance of the property will be limited compared to the professional operation, and so the amount of work to be expected is also limited. Therefore, it is unreasonable to expect such owners to meet all the best management practices of a professional facility. Certain procedures,

such as manure management should apply, while others such as sprinklers for dust control may be excessive.

The challenges facing the equestrian community are not unique to Suffolk County. There are other areas across the country that experienced the suburban growth that no longer coexists happily with the rural nature of a horse farm. It is under this category that the creation of Equestrian Overlay Districts in which a higher number of horses permitted on a property is much greater than other areas of the municipality subject to proper on site accommodations would be appropriate. The appropriate locations for such districts throughout Suffolk are obvious, as the recreational owners tend to cluster around areas with access to trails and equestrian facilities.

Equine Activity Liability Statute

According the Long Island Farm Bureau, New York is one of only four states across the nation that has not adopted liability laws. The Task Force recommends that efforts be taken to revise New York State Insurance Law to ease the insurance burden, similar to the standard utilized by neighboring New Jersey.

The New Jersey equine activity liability statute fist begins by setting forth the legislative recognition of the importance of equine activities to the state and the fact that eliminating the inherent risks in engaging in them is impractical or impossible. Further, a participant **and** spectator are deemed to assume the inherent risks of equine animal activities created by equine animals, and is assumed to know the range of his own ability and it shall be the duty of each participant to conduct himself within the limits of such ability. This acknowledgment of the assumption of risk serves as a complete bar of suit and shall serve as a complete defense to a suit against an operator by a participant for injuries resulting from the assumed risks. Liability is not limited by this statute where the equine professional knowingly provided faulty tack or equipment, failed to make reasonable and prudent efforts to determine the ability of the participant to engage safely in the equine activity, owns or otherwise is in lawful possession of the land or facilities upon which the participant sustained injuries because of a known, dangerous latent condition, or if he or she commits an act or omission that constitutes willful or wanton disregard for the safety of the participant or intentionally injures the participant. The statute also requires the visible displaying of warning signs that alert participants to the limitation of liability by law.

Suffolk County Equestrian Center

The Task Force recognizes the needs to create a full service equestrian center that may service the industry and help foster its growth. Previously, Suffolk County operated an equestrian barn and indoor arena at Southaven Park through a contract with a private vendor. However after years of mismanagement on the part of a former operator; the facility eventually closed, fell into disrepair and is no longer viable. In addition, the location of the facility within the Core Pine Barren District makes the restoration and expansion of the facility unfeasible.

A full service facility should have at minimum an indoor riding and showing arena with the ability to handle the needs of any of the disciplines. It should have sufficient indoor and outdoor arenas and pens to comply with the requirements of national show organizations such as the United States Equestrian Federation, the Federation Equestrian International, and the United States Hunter Jumper Association show requirements.

Should Suffolk County be able to identify an appropriate location with sufficient acreage and adequately distanced from a residential facility there is interest from individuals within the

community to operate a full service equestrian center for Suffolk County. Such a license arrangement as exists at many Suffolk County park operations for other activities would present an opportunity to create a state of the art equestrian facility capable of meeting the needs of the local equestrian community and attracting out of state riders for shows and competition.

Cooperatives

To help reduce the cost of operating expenses for both the recreational and professional equine owner, the Task Force recommends the establishment of cooperatives. Such arrangements can easily be established through web-based approaches and working in conjunction with existing organization and the Long Island Farm Bureau. Not only can collaborative purchasing arrangements be achieved so that owners buy items such as hay, which is so often shipped into Suffolk County, but also for manure management.

Manure represents an interesting paradigm, as so many owners are forced to pay to have the manure removed; while so many crop farmers, especially with society's demand for organic produce, are purchasing natural fertilizers. Equine manure once properly composted is the best organic all natural fertilizer available. Therefore, if a means can be established to link the crop farmer to the horse farmer both would greatly benefit. Presently, and as a result of the efforts of the Task Force, the Nassau Suffolk Horseman's Association is working with the Long Island Farm Bureau to develop an online resource where such relationships can be established.

Equestrian Survey

In addition, to the potential actions that can be taken to provide assistance to the Equestrian Industry in Suffolk County, we should also explore means to better identify its exact size and scope. The Task Force recommends that a Suffolk County Equestrian Survey be conducted, similar to the 2005 New York Equine Survey so that we can better determine not just the number of equines owned in Suffolk County. It should also help provide a better picture of the number properties currently in use for equestrian activities; their size, value and specific discipline or use. The Survey should also attempt to determine the overall impact on the economy by reaching out to retail outfits that service the equine community, including tack shops, feed and hay suppliers, farriers and veterinarians. Ideally, the Task Force suggest that the Survey be conducted as a partnership with all of the equine organizations in existence and stress that survey responses can be made confidential.

Appendix

Appendix I Breed Discription

Light Horses – As opposed to heavy horses (draft horses), light horses are the average riding horse and includes many different breeds.

Draft Horses – A draft horse (US), draught horse (UK) or dray horse (from the Anglo-Saxon dragan meaning to draw or haul) is a large horse bred for hard, adapted for heavy tasks such as drawing heavy loads, plowing and farm labor.

workhorse - a horse used for plowing and hauling and other heavy labor

cart horse, carthorse, drayhorse - draft horse kept for pulling carts

Clydesdale - heavy feathered-legged breed of draft horse originally from Scotland

Percheron - one of a breed of grey or black draft horses originally used in France to draw heavy coaches or artillery

shire horse, shire - British breed of large heavy draft horse

poler, pole horse - a draft horse harnessed alongside the shaft or pole of a vehicle

wheel horse, wheeler - a draft horse harnessed behind others and nearest the wheels of a vehicle

coach horse - strong draft horse for drawing coaches

Pony – is a small horse (*Equus ferus caballus*) with a specific conformation and temperament. There are many different breeds of ponies. Compared to horses, ponies often exhibit thicker manes, tails and overall coat, as well as proportionally shorter legs, wider barrels, heavier bone, thicker necks, and shorter heads with broader foreheads. On occasion, people who are unfamiliar with horses may confuse an adult pony with a foal, which is a young, immature horse. Ponies are generally considered intelligent and friendly, though sometimes they also are described as stubborn or devious. The differences of opinion often result from an individual pony's degree of proper training.

American Miniature Horse – A horse measuring 34 inches or less at the withers that meets all requirements for registration with the American Miniature Horse Association (AMHA).

Mule – is the offspring of a male donkey and a female horse. Horses and donkeys are different species, with different numbers of chromosomes. Of the two F1 hybrids between these two species, a mule is easier to obtain than a hinny (the offspring of a male horse and a female donkey). All male mules and most female mules are infertile. The size of a mule and work to which it is put depends largely on the breeding of the mule's dam. Mules can be lightweight, medium weight, or even, when produced from draught horse mares, of moderately heavy weight. An aficionado of the mule claims that they are "more patient, sure-footed, hardy and long-lived than horses, and they are considered less obstinate, faster, and more intelligent than donkeys.

