

sport-recreational riders at 76% of the total surveyed population. Breeding and breed-oriented competition were well represented in the survey population.

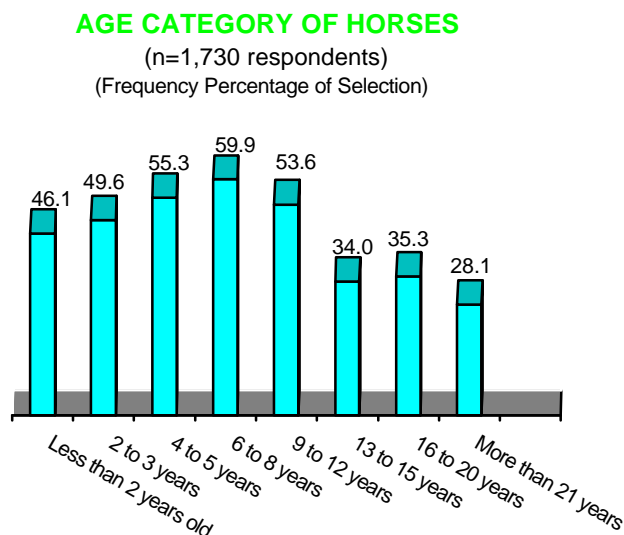
Again, it is apparent, the majority of involvement in the equine industry was that of sport-recreational riding. Breeding, trail rides and breed competitions/horse shows were the other significant areas of involvement. There was a lower representation by the chariot racing, polo and standardbred racing communities. Other sectors within the equine industry were reported as: working cow/horse, coaching/lessons, gymkhanas, racing, riding camps/trail rides/packing in mountains, administration, veterinarians, farriers, editorials and the insurance end of the horse industry. The variety of responses indicate strong diversity within the industry.

It was further determined that 36.2% of horse owners also own other livestock, with cattle being predominant. Swine, sheep, goats, donkeys, poultry, bison, dogs, llamas, birds/fowl, dairy, elk, mules, and rabbits were all mentioned as other livestock maintained by horse owners.

### **Alberta Horse Population**

The number of horses, as determined by this survey, accounts for approximately 17,224 or 5+% of the total horse population within Alberta. To further profile the nature of the horse population within Alberta, respondents were asked 1) the age(s), 2) breed(s) of their horse(s), and 3) the number of horses within each breed.

The first question was to determine the age distribution of the equine stock. The majority of the respondents indicated that their horses were between the ages of four and twelve years of age with the largest age category being the six to eight years of age group (59.9%). The smallest group was that of horses over the age of 21 years. The frequency of their choice(s) is illustrated in the following graph.



Graph 6. Age Categories of Horses

Those responding to the question of the age of the horses also indicated the number of horses in each age group. The largest group of horses in any age group was that of the six to eight year olds reporting 3,154 horses in this age group. The following table illustrates the number of horses in each of the eight age categories:

