




Standardbreds: Good for Business

A look at the impact of
harness racing on your
local economy



Standardbred horses are at the tip of an important economic pyramid.

One horse on the racetrack equals the support of many professions and related industries.



ON THE RACETRACK:

A portion of every dollar wagered is returned to the state in the form of taxes. The tracks provide jobs to tellers, restaurant servers, maintenance employees. The tracks buy goods and services from local business, ranging from food service to suppliers of stone dust for the racing surface.

IN TRAINING: Horses must be transported to the track in trucks and trailers, helping support auto dealers and gas stations. The trainer employs caretakers and uses the services of veterinarians and farriers. One racehorse consumes two to three tons of hay and grain each year, helping to support farmers who produce those products, as well as tack stores and grain dealers.



IN THE PASTURE: It takes three to four years from time of conception to “manufacture” a racehorse. Horses require large amounts of grazing land that is never treated with herbicides or pesticides. Horse farmers keep barn and fence builders in business, as well as tractor and farm equipment dealers, hay and grain producers. Raising a horse is labor intensive; they must be cared for 365 days a year.