Donkey or **Ass** – The donkey or ass, Equus africanus asinus, is a domesticated member of the Equidae or horse family. The wild ancestor of the donkey is the African Wild Ass, E. africanus. In the western United States, a small donkey is sometimes called a **burro** (from the Spanish word for the animal). A male donkey or ass is called a **jack**, a female a **jenny**, and offspring less than one year old, a **foal** (male: colt, female filly). While different species of the Equidae family can interbreed, offspring are almost always sterile. Nonetheless, horse/donkey hybrids are popular for their durability and vigor. A mule is the offspring of a **jack** (male donkey) and a **mare** (female horse). The much rarer successful mating of a male

horse and a female donkey produces a **hinny**. Asses were first domesticated around 3000 BC, approximately the same time as the horse, and have spread around the world. They continue to fill important roles in many places today and domesticated species are increasing in numbers, but the African wild ass and another relative, the Onager, are endangered. As "beasts of burden" and companions, asses and donkeys have worked together with humans for millennia.

Appendix II – Discipline Discriptions

Reining

Reining is designed to show the athletic ability of ranch type horse in the confines of a show arena. Contestants are required to run one of ten approved patterns, divided into seven or eight maneuvers, including small slow circles, large fast circles, flying lead changes, 360 degree spins done in place, and the exciting sliding stops that are the hall mark of the reining horse. Despite the seemingly relaxed attitude of both horse and rider and the loose reins typical of the discipline, Reining is a high level competition sport requiring concentration and high riding competence. Reining was approved as an FEI discipline in 2000 and covers horses of 6-years and over (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Western Seat/Reining Seat Equitation and Western Horsemanship riders should give the impression of being in absolute control. Riders must have a very secure seat and leg with a quiet, guiding hand as the performance of the horse is also considered. The rider should have purpose, direction and follow through in all gaits and maneuvers (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

The Western Seat/Reining Seat rider should give the appearance of control, adaptability and the ability to demonstrate how to properly ride a reining horse and perform a reining horse pattern. Riders are judged on seat, hands and performance of the horse. However, riders are being judged and the performance of the horse is not considered more important than the method used to obtain it. Methods used, hand, leg and body position, must be considered as well as how the aids were applied and what results were achieved. Speed and flare should not be sacrificed for correct position, control or smoothness. Riders should, however, show authority and show to the best of their ability (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Western Pleasure

The good western pleasure horse has a comfortable, free flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with the horse's conformation. It should cover a reasonable amount of ground with little effort. Ideally, the horse should have a balanced, sweeping motion that requires no more or less than light contact by their riders. The head and neck serve as a balance arm and are carried in a relaxed, natural position appropriate for each horse's conformation. Maximum credit should be given to the responsive, confident, willingly guided horse that correctly performs all the required gaits with strength and finesse. The horse should be balanced in all aspects; conformation, gait, and disposition. Such a horse is an athlete that goes softly and gives the appearance of being fit and capable of their tasks. Ultimately, the horse is very eye appealing and gives the impression of being a pleasure to ride (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Working Cow

The purpose of this class is to demonstrate the horse's ability to control a cow. This horse must be highly athletic and possess superior cow sense. The best working cow horse must, at the rider's command, be able to hold, drive, rate, turn, and overall contain and dominate a cow. Judging begins when the contestant enters the arena. At the start of the cow work, each contestant, upon receiving a cow in the arena, shall hold that cow at the prescribed end of the arena for a sufficient time to demonstrate the ability of the horse to contain a cow on the end. This is known as boxing. After a reasonable amount of time the contestant should run the cow down the side of the arena and turn the cow along the arena wall at least once in each direction. This is known as turning on the fence. Finally, the contestant will take the cow to an open part of the arena and circle the cow at least once in each direction. This is known as circling up (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Trail

A trail horse is one that can maneuver through a course of obstacles with physical skill, expression and a good mental attitude. It should travel through and between obstacles with an inquisitive desire to go forward without compromising its calm, relaxed attitude and way of going. It should approach each obstacle squarely with authority and correct form, with its own style, yet maintaining its willingness to be dictated to completely by the rider with no apparent resistance. Maximum credit should be given to the trail horse that negotiates its way through an entire course efficiently, in a timely manner, without excessive hesitation, with curiosity, expression, smoothness and style; in a manner that raises the degree of difficulty without sacrificing carefulness, control, and/ or attitude. Ultimately, the trail horse is skillful, eye appealing, confident, and leaves one with the impression of being sure, safe and a pleasure to ride over a course of obstacles (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Western Riding

Western Riding is an event where the horse is judge on quality of gaits, lead changes at the lope, response to the rider, manners and disposition. The horse should perform with reasonable, speed, and be sensible, well-mannered, free and easy moving. Emphasis should be placed on smoothness, even cadence of gaits and the horse’s ability to change leads precisely and easily rear and front at the center point between markers. The horse should have a relaxed head carriage showing response to the rider’s hands, with a moderate flexion at the poll. Horses may be ridden with light contact or on a reasonably loose rein. Horses will be scored in performing a set pattern selected by the judge (*United States Equestrian Federation and Arabian Horse Association, Education/Evaluation Commission*).

Barrel Racing

Cloverleaf or Speed Events

Is a timed event. Three barrels are set up in the arena, usually evenly distanced. The Rider/Horse must circle to the outside and around the barrel to the inside of the course. The Rider/Horse combination are immediately disqualified if the barrels are touched in such a manner to dislodge them or if they are knocked down. After completing the course, the Rider/Horse combination must race back through the start flags. If the Rider/Horse go off course in any way, they will be disqualified (*Islip Horsemen's Association*).

Bareback Riding

Bareback Riding: A horse is held in a chute, and has a cinch applied around the girth area of the horse's barrel. The rider mounts the horse from above while still in the chute. When the chute is opened, on the first jump out of the chute, the Rider must spur the horse overtop of the shoulder joint before the horse's front feet touch the ground or the Rider and the ride are disqualified. The Rider is expected to spur the horse on every consecutive jump. The Rider is to keep the free hand from touching either the horse or his person or the tack. The other hand holds onto a cinch strap that is tightened around the horse's girth area. The Ride is judged on the Rider's spur action, height and power of horse's buck or jump, and the difficulty of the horse to ride. The Rider must remain active and seated on the horse for a minimum of 8 seconds (*Islip Horsemen's Association*).

Western Gymkhana Games

The following are the three most popular Gymkhana games, but games are as limited as the imagination (*Islip Horsemen's Association*).

Barrel Racing: *Please refer to the description supplied above.*

Pole Bending: Racing down an arena and around a pole, then racing back.

Keyhole: Racing down an arena into an arrangement on the ground similar to a key, turning around inside the key (without touching the frame, usually a hose) and then racing back to the start.

Mounted Drill Team

"The Spirit of Long Island" Mounted Drill Team is a group of dedicated riders who enjoy their horses and also enjoy showing that a little hard work and lots of fun can result in a performance that not only entertains but is also an excellent example of good horsemanship. The Drill Team performs synchronized patterns to music, incorporating such difficult maneuvers as the Cloverleaf, Echelon and the ever-impressive Pinwheel. The Drill Team, now in its 32nd year, has held the title of Grand Champions for the past five years (*Islip Horsemen's Association*).