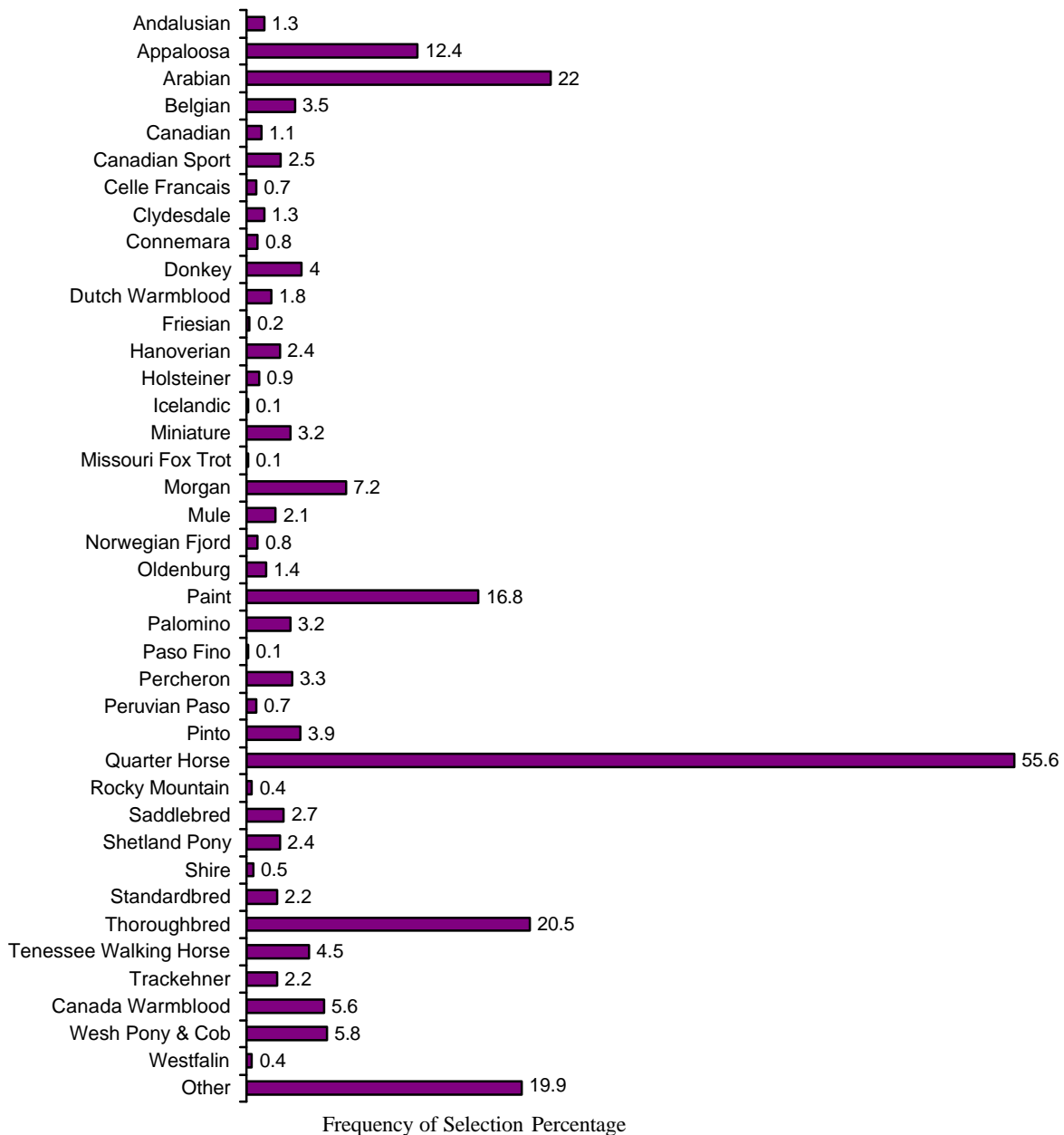
<b>NUMBER OF HORSES PER AGE GROUP</b>		
Less than two years old	2,589	15.0%
2 to 3 years	2,542	14.8%
4 to 5 years	2,207	12.8%
6 to 8 years	3,154	18.3%
9 to 12 years	2,852	16.6%
13 to 15 years	1,642	9.5%
16 to 20 years	1,374	8.0%
More than 21 years	864	5.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,224</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 7. Number of Horses Per Age Group

The second question asked respondents to identify the breed(s) of horse(s) owned by the stakeholders as well as the number of horses in each breed category. The question allowed respondents to identify more than one breed. The frequency of their choice(s) is illustrated in the following graph.

**EQUINE BREEDS**

(n=1,656)



Graph 7. Equine Breeds

There were 461 horses identified in the “other” category. The majority of these respondents noted that their horse(s) were a cross of some variety. The Quarter Horse category is the most often identified cross breed section with 131 horses being identified, followed by the Arabian horse category representing 124 horses. The following tables show the most frequently cited to the least frequently cited “other” horses they own (note: where a number was not given, the analyst used one (1) for a count):

**Quarter Horse cross:**

Draft	45	Thoroughbred/Percheron	1
Paint	23	Arab/Thoroughbred	1
Thoroughbred	13	Rheinland/Thoroughbred	1
Appendix	7	Connemara	1
Percheron	5	Standardbred	1
Grade	4	Appaloosa	1
Andalusian	3	Belgian	1
Appendix/Thoroughbred	2	Suffolk	1
Morgan	2	Clydesdale	1
Welsh	2	Unknown	15
Draft/paint	1		

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**Arabian cross:**

Quarter Horse	29	Dutch Warmblood	1
Morgan	21	Westfalin	1
Canadian	15	Norwegian Fjord	1
Anglo	11	Appaloosa	1
Saddlebred	6	Quarter Horse/Thoroughbred	1
Thoroughbred	3	Thoroughbred/Shire	1
Welsh	3	Paso Fino	1
Paint	3	Anglo/Morgan	1
Pinto	2	Donkey	1
Shetland	2	Grade	1
Trackehner	2	Hanoverian	1
Standardbred	1	Percheron	1
Welsh/Morgan	1	Unknown	12
Quarter Horse/Tennessee	1		
Walking			

