

**NORTHEAST/  
 MID-ATLANTIC**

# The Keane Team

*Dr. Winslow Stevens and Phillipe Lasseur  
 make Keane Stud attractive to clients*

BY ESTHER MARR

## In This Section

LEADING SIRES IN NEW YORK  
 BY 2011 PROGENY EARNINGS

LEADING SIRES IN PENNSYLVANIA  
 BY 2011 PROGENY EARNINGS

LEADING SIRES IN WEST VIRGINIA  
 BY 2011 PROGENY EARNINGS

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**W**hen Jim Edwards retired in the 1980s and sold Keane Stud, his thriving Thoroughbred nursery near Amenia, N.Y., the wheels began turning in veterinarian Dr. Winslow Stevens' head.

It didn't take long before Stevens, who had served as Keane Stud's primary veterinarian since 1987, made the choice to return to his management roots and lease the farm. It was a decision he wouldn't regret.

In the last five years Stevens and Keane Stud's veteran farm manager Phillipe Lasseur have teamed to maintain Keane's stellar reputation and expand the farm's business. And thanks to the recent opening of Aqueduct's video lottery casino and a revamped New York breeding program, they have been more successful than ever in convincing out-of-



Dr. Winslow Stevens (top left) and Phillipe Lasseur (top right) have built Keane Stud into a thriving New York-based Thoroughbred farm

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# 2011 Leading Sires in New York

State sire lists updated daily online. Go to <http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/thoroughbred-breeding/sire-lists>

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in New York (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through December 31, 2011. As supplied to The Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. Current year stakes winners include all N.H.-foaled stakes winners worldwide and any S.H.-foaled horses that won a N.H. stakes. \*Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners includes all countries. (A †) indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race.

Rank	Stallion (Foaling Year, Sire), Farm Standing	2012 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2011 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	<b>POSSE</b> (00, Silver Deputy), Vinery New York at Sugar Maple	\$10,000	208/112	5/10	1/5	(Caleb's Posse, \$1,030,909)	<b>\$4,998,699</b>	*387	15	1.46	1.41
2	<b>FREUD</b> (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York	\$10,000	131/72	8/15	5/8	(Giant Ryan, \$559,490)	<b>\$4,090,836</b>	337	28	1.79	1.27
3	<b>BLUEGRASS CAT</b> (03, Storm Cat), Vinery New York at Sugar Maple	\$17,500	137/63	4/7	1/4	(Sabercat, \$681,420)	<b>\$3,436,834</b>	*200	5	1.43	2.23
4	<b>TOUCH GOLD</b> (94, Deputy Minister), Adena Springs at McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$10,000	191/107	1/1	0/1	(Can'touchthisgal, \$73,607)	<b>\$2,604,159</b>	*743	30	1.33	2.04
5	<b>CONGAREE</b> (98, Arazi), Highcliff Farm	\$7,500	99/54	3/6	1/3	(Killer Graces, \$394,830)	<b>\$2,475,914</b>	*222	11	1.45	1.52
6	<b>ALPHABET SOUP</b> (91, Cozzene), Adena Springs at McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$6,000	141/58	5/6	2/5	(Amiable Grace, \$160,621)	<b>\$2,018,331</b>	*736	43	1.29	1.38
7	<b>GOLDEN MISSILE</b> (95, A.P. Indy), Milfer Farm	\$5,000	123/61	2/2	1/2	(Thunder Ball, \$86,761)	<b>\$1,982,289</b>	*544	15	1.09	1.65
8	<b>CATIENUS</b> (94, Storm Cat), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	133/66	1/1	0/1	(Rules of Honor, \$91,269)	<b>\$1,676,638</b>	*444	23	1.27	1.29
9	<b>ROARING FEVER</b> (00, Storm Cat), Dutchess Views Farm/Metropolitan Stud	\$3,500	71/40	3/4	3/3	(Spa City Princess, \$154,160)	<b>\$1,632,853</b>	140	5	1.29	0.99
10	<b>GOLD TOKEN</b> (93, Mr. Prospector)	Died, 2006	47/29	1/4	0/1	(Inherit the Gold, \$241,084)	<b>\$1,218,695</b>	*281	10	1.36	1.14
11	<b>DISCO RICO</b> (97, Citi-dancer), Keane Stud Operations	\$5,000	62/34	1/1	1/1	(Dr Disco, \$164,650)	<b>\$1,209,066</b>	197	8	1.38	1.25
12	<b>SAY FLORIDA SANDY</b> (94, Personal Flag), Buckridge Farm	\$2,500	66/31	0/0	0/0	(Say Toba Sandy, \$89,110)	<b>\$974,579</b>	*174	1	0.84	1.15
13	<b>ELTISH</b> (92, Cox's Ridge)	\$3,500	40/21	1/1	1/1	(Eltish Star, \$145,477)	<b>\$796,362</b>	287	13	1.23	1.32
14	<b>† SUNRIVER</b> (03, Saint Ballado)	Died, 2009	16/5	1/2	0/1	(Weemissfrankie, \$559,920)	<b>\$674,702</b>	54	1	2.48	1.44
15	<b>RAFFIE'S MAJESTY</b> (95, Cormorant)	\$3,000	34/13	0/0	0/0	(Stud Muffin, \$178,550)	<b>\$600,593</b>	145	10	1.54	1.15