Showmanship at Halter

Showmanship at halter is not a class in which the horse is being judged, rather, the ability of the exhibitor to fit a horse, and to show a horse, is what is being judged. The horse is just a prop to demonstrate the ability of the exhibitor to fit a horse, to bring it in show condition, and to present that horse in the best possible way. The judge will design and post a little pattern for this, asking for the horse to be led in a walk, a jog, or extended trot, in a straight or a curved line. The overall appearance of the exhibitor and the horse will make up half of the judge's score, the other half being allocated to correct execution of the pattern straight lines, smooth and correct turns, prompt transitions of gaits are all important in the showmanship at halter class. The attire must be appropriate for western classes, neat and clean. They should show like they are at attention, respectful, intense, but with the least possible motions (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

TEAM ROPING

Team roping evolved into a sport when a couple of cowboys somewhere, many years ago, turned a common ranching procedure into competition. The procedure, used to secure a steer so that he could be branded or doctored, is for two cowboys to rope the front and hind ends of a steer and stretch him between their horses. Team Roping competition, now one of the six standard rodeo events, begins with a steer in a chute and ropers on horseback to either side. A run begins with the steer being released from the chute and given a head start down the arena (known as the barrier distance, about 10-15 feet), after which point the ropers may give chase. Time is called by an arena judge (the flag-man or flagger) who waits until both ropes are taut and each ropers' horse is facing the steer (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Competitive Trail Riding

Competitive Trail Riding measures the fitness of a horse or pony as they travel over a marked trail of 20 to 120 miles. Horses are examined thoroughly before, on trail and after finishing, by qualified judges and veterinarians. The events are strictly timed and penalties are given for finishing too early or too late. Horses are judged by how quickly their heart rates drop and other physical and metabolic measurements. The horses who show the highest level of physical fitness win. The goal is to condition your horse to the highest level of fitness and take care of it so that the horse completes the ride with as little stress as possible. Prizes are awarded according to the fittest horses in each division (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Trail riding is riding outdoors on natural trails and roads as opposed to riding in an enclosed area such as a riding arena. Trail rides may be informal activities of an individual or small group of people, or may be larger events organized by a club. Some trail rides may even be directed by professional guides at public stables that offer horses for hire. In recreational trail riding, speed and form are not the goals, but rather having fun and enjoying time spent with one's horse in nature (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Dressage

The word dressage comes from the French word *dresser*, to train. To the untrained eye it looks easy, but like many equestrian sports, it serves the needs of a diverse range of horse lovers. It's an Olympic equestrian sport; yet a basic training discipline for the backyard horse. Dressage teaches a horse to be obedient, willing, supple and responsive. The horse freely submits to the rider's lightest "aids" or body signals, while remaining balanced and energetic. The object of dressage is the harmonious development of the horse in both mind and body, and every horse, regardless of its type or use, can benefit from this training. Dressage principles are a logical, step-by-step progression from simple to increasingly complex movements. Dressage requires the horse and rider to combine the strength and agility of gymnastics with the elegance and beauty of ballet. The result is truly the best blend of sport and art. The highlight of a dressage competition is the Musical Freestyle in which the rider creates and choreographs to music an original ride of compulsory figures and movements (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Eventing

Eventing is the most complete combined competition discipline recognized by the FEI where men and women compete as equals in both individual and team events. It demands of the competitor considerable experience in all branches of equitation and a precise knowledge of the horse's ability and of the horse a degree of competence resulting from intelligent and rational training. It covers every aspect of horsemanship: the harmony between horse and rider that characterize Dressage; the contact with nature, stamina and extensive experience essential for the Cross Country; the precision, agility and technique involved in Jumping. Eventing is one of the three disciplines in competition at the Olympic Games, the other two being Jumping and Dressage (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

English Pleasure

Manners and suitability as a pleasure mount are paramount in English Pleasure horses. Transitions from one gait to another should be smooth and effortless. Horses must be obedient with prompt transitions. Special emphasis is placed on a true, flat walk with special consideration being given to those entries that represent a true recreational type, general riding mount. Entries should not exhibit extreme motion, speed, or resistance of any type. Horses must stand quietly and back readily in the line-up. English Pleasure Saddle Seat horses are judged at a flat walk, trot, extended trot, and canter both ways of the ring. English Pleasure Hunter Seat horses are judged at a flat walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring. Entries "may" be asked to hand gallop one or more directions of the ring at the discretion of the judge. English Pleasure Driving horses are judged at a flat walk, trot, and extended trot both ways of the ring (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Hunters

Hunters over fences are judged on performance and soundness. Judges are looking for great jumping style, quality of both looks and movement, as well as willingness, manners, and suitability of horse and rider. The round over fences itself should be judged on evenness of pace, as well as consistency of distances. In over fences classes hunters are judged over fences that simulate fences found in the hunt field such as coops, walls, gates, etc. Some hunter classes over fences are what we call Handy Hunter classes. These classes emphasize tight turns, creative approaches, brilliance and pace. Hunters are also shown on the flat. These classes are called under saddle classes and are judged both directions at the walk, trot, canter, and sometimes the hand gallop. Movement, manners, and quality are judged at all gaits. In the past hunters have been mostly Thoroughbreds, but with the increase in quality of the warm bloods imported from Europe there are very many of these that now compete with great success in the hunter divisions (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Hunter Seat Equitation

Hunter Seat Equitation is a division that is judged on the ability and the style of the rider. The riders can be judged both over fences and on the flat. In over fences classes the riders are judged not only on their ability to negotiate a course of jumps on their horses, but also on their style and position while they do it. The rider should demonstrate that they have a good understanding not only of what the questions of the course are, but how best to answer them. They are to demonstrate proper riding of the horse at all these gaits, as well as accurate and stylish position. Hunter seat equitation riders can be tested in both flat and over fences classes. These tests are outlined in the USEF Rule Book and include such things as halting, backing, trot jumps, riding without stirrups, etc (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Saddle Seat Equitation

In Saddle Seat Equitation classes, riders should convey the impression of effective and easy control. To show a horse well, he should show himself to the best advantage. Ring generalship must be taken into consideration by the judges. A complete picture of the whole is of major importance. In "open" Equitation classes (not breed restricted) only the rider is being judged, therefore, any horse that is suitable for a particular style of riding and is capable of performing the required class routine is acceptable (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Jumping

A Jumping competition is one in which the combination of horse and rider is tested under various conditions over a course of obstacles. It is intended to demonstrate the horse's freedom, energy, skill, speed and obedience in jumping as well as the rider's horsemanship. The competitor incurs penalties for exceeding the time allowed, for knocking down or refusing to jump an obstacle. The winner is the competitor who finishes with the least number of penalties (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Endurance