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**Thoroughbred cross:**

Clydesdale	3	Andalusian	1
Hanoverian	3	Dutch Warmblood	1
Morgan	3	Draft	1
Belgian	2	Holsteiner	1
Percheron	2	Welsh	1
Shire	2	Unknown	2
Percheron	2		

Table 8. Crossbreed of Horses

Additional breakdown of cross-bred horses:

American Walking Pony	1	Mustang – Unknown	8
Appendix	8	- Morgan	1
Azteca	2	- Spanish	1
Belgian	1	- Suffolk	2
Cleveland Bay	1	Newfoundland Pony	1
Clydesdale	2	Percheron – Unknown	5
- Percheron	1	- Shire	1
- ponies	6	- Paint	1
- Paint	1	- Appaloosa	1
- cross	5	Pintabian	1
Curlies		Pinto – Unknown	8
- Bushkir	7	- Hanoverian	1
- North American	2	Pony of the Americas	9
Donkey/miniature	1	Port Breds	2
German Warmblood	3	Rheinlander	2
Hackney Pony	3	Saddlebred/Cleveland Bay	1
- Clydex	1	Spanish Norman	2
Haflinger	2	Sport Pony	1
Hessen	1	Swedish Warmblood	1
Hungarian Sport	20	Suffolk	41
Irish Horse Sport	10	- Percheron	1
Irish Draught	2	Tennessee Walking	
Morgan – unknown	2	- Percheron	1
- Appendix	1	- Peruvian	1
- Thoroughbred	1	Warmblood – Unknown	2
- Hanoverian	1	- Swedish	1
		Welsh	1
		Welsh Cob	

Table 9. Other Crossbreeds

Of the 1,656 respondents indicating the type of horse(s) currently in their herd, the following table indicates the number of horses by breed of horse. The top five categories of breed of horses represent 72.1% (12,314) of the total 17,065 horses identified in this question. The top five breeds of horses identified are: 1) Quarter Horse 40.1%; 2) Thoroughbred 13.1%; 3) Arabian 7.0%; 4) Appaloosa 6.1%; and 5) Paint 5.8%.

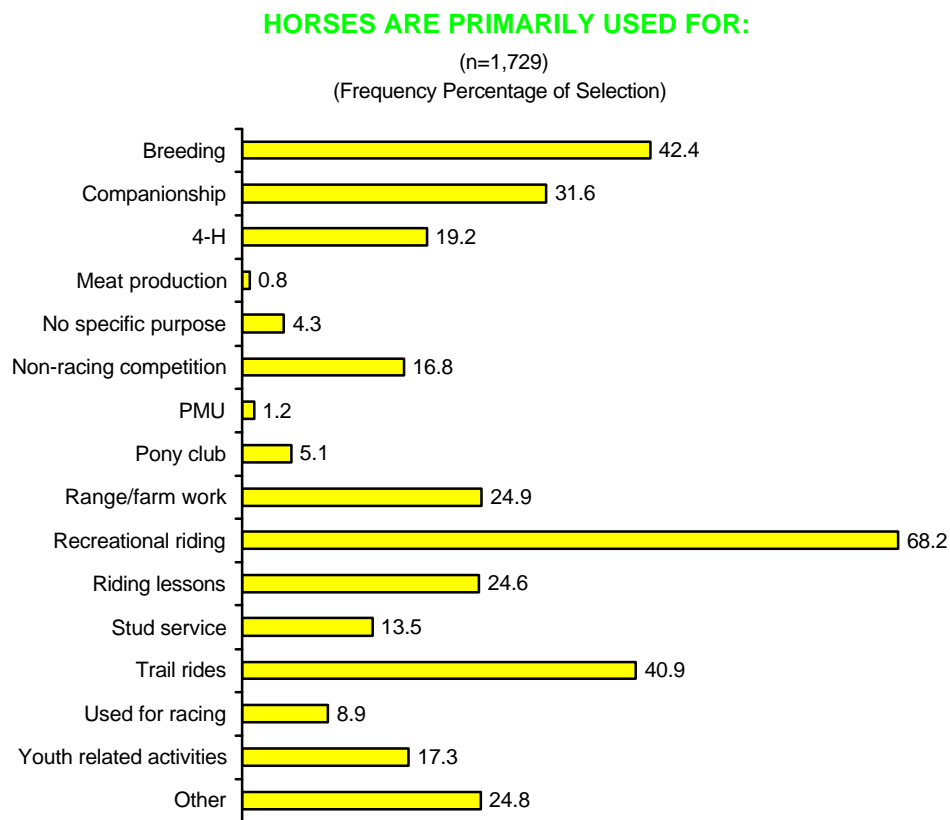
### NUMBER OF HORSES PER BREED

(n=17,065 horses)