\*A-E and COMPARABLE INDEX: The lifetime Average-Earnings Index indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned, on the average, in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00. The Comparable Index indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AEI higher than their mares Comparable Index.

state horsemen to send their mares and stallions to Keane's 275 acres.

Located about halfway between New York City and Saratoga Springs, Keane is close enough to the racing action for its owner and clients yet far enough removed to provide a tranquil retreat for its Thoroughbred residents.

Formerly used as a dairy farm, Keane's land initially appealed to Edwards because of its limestone-rich soil, which is ideal for raising strong-boned Thoroughbreds.

Nestled in the Mid-Hudson Valley, the farm is seeded with Kentucky bluegrass and clover and is a patchwork of vibrant greens. In autumn, clusters of trees on the nearby hillside cast hues of scarlet and gold, providing a lovely contrast to the verdant pastures.

Keane boasts a variety of paddock sizes enclosed by Keepsafe fencing—from petite fields for newborn foals and their dams to more expansive areas for larger herds. The farm, which has around a dozen people on its payroll, has four mare/foal barns, a seven-horse stallion barn, and an isolation barn with separate paddocks.

Stevens' philosophy centers on trying to raise horses the natural way. "I believe horses should be outside grazing as much as possible, weather permitting," he said. "From a health standpoint, I've always said horses evolved as a grazing animal, so the best place for horses is out on grass. We try to maintain good pastures and hopefully raise a good animal."

## Keane's Clients

Keane gets an influx of mares during breeding season, reaching its peak at 130-150 horses. Most mares are boarded for outside clients.

"I don't want to maintain those huge

numbers year-round because it's just too hard on the land," Stevens explained. "We've expanded a little as far as pastures go; we seeded a new field a few years ago. But other than always looking for new stallion prospects, we want to keep doing what we're doing."

Keane's current stallions are two-time grade III winner Disco Rico (by Citi-dancer), sire of eight stakes winners; 2009 Three Chimneys Hopeful Stakes (gr. I) victor Dublin; and One Nice Cat, a stakes-winning son of Storm Cat. Boston native Joe DiRico owns Disco Rico, while Dublin is owned by B. Wayne Hughes' Lexington-based Spendthrift Farm, and One Nice Cat is owned by Adam Wachtel.

DiRico, who describes Keane Stud as "a showplace," visits during frequent trips to Saratoga in the summer, and because he already kept a handful of mares at Keane, it made sense to transfer Disco Rico from Maryland in 2008.

"They're not overcrowded, and it's just a beautiful facility," he said. "You have a veterinarian that runs the place, which is good, and Lasseur used to work with the stallions at Gainesway, so he's very experienced and a good horseman. They do a good job of getting the mares in foal; the horses all look good, and it's just a well-run farm."

Some of Keane Stud's other key clients are Wachtel and his father, Edwin. Since 1990 they have boarded several mares and stood stallions in the state, including New York graded stakes winners Claramount and Smokin Mel. One Nice Cat was transferred from Sugar Maple Farm to stand at Keane in time for the 2012 breeding season.