Endurance is a genuine test of horsemanship which began as a necessity rather than a sport. Horseback riding was the main form of transportation for centuries and reliable horses that could travel long distances while remaining healthy and fit were much sought after. The modern day Endurance Discipline is an athletic endeavor in which a horse/rider combination must complete a prescribed course in the fastest time possible, while meeting strict veterinary criteria. Distances of 50, 75 or 100 miles are covered in a single day. The courses are usually cross-country, with natural obstacles, such as creeks, ditches, and forests. Condition of the horse is paramount. The horses are examined by veterinarians familiar with the demands of Endurance competition before, at intervals during and after the competition. A Fit horse that is able to demonstrate recovery quickly saves time at the veterinary inspections and has a distinct advantage. Since the first World Championship in 1986, USA Endurance has won 7 Individual and 2 Team Gold Medals. Hundreds of Endurance competitions take place every year across America. Many offer a 25 mile competition as a stepping stone for those who are not quite ready for the 50 mile challenge. These competitions are sanctioned by the American Endurance Ride Conference (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Carriage Pleasure Driving

An Open Carriage Pleasure Driving competition is open to all breeds of horses and ponies. Classes may be offered in divisions based on the configuration of the turnout (i.e. Single, Pair, Tandem, Unicorn, and Four-in-Hand); the size of the animal (horse or pony); age or gender of the driver; or number of ribbons won by the horse or driver. Open Carriage Pleasure Driving classes may also be offered in conjunction with breed-restricted classes at a breed or multi-breed competition (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Combined Driving

Combined Driving, modeled after ridden three-day eventing, has an extra challenge generated by the addition of the carriage. Horses and ponies, without benefit of a rider's aids, must exhibit the highest level of training and willingness to perform by voice command and reins along with just a touch of the whip instead of leg. Drivers must first present their horses or ponies in the dressage arena to demonstrate obedience, suppleness and the skill of the handler. The marathon, equivalent to ridden cross-country, is the phase that draws many participants to the sport and provides the most excitement for competitors and spectators. It is on the marathon that the driver must be able to gauge speed and pace in order to finish each section within the time allowed. In the last section, drivers must complete a series of hazards negotiating up to six gates in each. Competitors approach the hazards, often at a gallop, threading their way through gates with inches to spare. It's the hazards that give the sport its thrill/chill factor. The final phase, the cones, tests the ability of the driver to clear a course of up to 20 gates at the required pace without incurring penalties. Like three-day eventing, combined driving is scored by a system of penalty points with the winner earning the lowest score (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Parade Horse

The Parade Horse must be a beautiful, stylish animal, displaying refinement and personality and present eye-appeal of horse and rider. The show parade horse may be of any color or combination of colors, of any breed or combination of breeds, stallions, mares or geldings. Good manners are essential, both in executing gaits and while lined up in the ring. Horses must be serviceably sound and in good condition. Since beauty is important, blemishes will be considered. Parade Horses must be shown with a full mane, braided if desired, and a tail that may be set prior to showing. The Parade Horse is shown at an animated walk and at a parade gait. Parade Horses are shown under stock saddles with silver, Mexican or other appropriate equipment. The rider should wear attire that is both colorful and typical of the Old West, of American, Mexican, or Spanish origin, consisting of fancy cowboy suit, hat and boots. Spurs, guns, serapes, etc, are optional (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Vaulting

The sport of Vaulting is a competitive discipline where both gymnastic and dance elements are combined and performed to music on a cantering horse. It requires a harmonious relationship with the horse and outstanding physical condition from the vaulter; these two elements are imperative if a display of strength, co-ordination, rhythm and balance is to be achieved. Each vaulter, pair or team creates their own routine to music of their choice. Judging is based on technique, form, difficulty, balance, security and consideration of the horse. Vaulters most important teammate, the horse, must be a consummate athlete with good character, temperament and balance being essential as 20% of the overall score comes from his way of going. Vaulting is a unique and growing sport with a rich heritage, it has been said to be practiced by a myriad of cultures ranging across the continents. It was featured in the Olympics in the 1920 Games in Antwerp as Artistic Riding and has since evolved into the sport many participate in today. Vaulting is a wonderful way to develop coordination, balance, strength, and creativity while working in harmony with your equine partner; it is used around the world as an introduction to the equestrian world and is recognized as a technique for developing strong riders in all disciplines (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Para-Equestrian

Para-Equestrian sport includes all equestrian disciplines practiced by people with physical disabilities. In Para-Equestrian, each rider or driver is classified according to his or her functional ability. Para-Equestrians are assessed by trained physiotherapists and doctors who evaluate either muscle strength, coordination, or a combination thereof throughout the athlete's body. What does Olympic gold mean to athletes who have more to prove than just sporting ability? For starters, it takes a lot of money to support this sport. The most successful countries fund athletes' living expenses through lotteries, heavy endowment funds, and corporate sponsorships so that they can concentrate on their job: riding for medals. In turn, medals won bring more funding, credibility, and respect (*United States Equestrian Federation*).

Appendix III – Equine Estimate Averages

Equine Estimate based on USDA, NASS, NYS Equine Survey

2205 Suffolk Reported	6,200
x 7% growth rate	x 7%
	434
Total 2010 Suffolk Estimate	6634

Estimated Calculations using Practicing Farriers

	Low		High	
# of blacksmiths	75		80	
# of hours/week	40		40	
total hr/week	3,000		3,200	
# horses/hr	1		1	
# horses/week	3,000		3,200	
# of weeks/year	52		52	
# of horses/year	15,6000		16,6400	
A 80/20 split, repeat	12,4800	31,200	13,3120	33,280
6 week visits/repeat	8	2	8	2
2x/year visits				
horse population on Long Island	15,600	15,600	16,640	16,640

mean:	31,200
	33,280
	64,480
	2
average horse population in LI NYC Region	32,240
	40.5%
Estimated Equines in Suffolk County	13,000

Equine Estimate based upon practicing Veterinarians

	Low	High
# of vets	17	20
# of hours/week	40	40
total hr/week	680	800
# horses/hr	2	2
# horses/week	1,360	1,600
# of weeks/year	52	52
# of horses/year	70,720	83,200
repeat visits 2x/year	2	2
horse population on Long Island	35,360	41,600
mean:	35,360	
	41,600	
	76,960	
	2	
average horse population for LI NYC Region	38,480	
	40.5%	
Estimate Equines In Suffolk County	15,550	

Average Equine Estimates

Survey	6,600
Farrier	13,000
Veterinarian	15,500
Total	35,100
Task Force Estimate	**11,700**

Appendix IV – Equestrian Organizations

Organization	County	Website	Missions, Goals, & Equestrian Community it Serves
East End Livestock & Horsemen's Association	Suffolk	http://eelha.org	The "EELHA" was formed in 1980 to protect the rights of livestock and horse owners. The club is open to all livestock owners, enthusiasts and equestrians. Our goals are to a promote and encourage members, youth of the community, and the general public, in the enjoyment, care, showing and recreational use of horses and livestock.
Island Long Riders	Suffolk/ Nassau	http://WWW.islandlongriders.com	Our mission is to promote participate and compete in the equestrian sport of Cowboy Mounted Shooting and promote responsible horsemanship through demonstrations, training clinics and competitions.
Islip Horsemen's Association	Suffolk	http://isliphorsemensassociation.com	The Islip Horsemen's Association is to be involved in community affairs that may effect horse ownership, to educate horse owners and horse lovers, to sponsor horse shows, and just have fun!
Lloyd Harbor Equine Association	Suffolk	http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lloyd-Harbor-NY/Lloyd-Harbor-Equestrian-Center/101693936397	

