

# Horse Park of New Jersey at Stone Tavern: Invaluable Asset for State's Equine Industry

By Tom Beaver  
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Nestled on the outskirts of Allentown, just off of Route 195, is the Horse Park of New Jersey at Stone Tavern. The facility spans 185 acres in rural Monmouth County, and is a cornerstone of New Jersey's robust equine industry.

Opening in 1988 with the aim of providing a venue for diversified equine interests from throughout the region, the Horse Park has established itself as all that and more in the years since. From show riders to dressage practitioners, trail-riders to trainers, the Horse Park now offers something for every equestrian enthusiast.

Well-appointed, amenities include a stadium-lit show ring with grandstands, a dressage arena, a climate-controlled indoor riding and show facility, access to adjacent parkland for trail-riding and more than 380 rentable stalls, among other things. The facility has come a long way since its humble beginnings. Amazingly, the Horse Park claims these accomplishments as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, entirely dependent on sponsorships, donations, memberships and the tireless work of its volunteers.



NJFB continues to be a proud supporter of the Equine industry and the Horse Park of New Jersey. (Photo by Ed Wengryn).

Even despite their myriad successes, the operators of the Horse Park remain dutifully ambitious. Their calendar of

events boasts of a full agenda, ranging from regular open riding sessions to hallmark events like the Freedom Fest State Fair (which ran during the second and third weeks of July), barrel-riding competitions and their premiere showcase, the annual Jersey Fresh International.

The Jersey Fresh International is a three-day event held in May every year that draws more than 100 top riders from throughout the country and thousands of spectators for show-jumping and cross-country competitions that serve as qualifiers for the well-known U.S. Pan-Am Games. Next year's International is already scheduled, and will once again bring out expert riders from various disciplines and onlookers alike from May 11-15, 2016.

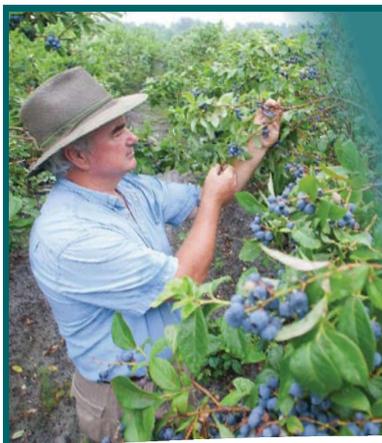
Roughly equidistant from both Philadelphia and New York City, the Horse Park enjoys a prime location to attract equestrian enthusiasts from throughout the region. Add to that the fact that venue is sited on an unspoiled tract of land permanently preserved

through the Green Acres program, and it's not secret why it has become a "can't miss" destination for so many.

Nevertheless, and despite its unmitigated success to date, the Horse Park relies on the continued support of dues-paying members and generous sponsors to sustain its operational overheads. Perhaps as important: volunteerism. The Horse Park always welcomes new volunteers, whether they have extensive experience in the equestrian industry or are greenhorns interested in supporting this unique facility.

To learn more about the Horse Park of New Jersey — including the calendar of events, information about membership and how to volunteer — visit them on the web at [www.horseparkofnewjersey.com](http://www.horseparkofnewjersey.com).

The Horse Park is a testament to the strength of New Jersey's vibrant equine sector. Farm Bureau continues to support the work that they do on behalf of the industry, and encourages its members to explore all that they have to offer.



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