Type	Number of Horses
Andalusian	45
Appaloosa	1,044
Arabian	1,191
Belgian	346
Canadian	111
Canadian Sport	73
Celle Francais	7
Clydesdale	187
Connemara	62
Donkey	224
Dutch Warmblood	64
Friesian	4
Hanoverian	165
Holsteiner	22
Icelandic	3
Miniatures	383
Missouri Fox Trot	3
Morgan	516
Mule	120
Norwegian Fjord	64
Oldenburg	28
Paint	993
Palomino	86
Paso Fino	2
Percheron	581
Peruvian Paso	70
Pinto	165
Quarter-Horse	6,844
Rocky Mountain	34
Saddlebred	101
Shetland Pony	58
Shire	45
Standardbred	61
Thoroughbred	2,242
Tennessee Walking	353
Trackehner	63
Canadian Warmblood	460
Welsh Pony & Cob	234
Westfalin	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,065</b>

Table 10. Number of Horses Per Breed

While the breed and age of a horse and the horse population in Alberta as a whole is important, it is also essential to determine what these horses are used for. Although the reported horse population of this survey is significant and representative (5%) of the actual population within Alberta, the respondents identified sport-recreational riding (68.2%) as the highest reason for owning and using their horse(s) followed by breeding (42.4%). The question allowed for respondents to identify more than one response. The frequency of their choice(s) is illustrated in the following graph.

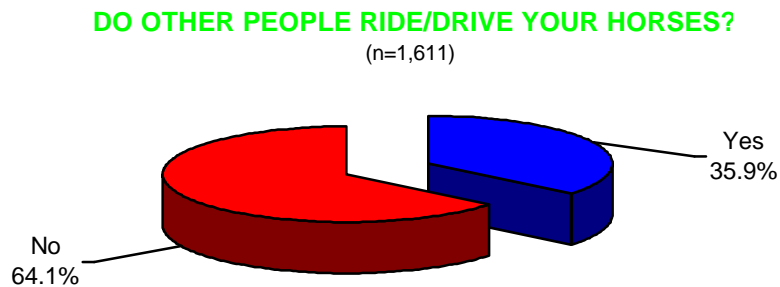


Graph 8. Horses Are Primarily Used For:

In the category of “other”, stakeholders frequently utilized their horses for the following:

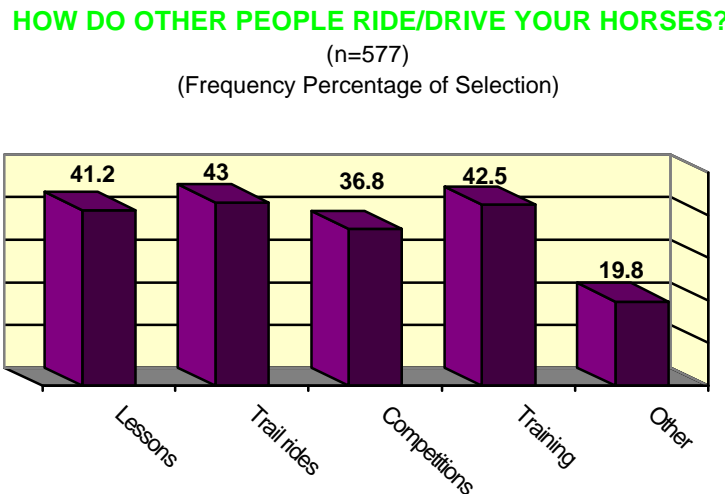
- ★ Competition
- ★ Showing
- ★ Racing
- ★ Driving
- ★ Rodeo
- ★ Barrel racing
- ★ Team roping
- ★ Dressage
- ★ Penning
- ★ Gymkana
- ★ Parades
- ★ Hunter/jumper
- ★ Reining
- ★ Endurance
- ★ Carriage

Stakeholders were asked if anyone besides themselves, or someone in their household, regularly rides or drives their horses. The majority (64.1%) reported that no one outside of their immediate household rode or drove their horses (Graph 9). Of those who did reply “yes”, 397 (24.7%) were sport-recreational owners and 180 (11.2%) were business owners.



