

Racing To Increase Cal-Bred Value



From the Executive Corner

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The Jockey Club recently released the actual 2007 Report of Mares Bred along with the projected live foal crop for 2008. As you can see from the table below, California, along with other major regional markets, is projected to show a decline in the number of live foals compared to the previous year.

The high costs of production, coupled with the stagnant return (purse revenue), continues to plague nearly every state outside of Kentucky. While the numbers illustrate that California outperformed most other regional markets, there continues to be obvious concern with this trend.

I frequently mention in my monthly editorials the balance of quality and quantity as it relates to the production of foals in this state. With racing in California heavily dependent on the local product (over 50 percent of the field sizes in both the North and South) it is vital that we stabilize the annual number of live foals, while continuing to strive to breed a better horse; one that can compete on the tough California racing circuit.

To do so, we must provide further incentive for those to invest in the breeding and development/racing of California-breds. While the \$40 million Racing and Incentive Program in the state continues to be one of the leaders in the country, we do need to

look at both more opportunities and perhaps a more creative approach to increase the financial return for breeders/owners of Cal-breds. These concerns have everyone's attention.

We continue to remind and educate the various racing executives as to the importance of Cal-breds to the racing cards offered daily and the impact that a declining foal crop will have in the future.

With that said, together with the Racing offices and the TOC (Thoroughbred Owners of California), we continue to explore ways by which we can expand the opportunities and financial return for state bred. Unfortunately, we are dealing with declining purse revenues and thus monies would need to be shifted in order to increase the pie available for Cal-breds.

We are also looking at various ways of possibly tweaking the incentive awards program in order to enhance the worth of Cal-breds. We took such action in the mid-90's which sparked the demand for Cal-breds and provided major boosts in quality production of foals, and increased opportunities and return at the track and sales ring. Due to rising costs of production and ownership, these positive trends have disappeared. It is time for economic adjustments to again jump start the industry. We will continue toward that goal. 🏇

Stallion Location	2007 Mares Bred	2007 Live Foals	2008 Live Foals	Pct. Change
Kentucky	21,398	14,801	15,040	1.6
Florida	6,489	4,063	3,593	-11.6
California	4,723	3,131	3,004	-4.1
Louisiana	4,217	2,016	2,009	-0.3
New York	2,067	1,316	1,098	-16.6
Texas	1,213	1,214	1,055	-13.0
New Mexico	1,952	997	911	-8.6
Maryland	1,439	966	811	-16.0
Ontario	1,455	783	768	-1.9
Oklahoma	1,684	601	704	17.1
Pennsylvania	1,146	550	533	-3.1