

# There's No Place Like Home



by DOUG BURGE

"To encourage agriculture and the breeding of higher quality horses in this state."

That is the mandated purpose of the incentive award program per the California Horse Racing Law. Therefore, breeder, stallion and owner awards, as well as California-bred restricted purses (that are all generated through handle and made available to those investing in California racing), are distributed in order to provide the product/inventory for California racing.

As the numbers of mares bred and resulting foal crops continue to decline in California, and across the country, the racing industry is obviously concerned with both the current and future population of horses. The handle on a race is in direct correlation to the number of betting options within a race, and thus as field sizes continue to drop, so does the interest from the wagering public.

Here in California, like certain other racing states, we are extremely dependent on the production of local horses in order to provide the fields for racing both in the North and the South; thus the importance and requirement for a lucrative state-bred program, such as the \$35 million in incentives and purses that is currently offered.

We know that California-breds make up over 50 percent of the field sizes in the state. However, there are certain other statistics that should be identified and analyzed to properly evaluate the

importance and success of the program. We had asked The Jockey Club to provide certain statistics for four different foal crops. This data includes: 1) the percentage of starters per crop; 2) the number of winners and black-type horses; 3) the number of and percentage of same-state starters; and 4) the number of same-state winners and black-type horses. We also reviewed the same data from two other racing states that have historically had similar state-bred programs and crop sizes.

As you can see from the table, over 80 percent of the Cal-bred starters for each of the four crop years shown, have initially started in the state. Granted, not all Cal-breds remain in state throughout their racing careers, but these numbers illustrate not only the vital importance of Cal-breds, but further stress the validity of our state-bred incentive and racing program.

Besides strictly providing the needed racing inventory, the program also promotes and is structured to reward quality; the higher the quality of the horses, the higher the yields from the program. As depicted in the results of the 2009 Breeders' Cup World Championships, and the multiple graded stakes winners who have followed, Cal-breds can compete with anyone. We continue to look toward improving the economics for the all important Cal-breds and, as breeders, let's continue to produce champion horses. 🏇

| Racing Statistics for 2003 foals, foaled in:<br><i>(racing is from 1/1/05 thru 11/30/09 and is for North America - USA &amp; CAN - only)</i> |             |          |         |         |           |                     |                                |                    |                      |
|--|-------------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| State  | # reg foals | Starters | Percent | Winners | BT Horses | Same State Starters | Same State % of Total Starters | Same State Winners | Same State BT Horses |
| CA   | 3,867       | 2,488    | 64.3%   | 1,617   | 128       | 2,016               | 81.0%                          | 1,077              | 93                   |
| FL   | 4,511       | 3,253    | 72.1%   | 2,344   | 266       | 1,909               | 58.7%                          | 986                | 107                  |
| NY   | 2,019       | 1,400    | 69.3%   | 979     | 105       | 1,182               | 84.4%                          | 778                | 98                   |

  

| Racing Statistics for 2004 foals, foaled in:<br><i>(racing is from 1/1/06 thru 12/17/09 and is for North America - USA &amp; CAN - only)</i> |             |          |         |         |           |                     |                                |                    |                      |
|--|-------------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| State  | # reg foals | Starters | Percent | Winners | BT Horses | Same State Starters | Same State % of Total Starters | Same State Winners | Same State BT Horses |
| CA   | 3,786       | 2,359    | 62.3%   | 1,486   | 111       | 1,920               | 81.4%                          | 1,014              | 83                   |
| FL   | 4,496       | 3,216    | 71.5%   | 2,335   | 267       | 1,854               | 57.6%                          | 948                | 99                   |
| NY   | 2,025       | 1,454    | 71.8%   | 956     | 132       | 1,198               | 82.4%                          | 715                | 116                  |

  

| Racing Statistics for 2005 foals, foaled in:<br><i>(racing is from 1/1/07 thru 12/17/09 and is for North America - USA &amp; CAN - only)</i> |             |          |         |         |           |                     |                                |                    |                      |
|--|-------------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| State  | # reg foals | Starters | Percent | Winners | BT Horses | Same State Starters | Same State % of Total Starters | Same State Winners | Same State BT Horses |
| CA   | 3,664       | 2,261    | 61.7%   | 1,329   | 102       | 1,867               | 82.6%                          | 927                | 83                   |
| FL   | 4,499       | 3,153    | 70.1%   | 2,244   | 236       | 1,780               | 56.5%                          | 861                | 88                   |
| NY   | 1,967       | 1,367    | 69.5%   | 910     | 92        | 1,125               | 82.3%                          | 685                | 88                   |

  

| Racing Statistics for 2006 foals, foaled in:<br><i>(racing is from 1/1/08 thru 12/17/09 and is for North America - USA &amp; CAN - only)</i> |             |          |         |         |           |                     |                                |                    |                      |
|--|-------------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| State  | # reg foals | Starters | Percent | Winners | BT Horses | Same State Starters | Same State % of Total Starters | Same State Winners | Same State BT Horses |
| CA   | 3,314       | 1,780    | 53.7%   | 871     | 74        | 1,463               | 82.2%                          | 621                | 56                   |
| FL   | 4,490       | 2,848    | 63.4%   | 1,766   | 152       | 1,449               | 50.9%                          | 615                | 64                   |
| NY   | 1,900       | 1,217    | 64.1%   | 680     | 77        | 983                 | 80.8%                          | 509                | 70                   |