

# HORSE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD



Kentucky is home to 242,400 horses and 35,000 horse farms.



More than 1 million acres in Kentucky are devoted to equine use.



50% of Kentucky's horses can be found in the Bluegrass Region.

**Kentucky's horse industry is valued at \$23 billion and supports more than 40,000 jobs.**

## What does a horse need?

Horses need to eat between 1.5 to 3% of their body weight in food a day depending on their age and use. At least half of their diet should be leafy forages such as pasture and hay. Horses also need access to clean water as they will drink 5 to 10 gallons a day. Horses' hooves, coats, and teeth require special care as well. Keeping a horse healthy requires time, money, and responsibility.

## How Horses Are Used in the Bluegrass



Mares will carry their foals for 11 months. Most foals are born between January and April, and they are weaned from their mothers when they are about 6 months of age. Training begins when they are between 2 and 4 years old. The average lifespan of a horse is 25 to 30 years. A horse's diet is made up of high quality grasses, hays, and grains such as oats, barley, and corn.

