



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Horse People's Group Announces Ontario Equine Agricultural Economic Impact Study

Campbellville, May 8, 2025 - The Ontario Harness Horse Association/Ontario Equine Educational and Employment Program, (OHHA/OEEEP) with support from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) is pleased to announce the launch of a comprehensive economic impact study of the vast and diverse Ontario equine agricultural sector.

"The equine sector is a critical contributor to Ontario's rural economy and culture," said Trevor Jones, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness. "Our government is proud to invest in this important economic impact study, which will pave the way for the Ontario Harness Horse Association and Ontario Equine Educational and Employment Program to protect workers and jobs in the industry by driving economic growth and building a sustainable, thriving future."

We are thankful to the Ontario Government, Premier Ford, former OMAFA Minister Rob Flack and current Minister Trevor Jones for their unbridled support of our industry, our communities, horses and people, said James Whelan, OHHA/OEEEP president. The equine agricultural industry is a huge economic driver in this province, especially in our rural communities. This study will clearly demonstrate that positive impact and set the stage to work closely with government and key industry stakeholders. We will clearly establish Ontario as a world leader when it comes to our horses and the people who care for them."

Whelan is encouraging industry participants join in the study when called upon. He also encouraged key equine stakeholders to financially contribute to the success of this enormous project.

"The government of Ontario has stepped up to show their support for our industry. It's imperative that the industry show its support as well. I'm asking those who can afford it to give back to an industry that has given them so much.

The equine agricultural industry is vital to the historic, social and economic fabric of this province. Together we can put our beloved industry on a path to not only sustainability but future promise for generations to come."

Two consultants, Econometric Research and Harry Cummings and Associates, have been chosen through a rigorous selection process.

-30-

For further information:

James Whelan

President OHHA/OEEEP

Phone: 519-770-5184

E-mail: jamesaeneaswhelan@gmail.com

Brian Tropea

General Manager, OHHA/OEEEP

Phone: 866-774-6442

E-mail: brian@ohha.ca