Graph 9. Do Other People Ride/Drive Your Horses?

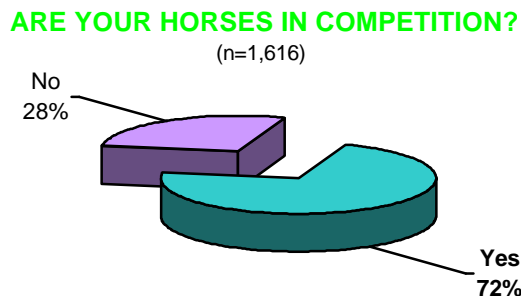
The second portion of this question focused on those that responded “yes”. Respondents were asked to identify how their horses were being used. The question allowed respondents to identify more than one area of use. The results indicated that 43% were used for trail rides, 42.5% were used for training, 41.2% were used for lessons and 36.8% were used for competitions, while 19.8% selected “other”. No information on “other” uses was identified. The frequency of their choice(s) is illustrated in the following graph:



Graph 10. How Do Other People Ride/Drive Your Horses?

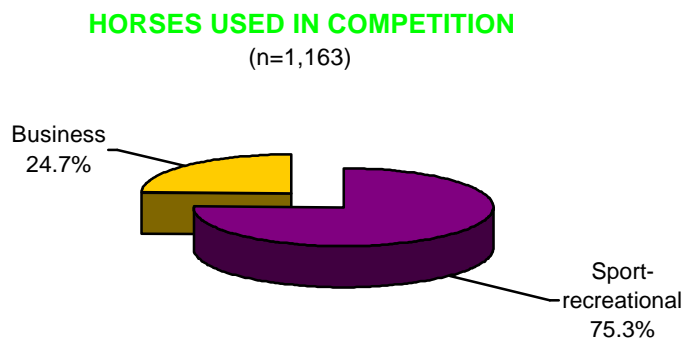


The last question relating to the use of horse(s) was whether or not they used their horse(s) in competition. The majority of respondents (72%) indicated that they did use their horse(s) in competitions of some nature. The following graph illustrates those responses.



Graph 11. Are Your Horses in Competition?

Of the 1,163 respondents who responded “yes” to using their horses in competition, 75.3% (876 respondents) were sport-recreational owners and 24.7% (287 respondents) were business owners. The following graph illustrates those responses.



Graph 12. Horses Used In Competition

Respondents were further asked to identify their primary area of competition. These responses are listed from most frequent (1) to least frequent (22) responses. The following table illustrates the top 22 responses.

### PRIMARY AREA OF COMPETITION

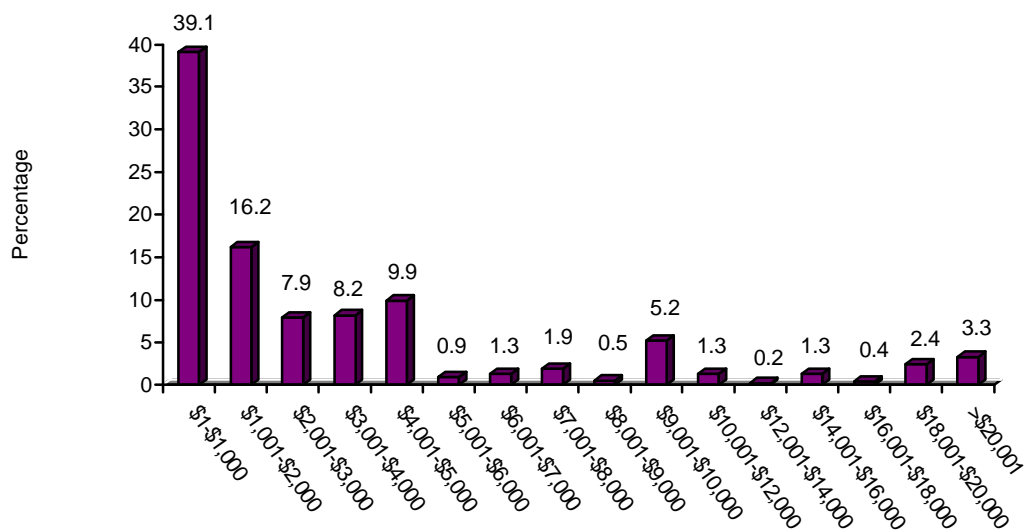
1	Hunter/jumping/dressage	12	Cutting
2	Racing	13	Halter
3	Shows	14	Western Pleasure
4	Gymkhana	15	Eventing
5	Reining	16	Penning
6	Driving	17	Working cow horse
7	4-H	18	Pony club/shows
8	Team Roping	19	Saddleseat
9	Rodeo	20	English
10	Endurance	21	Parades
11	Competition Trail		