Among the horses Keane Stud has

raised for the Wachtels over the years are graded stakes winner Stalwart Member (by Claramount) and other added-money victors Smokin Hero (by Smokin Mel) and Mount Intrepid (by Claramount).

Keane's good results have undoubtedly stemmed from the extensive experience of Stevens and Lasseur.

Stevens' history in the horse industry is deep-rooted, although he didn't start working with Thoroughbreds until later in life. Born and raised in the small town of Bartow, Fla., Stevens spent a significant amount of time around his family's pleasure horses as a youngster, which inspired him to become a veterinarian.

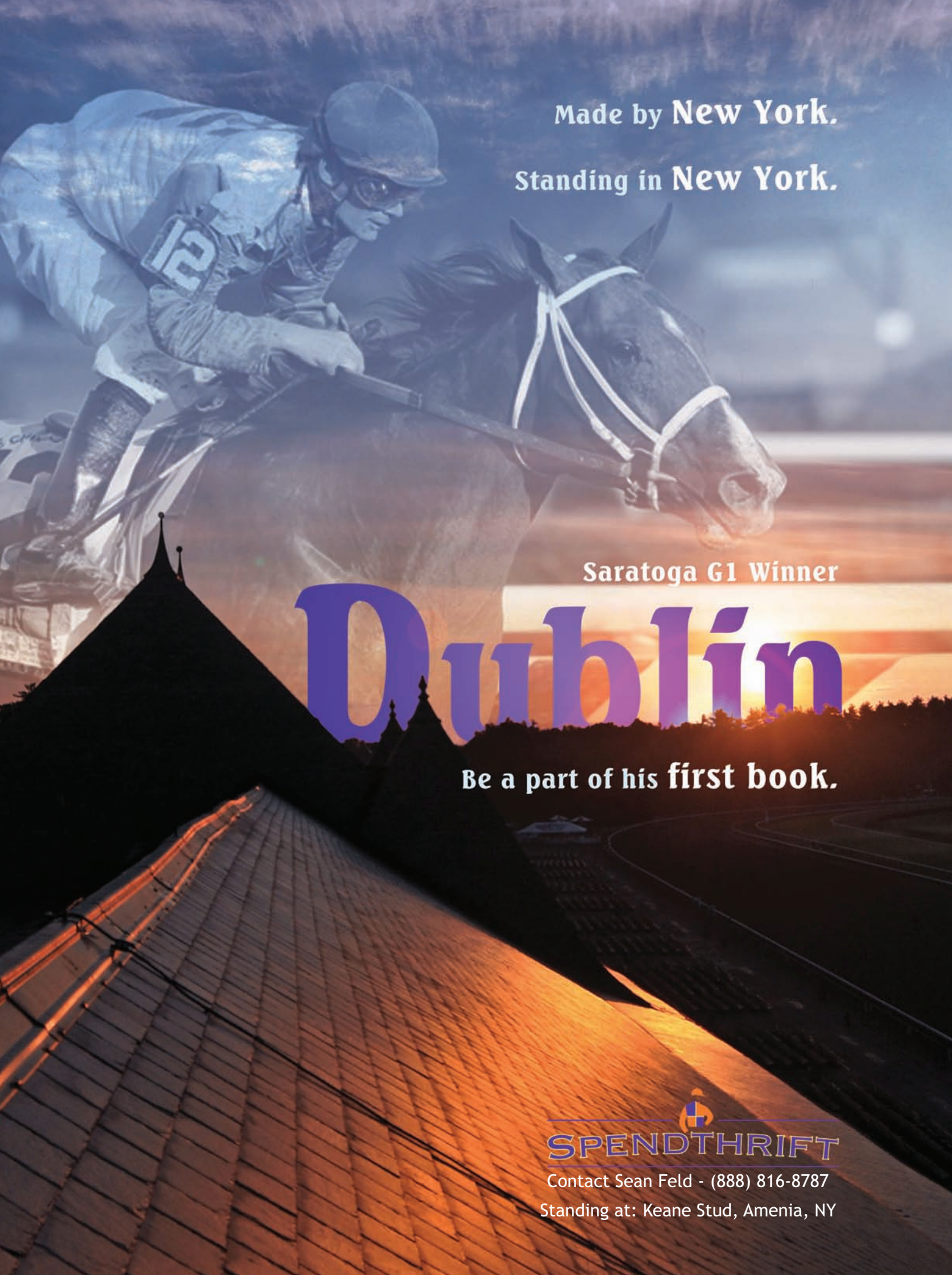
Following a tour of duty in Vietnam, Stevens attended Colorado State University and received his bachelor's degree in animal science, followed by a master's degree in equine reproduction.