Long Island Dressage & Combined Training Association	Suffolk/ Nassau	http://lidcta.com	The purposes for which the association was formed are to raise the standards of horsemanship in the area which it derives its members, by developing educational programs consisting of clinics, seminars and other educational activities and by promoting Dressage competitions and Combined Training events.
Long Island Riding for the Handicapped Association	Suffolk/ Nassau	http://www.lirha.com	Provide therapy on horseback, cost free, to individuals with physical, emotional and/or cognitive disabilities. And to also offer recreation and education with our certified riding instructors and licensed physical therapists. To contribute positively to the well being of our students.
Long Island Professional Horsemen's Association	Suffolk/ Nassau	http://www.lipha.org	Professional
Meadow Brook Hounds Pony Club	-	http://www.ponyclub.org	
Meadow Brook Polo Club		http://www.meadowbrookpolo.com	
My Shine	Suffolk/ Nassau	http://myshineprogram.com/	Our goal is to foster a relationship between individuals with Special Needs and Horses.

Muttontown Horsemen's Association	Nassau	http://muttontownhorsemen.com/	Our goal is to gain local support for this organization by increasing the membership and participation of the area residents, to protect the integrity of the existing trail system, obtain easements in new subdivisions, keep the trails free of debris and overgrowth, to educate the public and raise awareness of the advantages (both economic and ecological) in having a horse population in the community.
Nassau-Suffolk Horsemen's Association	Suffolk/ Nassau	http://www.nshaonline.org	The Nassau-Suffolk Horsemen's Association is an all- volunteer non-profit 501C-3 charitable, educational & service organization that has worked since 1967 to promote humane equine practices, to educate horse people and the public concerning equine matters and to represent the concerns of all equine activities and interests.
New York Natural Equestrians, Inc.	New York	http://www.nynaturalequestrians.com	The New York Natural Equestrians are a group of people who use and encourage natural horsemanship principles in riding, training and handling our horses. We strive to help our members create strong relationships with their horses, based on communication, fun and creativity.
Old Westbury Horsemen's Foundation	Nassau	None available	

Old Field Farm, LTD.	Suffolk	http://www.oldfieldfarmltd.com	Old Field Farm, an historic Long Island show grounds with a long equestrian tradition is being reclaimed and brought back to life as a center of Long Island equestrian and community activities by Old Field Farm, Ltd., a nonprofit organization specifically created to restore and operate Old Field Farm county parkland. Working closely with Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, and following its stated mission, Old Field Farm, Ltd. has recently made many improvements to bring more equestrian and community events to the public.
Olde Suffolk Pony Club	Suffolk	http://oldesuffolkponyclub.org/	The mission of the United States Pony Club is to provide a program for youth that teaches riding, mounted sports and the care of horses and ponies, thereby developing responsibility, moral judgment, leadership and self-confidence.
Paumanock Driving Club	Suffolk	http://paumanokdrivingclub.org/	The main mission of the club is to educate people in the pursuit of safe driving as a sport as well as a hobby.
Ridge Civic Association Recreational Land Use & Trails Committee	Suffolk	http://www.ridgecivic.org	Land preservation, land-use management, and trail maintenance.

Smithtown Hunt	Suffolk	http://www.smithtownhunt.org	The Smithtown Hunt was founded in 1900 as a fox hunting club. Riding to hounds is a sport steeped in tradition, the Smithtown Hunt maintains the time honored traditions and etiquette associated with the sport by using artificial scent to simulate the fox. Our mission focuses on: Conservation, Preservation, and Education.
Southampton Trails Preservation Society H.O.T.S. (Horses on Trails) Committee	Suffolk	http://www.southamptontrails.org/	The Southampton Trails Preservation Society (STPS) was founded in 1986 by a group of horseback riders when they discovered that the scenic trails they rode were being lost to development. Since its beginning, STPS has worked actively with the Town of Southampton government, other government bodies, neighboring trail groups and other environmental organizations to promote and create a system of public use trails.

Appendix V – Sales Tax Estimates

Estimated Sales Tax Generated in Suffolk County

Shipping and Traveling		157
Bedding		164
Grain		240
Hay		283
Mixed or Formula Feeds		79
Medicine		75
Supplies		129
Manure Disposal		32
Advertising and Marketing		38
Maintenance and Repair		355
Utilities and Fuels		178
TOTAL		$1,730
Sales Tax		x 8.625
Total Sales		$149.21
Number of horses Suffolk:		11,700
Sales Tax per horse	x	150
Total Income Tax/year		$1,755,000

Estimates are based upon reported expenditures as listed in Table 18 of the USDA-NASS-NYS DAM 2005 Equine Survey

Appendix VI – Suffolk County Soil and Water Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices for Horse Farms

The following are generalized recommendations for the environmental management of horse farms. Our office can provide site specific recommendations on a site by site basis. These specific recommendations will address any sediment and erosion control issues in addition to water quality concerns.

Roof Runoff Management

Install gutters and downspouts on all buildings. Downspouts should be directed into drywells or stormwater chambers.

Sacrifice Area

Create a sacrifice area (or drylot) that will serve as your horses' outdoor living space. Note that multiple drylots may be required in order to accommodate differences in horse social behavior. Sacrifice areas are used in order to protect pastures from overuse at critical times, i.e., winter months, wet soils, and times of slow pasture re-growth. Sacrifice areas should be located on well-drained soils. Typically wood chips, gravel or sand can be used as footing material. For extremely troublesome areas it may be necessary to lay a geotextile fabric down and then 6-8 inches of footing material on top. A vegetated grass buffer of at least 15 feet wide should be maintained around the sacrifice area to act as a filter for any runoff leaving the area.

Pasture Management

"As a general rule, pasture quality can easily be maintained with stocking rates of 2 or more acres per horse with limited management. Higher stocking rates can be obtained by limiting the time that horses are allowed to graze and by rotating grazing pastures." Source: Rutgers Cooperative Extension, *Agricultural Management Practices for Commercial Equine Operations.* See this publication for further information regarding stocking rates for a pasture based management regime.

Maintain pasture productivity by controlling the number of horses and the amount of time they spend in each pasture. If necessary, divide existing pastures into smaller areas to facilitate grazing in rotation. The movement of horses onto and off paddocks at critical times will prevent the formation of bare areas and allow for sustainable pasture growth.

Pasture Management cont.

When grazing cool season grasses, grazing should begin when the grasses reach about 8 inches in height. The animals should be removed from the paddock when the grasses have been grazed down to a height of 3-4 inches. Pasture grass should never be grazed below this height because it will diminish the root reserves of the plant and as a result the plants will decline in vigor.

Please note that it is also possible to maintain horses on a drylot regime. Please see the publication titled, *Agricultural Management Practices for Commercial Equine Operations,* for an explanation of this type of management.

