Fact Sheet: **Equine**

- The horse industry contributes almost 24,000 jobs to Alabamians which represent \$706 million in total labor income.
- There are approximately 154,000 horses in Alabama. More than 186,000 total equines (horses, donkeys and mules) call Alabama home.
- The horse business accounts for more than \$2 billion spending annually in Alabama.



- The racking horse is the official Alabama state horse.
- The dominant breed in Alabama is the quarter horse, accounting for almost 36.5 percent of the horse population.
- Horse height is measured in hands. One hand equals 4 inches.
- A mare, or female horse, can give birth to one foal, or baby, per year. Gestation lasts approximately 11 months.
- A colt is a young male horse that has not been gelded, or neutered. A filly is a young female horse that has not yet given birth to a foal.

- A stallion is an intact male horse. A stud is a stallion used for breeding.
- The equine industry provides numerous competition opportunities for adults and children through 4-H, FFA and school rodeo clubs.
- Trail riding is the No. 1 equine activity in the state.
- The horse industry contributes approximately \$39 billion in direct economic impact to the U.S. economy and supports 1.4 million fulltime jobs.
- When indirect and induced spending are included, the industry's economic impact reaches \$102 billion.
- Forty-five of 50 states have at least 20,000 horses.
- There are an estimated 9.2 million horses in the U.S.
- Sorted by activity, there are almost 4 million recreation horses; 2.7 million show horses; 844,531 racing horses; and 1.7 million other horses.
- An average horse's top speed is 27 miles per hour, but the fastest horse ever recorded could reach 55 miles per hour.

Sources:

Auburn University Encyclopediaofalabama.org HorseCouncil.org HorseProperties.net

