

### Lesson 10: Career Opportunities

There are many opportunities available in the horse industry for those who have the desire to work with horses. These opportunities are broken into two main types: primary and secondary. Either type offers many rewards and can become long-lasting careers.

#### Career Opportunities

A primary career is one that deals directly with horses, such as a trainer or handler. A secondary career is one that works with horses but has limited or no contact with them. Some examples include someone who sells equine pharmaceuticals or someone who makes horse trailers. Both careers contribute to the equine industry, although the workers may or may not have direct contact with horses.

Someone who wants to work with horses directly should gain as much experience in the industry as possible. A person does not need to be an owner to get into the horse industry. In fact, many trainers and race track jockeys do not own the horses they work with because these horses are very expensive to buy and own.

Examples of different careers in the horse industry are owner, trainer, stable manager, veterinarian, jockey, farrier, auctioneer, rodeo announcer, concession stand worker, and grounds keeper.

#### Supporting Income

Most people who own horses do so as a hobby or raise them in a limited way. Usually, these individuals have another job that helps support the horse operation. Many breeders who raise horses incorporate another aspect of the horse industry to maintain the style of living they require. This includes boarding or training horses as a service to others.

#### Emerging Technologies

With technology changing very quickly, many new ways of breeding and training are being developed. In the past, a horse with a broken leg was destroyed. Frequently today, the animal can be treated successfully and live a

normal life. Another development is the use of artificial insemination. Saving the semen or eggs from superior horses to use later is a step toward improving the future genetic pool of horses.

Training has also benefitted from technology. Blood samples can be taken to determine a horse's maximum amount of exercise. New equipment, such as a swimming pool especially designed for the horse, has advanced training a great deal.

#### Marketing Horses

There are several marketing options available to a horse breeder. The breeder can sell the best horses as breeding stock, either as mature breeders or as yearlings. The monetary amount that a horse will bring depends on its blood lines and the past performances of its ancestors. Another factor in the selling price of horses is the geographic area's needs and the breed of the horse. In European and Asian countries, horses are also sold for meat.

#### Summary

The horse industry has many careers available to an individual. A person does not have to work directly with horses to be involved in the horse industry. However, for those who do want to work with horses, there are many opportunities.

#### Credits

Ensminger, M. Eugene. *Horses and Horsemanship*. 6th ed. Danville, IL: Interstate Publishers, Inc., 1990.

*Horse Registries and Associations (G2780)*. University of Missouri-Columbia Extension Division, 1991.