Manure Management & Storage

Manure must be removed from sacrifice areas and stalls regularly and either stored in a proper facility or composted. The base of the manure storage or compost area should be impervious to prevent leaching of nutrients into the groundwater. Manure on pastures can either be removed or dragged (spread out on the pasture) periodically. Manure disposal options include removal from the farm by a hauler, direct land application or compost. Manure that is to be hauled off site should be stored in an appropriately sized dumpster.

Manure pile areas should be utilized to temporarily store manure for later use (i.e., land application). Locate manure on a firm, flat (or slightly sloped) impervious surface in a dry area away from wetlands. Runoff water should be diverted away from the pile and any leachate leaving the pile should be filtered over a grass buffer. Ideally the pile area should be covered (with a tarp or other means) to exclude precipitation and minimize leachate. The addition of a buck wall will aid in unloading material from the pad. It is recommended to screen the manure pile area with trees in an attempt to minimize odors.

When spreading manure on fields or pasture it is crucial to apply only what the crop requires when it is needed. This is accomplished by conducting a soil and manure analysis and knowing the fertility recommendation for the crop. In order to minimize runoff it is wise to lightly incorporate the manure.

Table 4. Minimum distances between manure storage/composting areas and other activities

Sensitive Area	Minimum separation distance (feet)
Property line	50
Residence or place of business	200
Private well or other potable water source	100
Wetlands or surface (streams, pond, lakes)	100
Subsurface drainage pipe	25
Water table (seasonal high)	3
Bedrock	3

(Adapted from *On-Farm Composting Handbook*, NRAES 54, 1999)

Source: Rutgers Cooperative Extension, *Agricultural Management Practices for Commercial Equine Operations*

Compost Facility

In the case of larger horse operations that wish to compost their manure on-site, a more formal composting facility may be needed. This type of facility will require grading the land to provide a 1-2% slope. The installation of a non-woven geotextile and 6-8 inches of compacted gravel or RCA (recycled concrete aggregate) on top of that is suggested. The compost pad should be large enough to form windrows but also to store the raw material as well as the finished product. All oncoming runoff must be diverted away from the pad and runoff leaving the pad itself should be filtered over a grass filter strip. It is recommended to screen the compost pad with trees in an attempt to minimize odors.

Filter Strip

Separate barns, paddocks and manure storage areas from any waterway or wetland with buffer strips of vegetation. This will filter sediments and absorb nutrients in runoff. The recommended minimum width of a buffer strip is 15 feet.

These recommendations have been prepared in cooperation with
NRCS USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Riverhead New York.

Appendix VII – Suffolk County Town Equestrian Codes

Table 1. Summary of Permitted Equestrian Uses by Suffolk County Town Codes

Town	Zoning District(s) that Allow Equestrian Uses as a Primary Use	Zoning Districts that Allow Equestrian Uses as a Accessory Use in the District	Equestrian Uses allowed by Special Use/Special Exception	Town Lot Size Requirements for Equestrian Uses[1]	Town Horses per AcreRequirements[1]
Babylon	Residential Districts allow customary agricultural occupations with set back limits.	Accessory uses include incidental uses to the primary use with one accessory building and two accessory structures allowed.	Equestrian uses not listed as an applicable use for a Special Use or Special Exception Permit.	No Minimum	
Brookhaven	Residential Districts (except Multifamily Districts) and L Industrial 1 allow farming/agricultrue with set back limits. There is also a dedicated Horse Farm Residential District.	Accessory uses that are incidential to the primary use are allowed. Barns are allowed as an accessory use.	Agriculture uses requrie a Special Use Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).	Not less than 10 acres	
East Hampton	Agricuture is allowed in all Town zoning districts except Commercial Sevice District and Special District.	For agricultural or animal husbandary uses the Town Code allows one additional permitted use to take place on property.	Animal husbandary and riding acadamies are allowed by Special Permit in most districts.	Not less than 10 acres independent of any residence on the site	
Huntington	Farms, Country Estates allowed as primary use in residential districts. Farming is also allowed as a primary use in the Town of Huntington Industrial Zones.	The keeping of equine livestock is allowed provided that it is accessory to the principal residential use of the property. No rental horse boarding is permitted. Additional size and set back requirements are stated for the related barns.	Commercial riding stables, riding academies or horse boarding is allowed by Special Permit in R-80, R-40 and R-20 Residence Districts provided certain lot area and setback criteria are satisfied.	10 feet side yard and backyard set back	no more than 3
Islip	All residentail districts allow agricultural uses.	Accessory uses, buildings and structures are allowed that are incidental to the principal use.	Keeping equine Livestock Requires a Special Exception Permit from the ZBA		no more than 4
Riverhead	Agricultural uses, including horse boarding, is allowed in RA-80, RB-80 and Agricultural Protection Zone (APZ) Districts. Also allowed in RA-80, RB-80 and APZ are horse riding academy and horse training facilities. Agriculture use is also allowed in Industrial B District.	Accessory uses on the same lot are required to be incidental to the primary use.	Horse training use is allowed in Industrial B District via special permit.		1
Shelter Island	Agriculuture/farming is not listed as a primary use in the Residential Districts.	Allows accessory uses and structures incidental to the primary use. Residence districts allow the keeping of livestock provided setback requirements are met.	Non commercial horse riding rings allowed by special permit in residential districts.	5 zoning districts each has minimum set back requirements	
Smithtown	Agriculuture is allowed in most residential districts.	Accessory uses including the non commercial harboring or stabling of horses allowed provided they meet certain requirements.	Horsemanship school or stable is allowed in most residential districts via ZBA Special Exception Permit	1/2 acre minimum	no more than 3
Southampton	Agriculture is allowed in most residential districts and business districts.	Accessory uses have a section on storage of manure and states all accessory buildings for animal husbandry shall conform with provisions of Section 330-79 which imposes additional restrictions on the CR residential districts.	Horse farming and horse boarding is allowed by special exception permit in most residential, highway and office buisiness districts.	if less than 15 acres, need 3/4 acre per horse; if more than 15 acres need 1/2 acre per horse	
Southold	The larger minimum lot size residential districts allow keeping, raising and breeding of horses as well as barns provided they meet principal building setback requirements. The rasing, breeding and keeping of horses is also permited in the Light Industrial Zone.	The larger minimum lot size residential districts allow horses as an accessory use provided set back requirements are meet.	In larger minimum lot size residential districts stables and riding academies are allowed via ZBA Special Permit.		

Notes: (1) Information was prepared by the Suffolk County Division of Real Property Acquisition and Management (distribututed 9/9/2009)

Appendix VIII – Equestrian Trail Access

Public-Managed Lands with Existing Equestrian Trails for Public Use
Fees and permits required for access are as follows:
DEC - Free permit
NYS Parks - Empire Pass ($60)
S.C. Parks - Green Key ($35) and Equestrian Permit ($50/Family or $25/Individual)
(Individual park fees are included in the park description.