From 1978-83, Stevens was officially introduced to the Thoroughbred world as the breeding manager at Pillar Stud near Lexington, after which he switched gears and attended the College of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn University in Alabama.

Stevens worked a one-year stint at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington and then transitioned to New York's Millbrook Equine Veterinary Clinic, where he is currently a partner with five others, in addition to his duties at Keane. His main areas of interest are broodmare and stallion reproduction, neonatology, and preventive medicine.

Stevens resides near Keane with his wife, Judy, who serves as a family counselor at a nearby school. Their two grown children, Brad and Chelsea, live in California and Virginia, respectively, and are

(continued on page 590)



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### **CATIENUS** | \$5,000

- › Multiple G1 sire and broodmare sire of 2011 Breeders' Cup winner **STEPHANIE'S KITTEN-G1**
- › Average earnings per starter \$58,898



*new for 2012*

## HERE COMES BEN | \$7,500

- › Multiple SW son of **STREET CRY**, sire of Horse of the Year **Zenyatta**
- › Defeated champion **Big Drama** and four other **G1** winners in the **Forego S.-G1** earning 104 Beyer



*new for 2012*

## JUSTENUFFHUMOR | \$5,000

- › Multiple Saratoga **G2** stakes winner, with back-to-back **G2** wins with 103 & 106 Beyers.
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- › First foals arriving in 2012



## SILENT NAME | \$5,000

- › **#1** NY freshman sire in 2011 by 2YO winners and stakes horses
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## TOUCH GOLD | \$10,000

- › NY's **#1** Active Sire by Lifetime Grade I Stakes Winners with 4 & Earnings \$39,000,000+
- › Sired the highest price yearling by a NY Sire in 2011 - \$400,000 colt at Saratoga, holds the highest 2011 yearling average in the state \$57,208



## UTOPIA | \$2,500

- › **#1** Second Crop Sire in NY in 2012 with 5 impressive winners with 6 wins
- › Four-time Grade I winner of over \$4.9-million by **Forty Niner**, sire of **#1** Sire **Distorted Humor**

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# 2011 Leading Sires in Pennsylvania

State sire lists updated daily online. Go to <http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/thoroughbred-breeding/sire-lists>

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in Pennsylvania (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through December 31, 2011. As supplied to The Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. Current year stakes winners include all N.H.-foaled stakes winners worldwide and any S.H.-foaled horses that won a N.H. stakes. \*Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners includes all countries. (A ♯) indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race.

Rank	Stallion (Foaling Year, Sire), Farm Standing	2012 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2011 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	<b>JUMP START</b> (99, A.P. Indy), Northview PA	\$10,000	138/90	7/13	1/7	(Prayer for Relief, \$982,425)	<b>\$5,179,312</b>	*418	25	1.59	1.39
2	<b>E DUBAI</b> (98, Mr. Prospector), Northview PA	\$9,000	209/115	9/11	2/9	(Skysurfers, \$705,000)	<b>\$4,948,699</b>	*628	25	1.27	1.26
3	<b>SMARTY JONES</b> (01, Elusive Quality), Northview PA	\$7,500	154/100	5/6	0/5	(Concealed Identity, \$186,980)	<b>\$4,026,519</b>	*297	10	1.73	2.50
4	<b>PETIONVILLE</b> (92, Seeking the Gold), Penn Ridge Farms	\$6,000	148/81	6/8	1/6	(Kingofthebluegrass, \$177,387)	<b>\$3,067,422</b>	*604	41	1.40	1.26
5	<b>SILVER TRAIN</b> (02, Old Trieste), Northview PA	\$7,000	131/77	6/7	2/6	(J J's Lucky Train, \$330,114)	<b>\$2,948,626</b>	184	7	1.19	1.46
6	<b>WISEMAN'S FERRY</b> (99, Hennessy), Dana Point Farm	\$3,500	112/69	1/4	0/1	(Wise Dan, \$731,691)	<b>\$2,891,916</b>	*233	5	1.31	1.06
7	<b>EUROSILVER</b> (01, Unbridled's Song), Penn Ridge Farms	\$3,500	133/76	4/6	2/4	(Wild Jacob, \$153,225)	<b>\$2,740,742</b>	*246	6	1.06	1.42
8	<b>OFFLEE WILD</b> (00, Wild Again), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$4,000	109/60	2/3	1/2	(Local, \$137,916)	<b>\$2,017,086</b>	175	6	1.54	1.31
9	<b>MEDALLIST</b> (01, Touch Gold), Northview PA	\$3,500	66/44	3/4	2/3	(Bessie M, \$111,049)	<b>\$1,678,518</b>	119	6	1.43	1.51
10	<b>REAL QUIET</b> (95, Quiet American)	N/A	77/32	1/4	0/1	(Norman Asbjornson, \$218,480)	<b>\$1,507,817</b>	*522	12	1.20	1.26

