



Maryland Horse Country Tour Report

European Union Delegation Visit

April 30 – May 1, 2026



The Maryland Horse Industry Board hosted a distinguished delegation of representatives from the European Union and Embassies of France, the Netherlands, and Portugal based in Washington, D.C., for a two-day tour of Maryland's horse country. The purpose of this visit was to showcase Maryland as a global leader in the equine industry and to demonstrate how the horse sector functions as a fully integrated ecosystem—spanning agriculture, tourism, economic development, education, veterinary medicine, and international trade. Maryland's horse industry contributes approximately \$2.9 billion annually, supports more than 28,000 jobs, and plays a critical role in preserving agricultural land, supporting rural economies, and driving tourism across the state. The tour was designed to highlight this breadth and depth of the horse industry while building relationships that support future international collaboration, and exchange.

Day 1: Baltimore Region to Chesapeake City

From Racing Legacy to Agricultural Innovation

The tour began at **Pimlico Race Course**, the historic home of the Preakness Stakes, where the delegation was introduced to Maryland's ongoing investment in racing infrastructure and the transformational redevelopment of the facility. This discussion emphasized racing as both a cultural institution and a major economic driver, with future plans reinforcing Maryland's global competitiveness.



At **Oldfields School**, the delegation experienced how equine education is integrated into academic pathways, demonstrating the role of horses in workforce development and youth engagement. This was followed by a visit to **Green Spring Valley Hounds**, where the group learned about Maryland's long-standing traditions in foxhunting, land stewardship, and open space preservation, highlighting the connection between horses and environmental conservation.



The group then convened at the **Maryland Horse Library & Education Center** for lunch, provided by the **Maryland Horse Breeders Assoc.** Leaders from government, academia, and industry discussed the economic, agricultural, and cultural importance



of the horse sector. Present were representatives from Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland Racing Commission, Maryland Office of the Secretary of

State, the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF), The Mill, Maryland Horse Industry Board, Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Maryland Million, Maryland Horse Foundation, Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Association, Rosecroft Raceway, Maryland Jockey Club, and others.



In the afternoon, the delegation traveled to Chesapeake City to explore the breeding and agricultural backbone of the industry. At **Northview Stallion Station**, one of Maryland's premier Thoroughbred breeding operations, standing nationally recognized stallions and supporting the state's racing and breeding economy through equine reproduction, mare care, and bloodstock development.



Next stop was **Winbak Farm**, an internationally recognized Standardbred breeding and training operation. Winbak plays a



major role in Maryland's harness racing industry through breeding, foaling, stallion services, and equine sales. The farm strengthens Maryland agriculture by preserving working farmland, supporting rural jobs and agribusinesses, and international genetic exchanges.

Last stop of the day was **Select Breeders Services**, the leading equine reproductive and veterinary services facility specializing in breeding technologies, semen collection and transport, and mare and stallion care, helping advance Maryland's horse industry through innovation, and international equine commerce.

Participants saw firsthand Maryland's horse breeding, racing, and sport industry through these visits, as well as advanced reproductive technologies and global bloodstock exchange. These visits reinforced the horse industry's direct connection to agriculture, innovation, and international trade.

The day concluded in **Cecil County**, where tourism leadership welcomed the delegation to Chesapeake City and all of Cecil County, underscoring the importance of equine tourism and regional economic development.



Day 2: Fair Hill – A Global Equine Hub

The second day focused on Fair Hill, one of North America's premier equine campuses. The delegation toured the **Fair Hill Special Event Zone, Fair Hill Training Center, and Fair Hill Therapy Center**, gaining insight into Maryland's investment in elite competition, training infrastructure, and equine rehabilitation.

The EU Participants were welcomed by Cecil County representatives at the SEZ Turf Course.



These facilities collectively demonstrate how Maryland supports the professional lifecycle of the horse from training to competition and recovery. The visit concluded with a lunch hosted by **Equine Veterinary Care**. Equine Veterinary Care is a nationally respected equine veterinary hospital. At lunch leaders from veterinary medicine, government, and international delegations explored opportunities for collaboration. Present were representatives from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of Commerce, federal representation from USDA APHIS, Fair Hill Training Center, the Fair Hill Special Event Zone, Equine Veterinary Care, and other guests.

The tour highlighted Maryland's horse industry as a powerful driver of agriculture, tourism, economic development, and land preservation, demonstrating how horse farms support rural economies, protect open space, and contribute to environmental stewardship across the state. Delegates recognized Maryland's uniquely connected equine ecosystem as a model for collaboration and growth. Discussions also emphasized the importance of strengthening workforce and educational pathways and advancing innovation through connections between equine and human health.



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Opportunities for International Partnership



The visit created a new foundation for future collaboration between Maryland and European partners. The Maryland Horse Country Tour, lead by the Maryland Horse Industry Board, demonstrated that Maryland is not only rich in equestrian tradition but is also a forward-looking, globally competitive leader in the horse industry. The delegation's experience highlighted the quality of facilities, expertise, and collaboration across sectors, while also reinforcing the opportunity to better tell Maryland's story on the international stage. This visit marked an important step in strengthening Maryland's global presence and building lasting partnerships. Maryland's horse industry is more than a collection of sectors—it is a dynamic, interconnected ecosystem that drives agriculture, tourism, economic development, and innovation.

The Maryland Horse Industry Board extends its sincere appreciation to the European Union Delegation and Embassy representatives for taking the time to visit and engage with Maryland's horse industry.

