

AMERICAN Small Farm

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When you buy a horse or a dog, you often wonder how it will turn out for you.

People often ask author Ron Hevener this question. He says, "When I say it depends on them more than anything else, they are often surprised. 'The horse is going to learn from you,' I say. 'You are the greatest teacher.'"

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About the cover

In 1867, the rural horse population in America was estimated at nearly 8 million, while the number of farm workers was well under 7 million. Today the horse industry is a highly diverse industry that supports a wide variety of activities in all regions of the country. It combines the primarily rural activities of breeding, training, maintaining and riding horses with the more urban activities of operating racetracks, horse shows and public sales.

There are 6.9 million horses in the U.S., including both commercial and recreational horses, according to an American Horse Council report. Of those horses, 725,000 are involved in racing and race horse breeding, while 1,974,000 and 2,970,000 are used in showing and recreation, respectively. The remaining 1,262,800 are used in other activities, such as farm and ranch work, rodeo, polo, police work, etc.