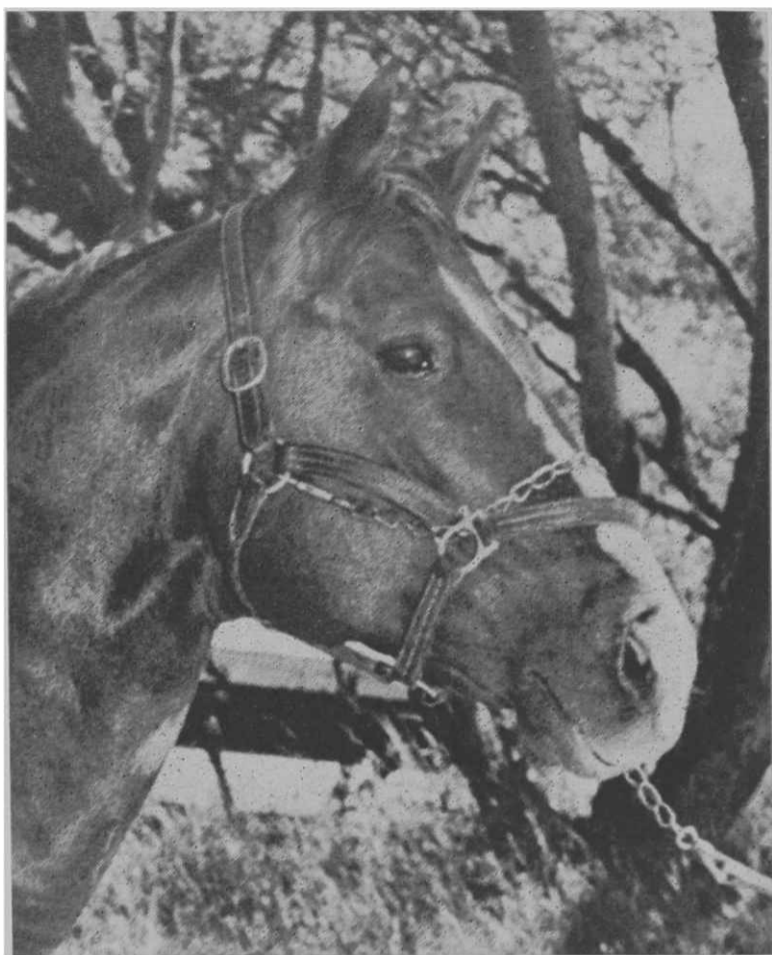


The Quarter Horse Enterprise in Arizona

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Quarter horses have become very popular in Arizona. This is illustrated by the approximately 350 individuals who belong to the Arizona Quarter Horse Association and the 1,000 Arizona members of the American Quarter Horse Association. According to the American Association, quarter horses in Arizona numbered 14,489 as of December 31, 1969, an increase of 1,048 over the previous year.

The development of the quarter horse is described briefly in the American Quarter Horse Association Racing Guide.** The guide reports that quarter horse line began when English stallions and mares, brought to Virginia in 1611, were crossed with horses of Spanish ancestry. The result was a compact and heavily muscled animal which was capable of running short distances at high speeds. During the mid-1700's a stallion, Janus, was brought to Virginia. He was characterized by roundness of contour, strength of articulation, power and stamina. His offspring exhibited these qualities and were considered as a "peculiar stock" known for compactness, strength and power.

The colonists became attached to quarter horse racing,

Table 1. Present Value of Buildings and Improvements Used in Quarter Horse Operations.

Size of Operation	Average Value (Dollars per Head)
Small (1-3 head)	550
Medium (4-13 head)	483
Large (14 head or over)	407
All Size Groups, Average per Operation	4915
Average per Head	530

a race of not more than a quarter mile in length. The races were popular and easy to stage requiring a village street or a small clearing.

Quarter racing expanded as the number of this short distance breed grew. Racing developed on an informal basis with match races and weekend competitions. According to the American Quarter Horse Association:

"Modern quarter horse racing got its start in Tucson, Arizona at a race track called Hacienda Moltacqua. At that time, Hacienda Moltacqua boasted a card of races that included not only quarter horses, but trotters, thoroughbreds, and even steeplechasers. However, quarter horse racing soon outgrew its stage-sharing position with the other racing elements at Hacienda Moltacqua, and in 1943, a new race track was built and designed especially for the sport of quarter horse racing. That track was Rillito Park in Tucson. Other tracks devoted exclusively to the running of quarter horses races were located all over the west and southwest. The time period from the 1930's to 1945 at race tracks in Western America (such as Rillito Park, King City and Corona, California, Albuquerque, New Mexico, El Paso and Eagle Pass, Texas, and many others), represented the birth of "modern day" quarter racing. Today, quarter horse racing is conducted at more than 110 tracks throughout North America."

Table 2. Equipment Investment.

Size of Operation	Average Investment (Dollars per Head)
Small (1-3 head)	429
Medium (4-13 head)	617
Large (14 head and over)	1717
All Size Groups, Average per Operation	4976
Average per Head	612

Table 3. Clippers, Hand Tools, Libraries and Miscellaneous Items.

