

**THE FLORIDA**

# HORSE

**INDUSTRY**



**Look Whos  
Larkin**

Photo by  
Pacific Range Design

**F**lorida's horse industry is a highly diverse one that supports a wide variety of activities throughout the state. It combines the primarily rural activities of breeding, raising and training horses with the more urban activities of operating racetracks, off-track

betting parlors, horse shows, polo, rodeos and other equine recreational pursuits. There are some 299,000

horses in Florida, with more than 70 percent involved in showing and recreation. Florida is home to nearly every breed of horse and is represented by equine champions known throughout the world.

Their breeders, owners and trainers are drawn to Florida's year-round moderate climate, mineral-rich water and soil, outstanding facilities and strong support industries.

From Thoroughbred and harness racing in south Florida to world class equestrian events in Palm Beach County to Ocala/Marion County's "Horse Capital of the World," Florida truly has it all.



*Skip Away • Photo by Skip Dickstein*

## **Economic Impact**

■ The Florida horse industry generates a \$6.5 billion economic impact on the gross domestic product, when including spending by industry suppliers and employees.

■ The Florida horse industry produces goods and services valued at \$2.2 billion.

■ 244,200 Floridians are involved in the industry as horse owners, service providers and employees.

■ The Florida horse industry generates more than 72,000 jobs.

## **Agricultural Business Climate**

■ Florida has no personal income tax.

■ Horses are exempt from sales tax when purchased from their original breeder. Breeding stock is also exempt.

## Central Florida's Normal High and Low Temperatures

Month	High	Low
January	69.9	45.1
February	72.4	46.4
March	78.6	52.5
April	84.0	56.7
May	88.9	63.1
June	91.5	68.9
July	92.2	70.8
August	92.1	70.7
September	90.0	68.6
October	84.4	60.7
November	77.4	53.1
December	71.9	47.1

**Overall average high: 82.8 Degrees**

**Overall average low: 58.6 degrees**

**Overall normal: 70.7 degrees**

*Source: National Weather Service. Jacksonville, Florida*

- Feed and animal health products, along with other specific items, are also exempt from state sales tax.
- Certain farm equipment may be exempt from state sales tax or receive special treatment.
- Florida's greenbelt exemption provides property tax breaks for Florida horse farms.

### Horse Capital of the World

Ocala/Marion County, Florida has more horses and ponies than any other county in the nation, according to the United States Department of Agriculture census. With more than 900 farms, every breed from A to Z is represented here. The Ocala/Marion County area can claim such champions as Rugged Lark, the two-time American Quarter Horse Association Super Horse; Trashadeous, the National Reining Horse Association champion;



European Warmbloods • Photo by A.F. Steindl

Red Bow Tie, 1998 Breeders Crown champion; and Skip Away, the 1998 North American Horse of the Year. The Ocala/Marion County area plays host to such nationally recognized equine events as the Horse Shows In The Sun (HITS), Live Oak Combined Driving Event, The Horse Festival and Sunshine State Games Equestrian Classic.

## **Major Thoroughbred Center**

Florida is home to some 600 Thoroughbred farms and training centers, with more than 75 percent of these located in the Ocala/Marion County area. Florida Thoroughbred breeders and owners have a



*Beautiful Pleasure • Photo by Equi-Photo*

multibillion-dollar investment in the state. This investment in breeding farms, training centers, breeding, and racing stock creates an economic impact of an estimated \$1 billion.

## **Come Join Us**

Florida provides an outstanding agriculture and business climate for breeding and training horses. For more information about the Florida horse industry, contact:

*Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services*  
(850) 488-4132

*Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association*  
(352) 629-2160

## Florida Champion Horses Include:

### **1** Silver Charm (*Thoroughbred*)

1997 Kentucky Derby/Preakness Stakes Champion  
Breeder: Mary Lou Wootton • Ocala, Florida

### **2** Skip Away (*Thoroughbred*)

1998 North American  
Horse of the Year  
Breeder: Anna Marie Barnhart  
Ocala, Florida

### **3** Rugged Lark (*Quarter Horse*)

Two-Time AQHA Super Horse  
Owner: Carol Harris  
Bo-Bett Farm • Ocala, Florida



*Silver Charm*  
Photo by Barbara Livingston

### **4** Beautiful Pleasure (*Thoroughbred*)

1999 North American Champion Older Female  
Breeders: Farnsworth Farms  
Ocala, Florida

### **5** Red Bow Tie (*Standardbred*)

1998 Breeders Crown Champion  
Breeder: Dana Irving • Irving Farm • Ocala, Florida

### **6** Look Whos Larkin (*Quarter Horse*)

1999 AQHA Super Horse  
Breeder: Carol Harris  
Bo-Bett Farm • Ocala, Florida

### **7** Pik Trump II (*Dutch Warmblood*)

Rolex USET Young Riders National Champion  
Owner/ Rider: Hillary Schlusemeyer  
Quiet Hill Farm • Ocala, Florida

### **8** Smoak (*Arabian*)

2000 Florida-Bred Arabian National Champion  
4 Year Old Colt  
Owner/Trainer: Bill Waldron  
Brooksville, Florida



## Nel's Golden Girl (*Quarter Horse*)

1999 Josey Jr. World Champion Barrel Racer  
Owner/Rider: Tess Ducheneaux • Ocala, Florida



## European Warmbloods

CAI-A Four-In-Hand Event Championship Team  
Owner/Driver: Chester Weber  
Ocala, Florida



from  
**Florida**

Florida Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services

CHARLES H. BRONSON, Commissioner  
Phone: 850/488-4132



Florida Thoroughbred Breeders'  
and Owners' Association

Phone:  
352/629-2160



Florida Standardbred Breeders &  
Owners Association

Phone:  
954/972-5400



Phone:  
813/726-3951

Florida Foxtrotter



Association

Phone:  
386/734-8561



Phone:  
941/731-2999



Paso Fino Horse  
ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED

Phone:  
813/719-7777



Phone:  
941/321-3247



Florida Morgan  
Horse Association  
Phone:  
813/960-2434