

Adapting To The Situation



From the Executive Corner

by DOUG BURGE

Last month, the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association (CTBA) distributed over \$2 million in breeder awards to 873 individuals for awards earned in the first six months of this year. These disbursements marked the tenth year that the CTBA has elected to make these advanced payments in order to assist its' member breeders with cash flow.

Although the law only requires that the breeder award disbursements are to be made by March 31 of the following year they are earned, the CTBA Board of Directors adopted this semi-annual payment policy, paid at a rate of 10 percent of the eligible purses earned, to help with stud fees and other expenses that incur. As a reminder, stallion awards can only be paid in full the following March, due to provisions outlined in the California Horse Racing Law.

The law requires that stallions be present in the state from Feb. 1 to June 15 of the year the award was earned. If the stallion left the state after June 15, he must be present in the state by Feb. 1 of the following year, and thereafter have remained until June 15 of that year in order to be eligible for stallion awards. Therefore, advanced payments for stallion awards cannot be paid.

On another note, The Jockey Club recently released the breeding statistics which depicts the number of mares bred in 2008, as well as the resulting projected live foal crops for 2009. As expected, the North American foal crop is down more than eight percent from last year. California's 15.8 percent decline, although not as steep as some other states, is almost twice the overall decline.

These numbers are not, however, a measurement of the total state foal crops but rather a report of the foals sired in a particular state. Therefore, Kentucky-sired California-breds, for example, are not considered in the projections. With more and more breeders either purchasing in-foal mares and bringing them in-state, or sending mares out-of-state to be bred and then return to drop the foal in-state, to take advantage of the lucrative incentive and racing program, the total California foal crop will indeed increase over the numbers reported. (See chart below)

But regardless of the inclusion of the out-of-state-sired California foals, the trends are indeed alarming as we have become more dependent on Cal-breds to fill our race cards. The entire industry in California is motivated to help reverse/stabilize these declines as well as significantly reward quality racehorses bred in the state.

The enhancements to the Cal-bred program, that have been outlined and advertised in this publication and many others, should provide the economic incentives and opportunities to justify the investment in breeding and purchasing young horses. Many breeders/stallion owners have voiced their support for these new additions to the program and have made their decisions for the future accordingly.

With the initial funding provided by the California Marketing Committee (CMC), the bonuses to maiden special weight winners both in Southern and Northern California, will begin this month; plus, all the positive eligibility changes and other increases that we have promised. For those of you racing Cal-breds, the rewards are coming. 🐾

Stallion Location	2008 Mares Bred	2008 Live Foals	2009 Live Foals	Percentage Change
Kentucky	21,620	15,040	14,257	-5.2
Florida	5,478	3,593	2,892	-19.5
California	4,081	3,004	2,528	-15.8
Louisiana	4,011	2,009	1,896	-5.6
New York	1,908	1,098	1,080	-1.6
Texas	2,074	1,055	1,000	-5.2
New Mexico	1,666	911	783	-14.1
Ontario	1,395	768	746	-2.9
Oklahoma	1,670	704	697	-1.0
Pennsylvania	1,405	533	692	+29.8
Maryland	1,214	811	664	-18.1