Table 11. Primary Area of Competition

The survey further sought to determine the annual expenses incurred in competitions. Competitors indicated a wide range of annual fees ranging from \$20 to \$400,000. The largest group was in the \$1 to \$1,000 spending range at 39.1% followed by those who spent \$1,001 to \$2,000 (16.2%). Therefore, 55.3% of competitors spend \$2,000 or less on annual competition expenses. The following graph illustrates the responses by competitors.

### ANNUAL EXPENSES RELATING TO COMPETITIONS

(n=1,015)



Graph 13. Annual Expenses Relating to Competitions

There were eight respondents, who represent 0.8% of competitors that reported spending over \$100,000 annually on competitions. These eight responses are shown in the following table.

<b>RESPONDENTS REPORTING SPENDING MORE THAN \$100,000 ANNUALLY ON COMPETITIONS</b>	
2	\$100,000
1	\$150,000
1	\$175,000
1	\$215,000
1	\$250,000
1	\$300,000
1	\$400,000

Table 12. Respondents Reporting Spending More Than \$100,000 Annually on Competitions

### Conclusions

The survey sought to determine the distribution of the ages of horses in Alberta. Horse owners reported that the average age category of horses was between four to twelve years of age, with the highest category being in the six to eight years of age range.

The Quarter Horse is the predominant breed of the population. Arabian and Thoroughbred were the second and third most popular choice of respondents. The Paint horse was listed as the fourth choice of the surveyed population. Of the top five breeds within Alberta, the Canadian Warmblood horse was placed fifth. There were numerous responses from horse owners indicating the “other” types of breeds not listed. The Quarter Horse is again the most dominant crossbred within Alberta, followed by the Arabian crossbred.

Once the predominant breeds were established, the survey sought to determine uses. The largest category relating to what a horse is used for was that of the sport-recreational rider. Breeding and trail rides were the second and third choice of respondents. A variety of “other” responses were cited with the largest groups being that of competition, showing, driving, rodeo and barrel racing.

The majority of respondents indicated that no one outside of their immediate family rode or drove their horses. Of those that responded “yes” (35.9%) to allowing someone outside of their immediate family ride or drive their horses, sport-recreational riders were the major group. The majority of responses identified training as the key activity, followed closely by trail rides and lessons.

It was further ascertained that 72% of the surveyed equine industry used their horse(s) in competitions (note: in Table 4, a frequency choice question, respondents current participation in the industry shows

52.2% of respondents in competition), with 75.3% of this population being the sport-recreational sector and 24.7% belonging to the business sector. Competitors reported annual expenditures directly related to competing ranging from \$20 to \$400,000. The largest spending group (39.1%) was found in the \$1 to \$1,000 range while 55.3% spent \$2,000 or less on annual expenses for competitions.

### **Economics of the Industry**

In determining the economics of the equine industry, the survey highlighted six areas relating to economics: 1) land/materials relating to the stakeholders support of the horse activities, 2) investment in horses and horse related materials, 3) spending on horse related activities, 4) determination of market value of horses, and 5) annual earnings over the year from horse related activities.

Background: Respondents were invited to complete the portions of the question that applied to them. The consequence is there are differences in many sections within one question.

### **Land/materials relating to the stakeholders support of the horse related activities.**

The first question was comprised of eight subsections relating to supporting horse related activities, dealing mainly with land and buildings, as follows: 1) acres of land, 2) horses per acre, 3) acres of feed production, 4) number of barn(s)/stable(s), 5) number of corral(s)/pen(s), 6) number of indoor arena(s), 7) number of outdoor arena(s)/training track(s), and 8) number of other buildings (specify).

*Acre of land (pasture/range)* The survey sought to determine the amount of pasture/range land (acres) owners used to support their equine activities. The largest group (47.3%) reported using 11 to 80 acres of pastureland or rangeland. The second largest category were those in the 81 to 160 acre range at 17.5% and the third group were those using pastureland or rangeland in the 1 to 10 acre (16.1%) range. The following graph illustrates all responses in a range from 10,000 acres to as little as 1 acre.