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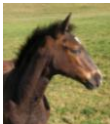


Dr Georgina Crossman

The relationship between the government and the horse industry: a comparison of England, Sweden and the Netherlands

Presentation to EAAP 2011 Conference, Stavanger, Norway 31.08.2011

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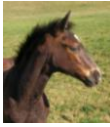
Introduction



- Analysis of the **structure of the horse industry** using **policy network theory**
 - **Policy network** = examination of relationships
 - **Policy network** = **government + actors in sector**
Actors can be organisations, interest groups or individuals
- Focus – **England, Sweden** and the **Netherlands**

Does it matter how the horse sector interacts with the government?

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Context

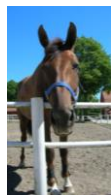


- Late 1800s / early 1900s in Britain
 - Government **formal interest** in the horse
 - **Breeding, agriculture, military, transport**
- Since 1970s
 - ↑ in **horse population**
 - ↑ in **organisations** and other actors **within sector**
 - Emphasis on **horse racing, sport** and **recreation**
 - Evolution of **agricultural sector** – farm diversification
 - **Government actively engaged** with **industry**

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Key aspects of the equine policy networks

- **Horse Council** (BHIC, HNS, SRP)
 - **Formal link** between **government** and **industry**
 - **Nominated department** from government
 - **Government intervention** and **financial support**
 - **Different funding** and **operational models**
 - Links between **existing policy areas** and **horse industry**



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Key aspects of the equine policy networks

- **National Equestrian Federation** (BEF, SvRF, KNHS)
 - Scope of **responsibility**
 - **Government funding** for equestrian sport
 - **Communication** – e.g. infectious equine diseases, equine passports

<i>RIDER STATISTICS</i>	Britain <small>(England, Scotland & Wales)</small>	Sweden	The Netherlands
Riders (regular riders) (approx)	2,100,000	500,000	456,000
National Equestrian Federation (NEF) members	~248,500	200,000	195,000
Regular rider members of NEF	~12%	40%	43%

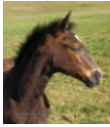
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Key aspects of the equine policy networks

- **Agricultural Organisation** (LRF, LTO)
 - **Expedited** development of **relationship** between **government** and **industry**
 - **Direct relationship** with **Horse Council** (HNS, SRP)
 - Importance of **horse industry** to **farm diversification**



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Conclusions ...



- The **relationship** between **actors** within the **horse sector** and the **government** is **important** – **Horse Council**
- **Effective communication** at **all levels** is **vital** – **throughout** the **policy network**, **sector** and **industry**, including those on the **periphery** of the **industry/policy network**
- **Many stakeholders** – **interests** and **motivations** need to be **considered** – **coordination** and **partnership relationship** are **crucial**
- In the countries studied the **horse sector** makes a **significant socio-economic contribution** – **important to get message across** to **actors** *and* **government**

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Thank you for listening ...

Are there any questions?

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The full thesis can be found at: <http://hdl.handle.net/10036/111475>

<http://www.gkcrossman.com>

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