Name	Managing Agency	Description (Taken from the managing agency, Long Island Convention Bureau and/or Long Island Exchange websites)	County
Belmont Lake State Park	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	495 acres of fishing, boating, bicycle and bridle paths, hiking trails, softball fields, and picnicking. (North Babylon)	Suffolk
Bethpage State Park	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	1,475 acres featuring golf, tennis, softball fields, bicycle and bridle paths, hiking and picnicking. (Farmingdale) (Horse rentals $20 an hour)	Nassau
Blydenburgh County Park	Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation	Hiking, picnicking, camping, freshwater fishing, rowboat rentals, bridle paths, playground, dog run, and historic trust area.	Suffolk
Bohemia Equestrian Center	Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation	A link was not available from the Parks Department park list. The Bohemia Equestrian Center has three equestrian rings and parking available for cars and trailers. Horseback riding is permitted on marked trails, but a county permit is required. The center also offers opportunities for horse shows and trails.	Suffolk
Brookhaven State Park	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	This 2,300 acre area has a trail network that allows for bridle paths, hiking and bicycle trails, and picnicking.	Suffolk
Cathedral Pines County Park	Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation	Hiking, camping, mountain biking, bridle paths, picnicking. This 320 acre site is situated along the headwaters of the Carmans River. Facilities include campsites for individuals, youth group camping and club camping (10 or more units) and family camping, including 10 sites with water and electric hookups. Picnic sites and the George Broome Memorial Activity Building are also available. Adjacent to Cathedral Pines Park is Prosser Pines Nature Preserve, which features a majestic stand of white pines planted in 1812. Prosser Pines is a popular site for hikers and photographers.	Suffolk
Caumsett State Park	New York State Office of Parks, Recreationand Historic Preservation	1,500 acres of saltwater fishing, bridle paths, and hiking/exercise trails. (Lloyd Neck)	Suffolk

Connetquot River State Park	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	3,473 acres featuring fly fishing, bridle paths and hiking. (Oakdale / Bohemia) ($50 annual permit)	Suffolk
David A. Sarnoff Pine Barrens Preserve	Department of Environmental Conservation	Trails through classic pine barrens habitat provide opportunities for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and seasonal hunting. **Directions:** Rt. 495 (L.I.E) to exit 71, Rt. 24 east to Riverhead, 1 mile south of traffic circle on Rt. 104. Access by free permit only. Contact the DEC Region 1 Sporting License Office for more information. (Equestrian access is threatened.)	Suffolk
Former Lustgarten Nursery	Department of Environmental Conservation	Not listed on website. This 500+ acre area contains marked trails for equestrian use. Access from the east side of the above mentioned RCA Management Area is possible and provides for a linear trail.	Suffolk
Hempstead Lake State Park	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	775 acres of ball fields, bicycle and bridle paths, fishing, hiking and picnicking	Nassau
Jamesport State Park	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation *Partial support is provided by Suffolk County under the auspices of the Office of Cultural Affairs and the NYS Council of the Arts.*	Presently undergoing a management plan review. Historically, trail rides and other events have been held at this site and East End Livestock & Horseman's Association has played a role in the preservation and maintenance of this facility for 20 years. Although, equestrian use is under consideration, equestrian access is threatened.	Suffolk
Manorville Hills	Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation	This area is not listed on the Parks Department park list. A management plan for a trail network which will allow for hiking, biking, and horseback riding trails is in progress. Happily, a ten-year-old project has come to fruition and a multi-use, including a handicap mounting ramp for equestrians, trailhead was recently installed. Adequate parking for vehicles and trailers.	Suffolk
Peconic Headwaters Natural Resource Management Area	Department of Environmental Conservation	Formerly Navy Cooperative Area/Otis Pike Preserve: Mixed oak, pine barrens, and open habitat. Trails provided for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Excellent seasonal hunting. **Directions:** Rt. 495 (L.I.E.) to exit 69 north. 2 miles north on Schultz Road. Permit station for property is located at the Ridge Conservation Area. Access by daily permit Nov. 1 - Dec. 31 & January deer season (reservations are required for weekends, holidays, and January deer season) by seasonal permit Jan. 2 - Oct. 31. Contact the DEC Region 1 Sporting License Office for more information. (Equestrian access is threatened.)	Suffolk

Robert Cushman Murphy County Park	Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation	Robert Cushman Murphy, the county's first natural park, offers fishing, boating, hiking, hunting, and a biological research center. This area is part of an on going LI Pine Barrens Management Plan being done by the Pine Barrens Protected Lands Council; a committee formed by the Pine Barrens Commission. Historical equestrian use of this area has been recognized and we have not been "denied" access, but marked equestrian trails have not been designated.	Suffolk
Rocky Point Natural Resources Management Area	Department of Environmental Conservation	5.100 acres of oak woodland and pine barrens habitat. Trails provide access for hiking, biking, and horseback riding as well as dog training and a variety of seasonal hunting opportunities. **Directions:** Rt. 495 (L.I.E.) to exit 67 north, north on Rt. 21, 6 miles to Whiskey Road, right on Whiskey Road, main entrance to property on left. Permit station for property is located at the Ridge Conservation Area. Access by daily permit Nov. 1 - Dec. 31 & January deer season (reservations are required for weekends, holidays, and January deer season) by seasonal permit Jan. 2 - Oct. 31. Contact the DEC Region 1 Sporting License Office for more information.	Suffolk
Sears Bellows County Park	Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation	Hiking, camping, picnicking, freshwater fishing, rowboat rentals, hunting, and bridle paths. Home of the Big Duck. The equestrian center closed. Trails are still available.	Suffolk
Smith Point County Park	Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation	Smith Point - the county's largest oceanfront park - offers swimming, scuba diving, surfing, saltwater fishing, camping, outer beach access, food concession, playground, showers, & special events in season. Horseback riding is permitted on the outer beaches when scheduled as a group (Minimum of 5 / Maximum of 40) activity.	Suffolk
Southaven County Park	Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation	Hiking, camping, picnicking, freshwater fishing, rowboat rentals, canoeing, hunting, the Long Island Live Steamers and bridle paths. The equestrian center has been the focus of recent discussions to find an appropriate use for this site. This vacant site would provide a good home for the 4H Club equestrian activities. The 4H would have the capabilities of offering hack rides and care for abused animals, while providing a venue for equestrian education. Needed services for the County of Suffolk.	Suffolk
Sunken Meadow State Park	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	1,266 acres of golf, saltwater fishing, swimming, softball fields, bicycle and bridle paths and picnicking.	Suffolk
Theodore Roosevelt County Park	Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation	Horseback riding, hiking (self-guided nature trail brochure available), biking, canoeing, picnicking, fishing, hunting, outer beach access and camping (for self contained campers only NO TENTS), Spanish-American War Exhibit and gift shop.	Suffolk

Turtle Rock Preserve	Department of Environmental Conservation	Formerly Breslin parcels AVR 1,2, & 3. Recent acquisition located south of Lustgarten nursery property. This area does not have a management plan, but contains a network of trails that will allow for hiking, biking, and bridle paths.	
West Hills County Park	Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation	Hiking, youth group camping, picnicking, playground, meeting hall, bridle paths, dog run, and horseback riding facility. Home to Sweet Hills Stables. (Horse rental $35 an hour)	Suffolk

Appendix IX – Recommended Professional Site Plan

Suggested Professional Barn Site Plan

A professional barn or facility shall be one that provides a gross income of at least $25,000(twenty-five thousand dollars*) annually from such equine related activities as lessons, training, boarding, sales, etc.

