

MINNESOTA'S RACING INDUSTRY is Supported by Live Racing

When Minnesota has a healthy horse industry, supported by live racing, the state sees economic benefit from the jobs created for feed and hay providers, veterinarians, farriers, stable and track staff, trainers and jockeys. Conversely, when live racing purses aren't competitive, horse breeding, stabling, training and racing numbers decline in Minnesota and those industries suffer.

A 2016 University of Minnesota Extension Service study found **the horse racing industry in Minnesota contributed \$400+ million and 5500+ jobs to Minnesota's economy**, reaching every county of the state. Further, recreational riding, training, competitions and use of horses in agriculture has previously been estimated to bring that value up to **\$1 billion or more in direct or indirect economic values**.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HORSE RACING IN MN



\$409.2 million
in total annual economic activity¹



17%
of MN farms support the horse industry²



5,590 jobs
in horse and non-horse related industries¹



\$233.1 million
in annual economic activity for non-racehorse industries³



\$64.3 million
in annual in-state spending by registered racehorse owners³



Nearly \$1 million
generated in annual state sales and use taxes



Over \$200,000
in annual charitable contributions and community support made by Canterbury Park



**CANTERBURY
PARK** SHAKOPEE, MINN

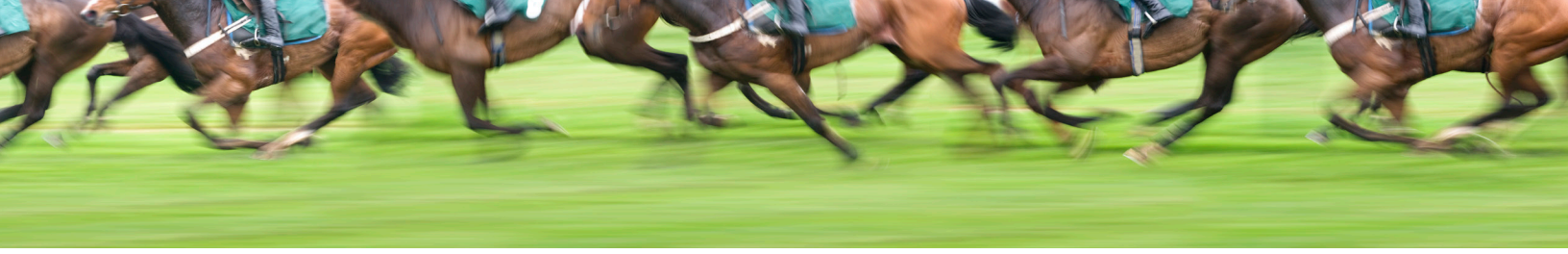
CANTERBURY'S CONTRIBUTIONS

- **1,000+ people work** at Canterbury Park.
- Approximately **1,000 horses, 50 trainers, 30 jockeys and hundreds of stable workers** and their families call Canterbury Park home each summer.
- The hundreds of racehorses and pony horses that require food, veterinarian and farrier services and day-to-day care and training stabled at Canterbury Park **significantly boost Minnesota's horse industry and agricultural economy**.
- **\$88 million in racing purses and breeders fund payments has been generated** by the Canterbury Park Card Casino since its opening in 2000, supporting a strong agricultural economy.
- **\$1.25-1.5 million is spent each year on shipping fees** to transport horses between MN and wintering venues in AZ, NM, OK, TX and FL, expanding the economic impact of a healthy horse industry.
- On average, **250,000+ people attend live races** between May and September each year, including many tourists, making Canterbury one of the most important sports and entertainment entities in Minnesota.

¹ Minnesota Racing Commission, 2019. *Annual Report*. <https://www.lrl.mn.gov/docs/2019/mandated/190460.pdf>

² University of Minnesota Extension, 2017. *Economic Impact of the Horse Industry*. <https://extension.umn.edu/horse-ownership/economic-impact-horse-industry#economic-impact-by-breed--1649710>

³ University of Minnesota Extension, 2017. *Economic Contribution of Minnesota's Horse Racing Industry*. <https://extension.umn.edu/communityresearch/minnesotas-horse-racing-industry>



Minnesota's Racing Industry is at a Crossroads

Owners choose to race, and therefore train and stable, their horses based on the size of the purse they are eligible to win. With extra incentives for Minnesota-bred horses that win a race, breeding locations are also strategically chosen to help increase potential winnings.

Twenty-three other states, such as Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Jersey and Washington, that support higher racing purses, have reacted to the changing marketplace to support their racing industries. These states have found that investing in horse purses pays off economically. **In Minnesota, current purse levels and incentives for horsepersons have become less attractive as we compete with these other states.**

CHALLENGES FACING OUR RACING INDUSTRY INCLUDE:

1. With uncertainty around future purse levels, **Minnesota's thoroughbred mare and foal count has fallen 53% since 2019.**
2. Rapid expansion of casino gaming and sports betting technology is **changing the overall gaming landscape.**
3. The growth of online racing wagering is **reducing on-track revenue and therefore the overall purses.**
4. Inflation has pushed the **cost of horse ownership and training** to record levels.
5. New federal requirements are adding to **compliance and regulatory costs.**
6. As recruiting of owners and trainers becomes more competitive, **tracks without adequate purse levels are impacted significantly.**
7. **Midwest states that compete with Minnesota for horses are stepping in with purse support and additional gaming opportunities,** which creates higher, more desirable purses in those states.

The 10-year purse enhancement agreement between Canterbury Park and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, which supplied mutually beneficial marketing opportunities to Mystic Lake Casino and Canterbury Card Casino and helped supplement purse levels, ended in 2022. Between the loss of that purse support and purse-enhancing efforts in surrounding states strengthening regional competition to recruit horses, a long-term solution that enhances racing purses at the state's racetracks is critical to maintaining the benefits of Minnesota's horse industry. To encourage a hearty ecosystem that benefits the Minnesota economy, we need continued investment in purses and incentives. **As state lawmakers consider changes to the scope of legalized gaming, the horse industry deserves to benefit.**

