



BOULDER COUNTY

HORSE ASSOCIATION

*The Voice for Horses and Horse People in Boulder County*

### **Some Interesting Information about Horses in Boulder County.**

Did you know that there are more horses than cows in Boulder County?

There are approximately 15,000 cows (H. Lovins / Nat Cap Solutions 2011 for BCPOS Cropland Policy).

There are approximately 15,330 horses (Deloitte Touche/American Horse Council, 2005; and National Agriculture Statistics Service, 1999).

Boulder County ranks fourth in the total number of horses in Colorado, with 6% of the state's horse population (NASS, 1999).

*The horse community contributes approximately \$94 million to the GDP of Boulder County every year (Deloitte Touche/AHC and NASS).*

This annual economic contribution includes hay and grain purchases, tack and supplies, trucks and trailers, tractors and equipment, veterinarians, farriers, horse trainers, breeding, horse sales, horse shows and clinics, therapeutic riding programs, and many other categories.

Annual equine spending in Boulder County comes to at least \$18 million, annual equine income is at least \$7.8 million, and the value of equine-related assets in Boulder County is at least \$258 million (NASS).

The economic impact of the mountain bike industry in Boulder County is \$52 million (Daily Camera, Jan 26, 2012)

The market value of all farm products in Boulder County is \$34 million (BCPOS Cropland Policy, p8).

The market value of horse hay in Boulder County is \$8 million (Lovins' estimate of 21,319 acres in forage x ave. yield of 3T hay/ac /2 (half to horses, half to cattle) x \$8/bale average price.

*Thus the market value of horse hay alone is 25% of the market value of all farm produce in Boulder County.*

A large proportion of BCPOS farmers produce hay and other forage for horses, in addition to other crops. Selling horse hay is a huge source of economic security for local farmers.

Horse people maintain undeveloped ("open") land throughout Boulder County as grazing land and for hay production. Many horse owners manage their horses on 40 acre or smaller parcels, whereas it is difficult to manage cattle on small acreages. Most horse properties are well-cared-for and are agriculturally productive.

*Horse people support public lands for agriculture, wildlife, and recreation.*

*Horses are important to the quality of life of thousands of Boulder County residents.*

**Summary. The horse community is vital to the agricultural heritage, rural lifestyle, recreation experience, and economy of Boulder County.**