Size of Operation	Average Investment (Dollars per Head)
Small (1-3 head)	199
Medium (4-13 head)	72
Large (14 head or over)	65
All Size Groups, Average per Operation	595
Average per Head	81

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** American Quarter Horse Association 1970; Racing Guide, The American Quarter Horse Association, Amarillo, Texas, 1971.

Very little information is available regarding costs and organization of the various types of quarter horse operations. This study, sponsored by the University of Arizona Alumni Association, probes these enterprises. Information was gathered using a mailed questionnaire and personal interviews. The response was small. Approximately 13 percent of the Arizona Quarter Horse Association members completed the mailed questionnaire. These returns, plus interviews, were the basis for the cost and structural estimates.

Structure. The quarter horse industry is composed of four major types of operations. Approximately one-fourth of the respondents reported that they reared horses for racing. About the same number reported showing their horses. The remainder used their stock for recreation, roping or for work.

Individuals with larger operations, in terms of number of head, tended to engage in horse racing. Cattle ranches and tourist ranches often had large strings of working and riding horses.

Quarter horse operations were generally located within the rural-urban fringe of Phoenix and Tucson. Approximately 53% of the membership of the Arizona Quarterhorse Association fell within the Phoenix area and 10% were in or near Tucson.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Stock. Owners estimated the market value of their stallions, mares, yearlings, and foals. These data were summarized for the two groups: racers and non-racers.

Stallions bred to produce racing stock average \$14,367, compared to \$4,050 for non-racing stock. Broodmares averaged \$2,511 as race stock and \$2,007 for non-racers. The estimated value for yearlings was \$1,333 on both groups. The value of quarterhorses trained to race in 1970-71, was estimated at \$3,000 per animal.

Land. The investment in land for a quarterhorse operation fluctuated widely because of the quasi-urban location of many enterprises. Values per acre were reported as high as \$10,000 for parcels in the Scottsdale and Glendale areas. Land investments for the Phoenix area in general were \$3,825 per acre for parcels under 15 acres and \$2,500 for larger tracts. Land values for Tucson were \$3,755 per acre.

Quarterhorse operations located on ranch enterprises in the more rural areas reflected lower investment costs per acre. These units often raised cattle or had other agricultural enterprises. Land investments to graze a horse on irrigated pasture are between \$800 to \$1,000 per acre. It requires two animal unit-years to carry one horse on non-irrigated range.

Obviously there is no land requirement for horsemen who boarded their stock. These operators usually maintained horses for recreation or showing. Typically these horsemen stabled two to three head.

Buildings and Improvements. Respondents estimated the present value of barns, stables, sheds, and other improvements used in their quarterhorse operation. The reports varied from \$100 to \$23,000. Modified means were used to represent investments due to this variability. Investments per head decreased as the size of the operation increased (Table 1).

Similarly, investments in equipment varied widely however, it showed lower investments per head on larger units (Table 2). The equipment investment for the group

Table 4. Investment per Operation.

Stock	Equipment per Operation	Equipment per Operation	Bldg. & Impr. per Operation
Small			
(1-3 head)	9,640	1,330	9,575
Medium			
(4-13 head)	3,909	438	3,645
Large			
(14 head and over)	3,778	463	4,575
Average	4,976	595	4,915

sampled averaged \$4,976 or 612 per head. Vehicles were charged according to the proportion of time the vehicle was used for the horse operation. Miscellaneous items, such as clippers, hand tools, subscriptions; etc. are shown in investment Table 3. Again economies to size appeared.

COSTS

Costs of operating a quarterhorse unit are summarized under farm maintenance and horse upkeep. Farm maintenance includes depreciation, insurance labor, gasoline,

Table 5. Quarterhorse Budget, 1970.

	Cost Dollars per head
Farm Maintenance	
Labor	61
Maintenance, repairs, operating expenses,	
insurance	148
Depreciation	96
Taxes	42
Horse Upkeep	
Feed	182
Veterinary	49
Blacksmith	35

electricity, maintenance and repairs. Horse upkeep includes feed, veterinary fees and blacksmith charges.

Labor. Charges for labor on quarter horse operations must be evaluated carefully. The figures of \$61 per head or \$506 per unit (Tables 5 and 6) represent an overall average.

Table 6. Quarterhorse Budget, 1970.

	Cost Per Operation
Farm Maintenance	
Labor	506
Maintenance, repairs, operating expenses,	
insurance	1,273
Depreciation	768
Taxes	381
Horse Upkeep	
Feed	1,500
Veterinary	396
Blacksmith	257

*Average depreciation:

a. Mares	Racers	2511 - 0	=	\$209.25
		12 yrs.		
	Non-racers	2007 - 0	=	\$167.25
		12 yrs.		
b. Stallions	Racers	14267 - 0	=	\$1,197.25
		12 yrs.		
	Non-racers	4050 - 0	=	\$337.50
		12 yrs.		

Eighty percent reported no outlays for labor. These units were included in the above averages. They usually fell into the small and medium classes. When units which reported an annual labor outlay were considered alone, the average was \$299 per horse or \$6,026 per operation. The cost of a man-year of labor for this group was \$4,291.