Site Plan Requirements for the Professional Barn

1) The property's exterior fencing must be at least 4.5 feet high, enclosing any pasture, riding arenas, or other horse related areas, and must be located more than five feet from any side or rear yard line, and have openings no more than 10 inches in width. Electric fence is not permitted. Any road frontage must be double fenced, with no less than 10 feet between the fence lines and be off the road/street by at least twenty feet.

2) Any barns or other buildings used to house horses shall not be located within 25 feet of any side or rear yard line, and shall not be located between principal residential structure and road/street. There shall be at least 110 square feet of barn area for each horse.

3) There shall be no less than 8000 square feet per horse of designated horse areas, which may consist of pasture, turnouts, arenas, exercise pens, indoor arenas, barn driveways, barn parking, and any other area used for the purpose of the business.

4) All manure must be removed on a timely basis and is not to be stored or composted for longer than 30 days.

5) There must be a main resident structure on the property which must be occupied by the property owner, the barn professional, or other person(s) involved with the business.

6) There must be adequate parking for any farm machinery, equine activity vehicles, client/boarder vehicles, etc. and any parking of large horse/farm related vehicles, such as trailers, tractors, must be in an obscure location, not to be seen from the road, if possible.

7) Arena lights are permissible, but must not be used from 10PM to 6AM.

8) Dust from arena, dirt paddocks, tracks, etc. must be controlled.

9) The business needs to be operated in accordance with local noise regulations.

*Example: Four horses boarded at $500= $24,000 annually.

Appendix X – Resolution 187-2009

Intro. Res. No. 1076-2009 Laid on Table 2/3/2009
Introduced by Legislator Eddington

RESOLUTION NO. 187 -2009, ESTABLISHING AN EQUESTRIAN TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, equestrian activity has been an established part of Suffolk County's culture and economy for generations; and

WHEREAS, according to the Long Island Farm Bureau, the equine industry represents nearly $1 billion in the Long Island economy and Suffolk County ranks eighth (8th) among the counties of New York in horse population size; and

WHEREAS, while the equestrian community is a large economic force in Suffolk County, many of its members maintain small properties for their equestrian businesses and activities with high operating costs, which has led to difficulties in maintaining these companies as economically viable; and

WHEREAS, many individual equestrian businesses in Suffolk County are located on properties less than seven (7) acres in size, preventing them from qualifying as farms; and

WHEREAS, the problems attendant to running small and medium size stables and equestrian businesses within Suffolk County are compounded by local zoning boards, which have individualized standards as to how many horses may be allowed per acre of property; and

WHEREAS, in order to address the variety of issues facing the average member of the equestrian industry in Suffolk County, representatives from local government, equestrian organizations, and County officials need to come together to discuss the problems faced by this community and devise possible solutions; now, therefore be it

1st **RESOLVED**, that a special Suffolk County Equestrian Task Force is hereby created to study and analyze issues relating to the benefits of maintaining the equine industry in Suffolk County, as well as the economic and zoning issues associated with said maintenance, including, but not limited to: the creation of horse intensive zoning, the expansion of government preservation programs that consider the size and location of the property as well as the number of horses maintained there, the feasibility of developing shared or cooperative programs to reduce the costs of necessary purchases, and to examine ways to allow horses easier and access to various parks and trail systems; and be it further

2nd **RESOLVED**, that this Equestrian Task Force shall consist of the following eleven (11) members:

1.) a representative from the County Legislature, to be selected by the Presiding Officer, to serve as Chairperson;

2.) the Suffolk County Director of Planning, or his designee;

3.) the Suffolk County Environment and Energy Commissioner, or his designee;

4.) the Suffolk County Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, or his designee;

5.) a representative from the Suffolk County Supervisors Association representing the five (5) west end towns;

6.) a representative from the East End Supervisors Association;

7.) two (2) representatives of the equestrian community, to be selected by the Suffolk County Legislature, with one (1) of those representatives recommended by the Nassau Suffolk Horsemen's Association;

8.) a representative of the Suffolk County Village Officials Association;

9.) a representative from the Long Island Farm Bureau, to be selected by the Suffolk County Legislature; and

10.) a representative of the Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals;

and be it further

3rd **RESOLVED**, that the Equestrian Task Force shall hold its first meeting no later than thirty (30) days after the oaths of office of all members have been filed, which meeting shall be convened by the chairman of the Task Force, for the purpose of organization and the appointment of a vice chairperson and a secretary; and be it further

4th **RESOLVED**, that the members of said Task Force shall serve without compensation and shall serve at the pleasure of their respective appointing authorities; and be it further

5th **RESOLVED**, that the Equestrian Task Force shall hold regular meetings, keep a record of all its proceedings, and determine the rules of its own proceedings with special meetings to be called by the chairperson upon his or her own initiative or upon receipt of a written request therefor signed by at least three (3) members of the Task Force. Written notice of the time and place of such special meetings shall be given by the secretary to each member at least four (4) days before the date fixed by the notice for such special meeting; and be it further

6th **RESOLVED**, that six (6) members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum to transact the business of the Task Force at both regular and special meetings; and be it further

7th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force may submit requests to the County Legislature for approval for the provision of secretarial services, travel expenses, or retention of consultants to assist the Task Force with such endeavors, said total expenditures not to exceed Five Thousand ($5,000.00) per fiscal year, which services shall be subject to Legislative approval; and be it further

8th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force may conduct such informal hearings and meetings at any place or places within the County of Suffolk for the purpose of obtaining necessary information or other data to assist it in the proper performance of its duties and functions as it deems necessary; and be it further

9th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force may delegate to any member of the Task Force the power and authority to conduct such hearings and meetings; and be it further

10th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall cooperate with the Legislative Committees of the County Legislature and make available to each Committee's use, upon request, any records and other data it may accumulate or obtain; and be it further

11th **RESOLVED**, that said Task Force shall issue a written report, after a comprehensive study and analysis of the impact of the equestrian industry in Suffolk County, the potential for losses associated with the gradual disbanding of the local equestrian community, the problems facing the equine industry and the potential solutions and costs associated with aiding the equine industry to ensure their continued existence and prosperity in Suffolk County; and be it further

12th **RESOLVED**, that this Task Force shall submit a written report of its findings and determinations together with its recommendations for action, if any, to each member of the County Legislature and the County Executive no later than one hundred eighty (180) days subsequent to the effective date of this Resolution for consideration, review, and appropriate action, if necessary, by the entire County Legislature; and be it further

13th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall expire, and the terms of office of its members terminate, as of December 31, 2009 at which time the Task Force shall deposit all the records of its proceedings with the Clerk of the Legislature; and be it further

14th **RESOLVED**, that this study shall not be performed by any outside consultant or consulting firm unless explicit approval and authorization for such consultant or consulting firm is granted pursuant to a duly enacted resolution of the County Legislature; and be it further

15th **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21), and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: March 24, 2009

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steve Levy
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: March 27, 2009

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