

## Who and What

- Horse & Rider reports that the percentage of U.S. **horses aged 20 or older** rose from 5.6% of the total equine population in 1998 to 7.6% in 2005.
- According to the National Safety Council, **agriculture ranks third behind construction and transportation/warehousing in the list of industries with the highest fatality rate.** While figures for 2006 were a little lower than in 2005 for the industry, it still ranked highest by percentage (more than 20 fatalities per 100,000 employed) in both years. Agriculture was lumped into a category that included fishing, hunting, and forestry for this analysis.
- In preparation for issuing its **five-millionth registration** number this spring, the **American Quarter Horse Association** auctioned the right to claim this number. Shelly Nielsen of Alberta, Canada bought the number, but hasn't decided which of this spring's foal crop will be the recipient. The AQHA is the world's largest breed registry.
- The FDA has declared that human **consumption of meat and milk from cloned cattle, swine, and goats is safe.** Sheep were excepted because there was not enough information to make a similar decision. It is not expected that such animals will hit groceries in large numbers in the near future, as most cloning is done to produce breeding stock.
- The University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine has received a million-dollar gift from John and Marianne Castle, whose horse died from **laminitis.** The gift will be used to support a biennial conference on diseases of the foot, including laminitis. Future plans include new **research laboratories,** a home-care treatment model, improved clinical facilities, and opportunities for student research.
- Fifteen **deaths** in a herd of British cattle were traced to **sweet potatoes** fed to the animals. A high-energy, inexpensive addition to some animal diets, sweet potatoes must be stored in a cool, dry, dark place to prevent the development of **toxins.**
- Amish men in Kentucky have been cited for not displaying the orange triangle denoting a slow-moving vehicle on their **horse-drawn buggies** that travel on public roads. County attorneys feel the case addresses safety, while the drivers claim adding the signs violate their religious beliefs that outlaw the flaunting of worldly possessions.
- **Stable waste** produced by horses competing in the **2008 Hong Kong Olympic** equestrian events will be recycled. In keeping with the "green" theme of the event, a vermicomposting method will use worms to process the manure and other waste into organic fertilizer. The Hong Kong Jockey Club will run the recycling effort on the 30 tons of stable waste expected to be produced daily.
- **Sarcoids** are common equine skin tumors. Treatment is difficult because the tumors often recur after surgical removal or chemotherapy. German researchers have developed a **vaccine** containing virus-like particles containing a small section of protein found in sarcoids and also in the bovine

papilloma viruses that trigger tumor growth. It is theorized that the horse's **immune system** will recognize the injected protein bits and attack them as foreign material, causing the tumors to regress.

- **Equine protozoal myeloencephalitis (EPM)** is a neurological disease caused by the *Sarcocystis neurona* parasite. Although it is still not known exactly how the parasite gains access to the horse's central nervous system, research at Ohio State University suggests that the **microbe spreads to various organs, including the nervous system, through blood and lymph systems** within a few days after ingesting sporocysts.

## Wins and Wows

- The Kentucky Horse Park has received the **Special Eclipse Award**, an honor that recognizes outstanding contributions to Thoroughbred racing. The park showcases more than 50 breeds of horses, and is visited by almost 900,000 tourists and 15,000 competition horses each year. Educational exhibits, horse-drawn trolley rides, and equine presentations are highlights of the park.
- **McDynamo, steeplechasing's leading horse** for many years, has been retired sound and healthy. In the money 23 times out of 25 starts, the ten-year-old Thoroughbred gelding won more than \$1.3 million during his career, which included two flat-racing victories. McDynamo finished first in five consecutive Breeders' Cups, three Colonial Cups, and seven Far Hills features.
- The Florida Association of Equine Practitioners has chosen Dr. Alfred Merritt to receive its **Lifetime Achievement Award**. A former professor of equine studies at the University of Florida and retired director of the Island Whirl Equine Colic Research Laboratory, Merritt spent years researching malfunctions of the equine gastrointestinal system.
- The California Thoroughbred Breeders Association has chosen five inductees to its **California Hall of Fame**. Human honorees are John Harris, a breeder who worked to promote legislation benefitting California-bred horses in the racing industry; trainer and CTBA member Mel Stute, who trained Preakness winner Snow Chief; and Russell Baze, a jockey with almost 10,000 race wins, many on California tracks. Equine honorees are Decidedly, whose Kentucky Derby win was followed by years of stud duty, and Flying Paster, leading sire in California for five years in a row.
- Theodore O'Connor, the pony-sized equine who showed his big heart in three-day event competitions like the Rolex Kentucky, was named **Horse of the Year by the USEF**. "Teddy" is a cross of Arabian, Shetland, and Thoroughbred bloodlines and stands 14.1 hands high. In competition, he faces horses as much as 12 inches taller. His size was not a detriment at the Pan American Games, where he carried his rider Karen O'Connor to both individual and team gold medal efforts. KER and its Team Member Pennfield Feeds sponsor Karen O'Connor.
- Robert Higgins was named **United States Dressage Federation Volunteer of the Year** for 2007. Higgins has been a USDF volunteer for more than 20 years, serving on committees including fiscal review, budget and finance, USEF representatives, and competition management. He has also helped with management of numerous shows, events, conferences, awards, and championships.
- Austin Brown was chosen to receive the **F. Ambrose Clark Award**, a recognition given to an individual who promotes, improves, and encourages the growth and welfare of American steeplechasing. The award, given by the South Carolina Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, recognized Brown's career which included years as a jockey, racecourse construction supervisor, jump race organizer, National Steeplechase Museum founder, and Carolina Cup Racing Association leader.



**Reprint Courtesy of  
Kentucky Equine Research, Inc.**

3910 Delaney Ferry Road  
Versailles, KY 40383  
Phone: 859-873-1988  
Fax: 859-873-3781  
Order Department: 888-873-1988  
[www.ker.com](http://www.ker.com)  
[info@ker.com](mailto:info@ker.com)