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(continued from page 586)

not involved in the industry.

Stevens said the fact both he and Lasseur have worked at Kentucky farms has been an asset. In their current roles they often help new Kentucky-based clients adjust to the New York market. "We know how Kentucky farm managers and breeders think and what they're looking for," said Stevens.

Lasseur, a native of France, takes pride in the work done with Stevens over

the last five years to raise Keane Stud's quality of care to the highest possible standard.

His family has managed French Thoroughbred farms for three generations, with his great-grandfather, grandfather, father, and two uncles all holding managerial positions.

Lasseur didn't want to jump into a management job too quickly, however. To further his industry education, he took the Irish National Stud's breeding course,

after which he worked as a foreman and a groom at a couple of farms in France.

In 1980 Lasseur came to the United States, where he first served as a barn foreman at Murty Farm near Lexington and then as the assistant manager of the stallion complex at Gainesway Stud. Lasseur's position at Gainesway taught him about breeding shed organization and helped him become comfortable with all aspects of farm activities before he accepted the farm manager position at Keane in 1987.

When asked why he had decided to follow in his family's footsteps in farm management, Lasseur said simply, "I just like to be outside...I like the horses and the farm life. I like to raise the foals and see them do something good."

Lasseur said the solid partnership he has built with Stevens stems from the fact they have become close friends as well as business associates.

"We've worked together for so long—we're friends," he said. "That's what it is...we know how to do the work, and we think the same way in terms of breeding the horses and running the farm, so it works really well."

It is clear Keane has attracted clients over the years largely because of the integrity and expertise of its two principals.

"To have two people in whom you have great confidence that are on top of things, honest, and hard-working to look after your stallions, mares, and weanlings is the most important thing about Keane," Wachtel explained.

Another longtime client, New Yorker Ed Messina, who owns the New York-based company Equiology Concepts, said he appreciated the precise care his horses received at Keane.

"I'm 'old-school' in terms of wanting things done correctly, and (Stevens and Lasseur) do things without me having to instruct them," said Messina, whose

Another **TYPICAL MONTH** for a  
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# 2011 Leading Sires in West Virginia

State sire lists updated daily online. Go to <http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/thoroughbred-breeding/sire-lists>

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								Foals	Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	<b>PRIZED</b> (86, Kris S.), O'Sullivan Farms	N/A	46/26	1/1	0/1	(Premio Loco, \$209,074)	<b>\$1,148,246</b>	*727	29	1.41	1.35
2	<b>DURING</b> (00, Cherokee Run), O'Sullivan Farms	\$2,500	63/30	2/2	1/2	(Su Casa G Casa, \$110,221)	<b>\$974,889</b>	137	2	0.84	1.20
3	<b>WINDSOR CASTLE</b> (98, Lord Carson), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$2,500	57/33	2/3	2/2	(Down Town Allen, \$78,380)	<b>\$960,914</b>	121	5	1.29	1.27
4	<b>LUFTIKUS</b> (96, Meadowlake), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$2,500	71/34	1/1	1/1	(Plantation, \$99,560)	<b>\$956,084</b>	215	7	1.06	1.10
5	<b>BLACK TIE AFFAIR</b> (IRE) (86, Miswaki)	N/A	94/47	1/1	1/1	(Belle of Camden, \$59,320)	<b>\$825,777</b>	*914	38	1.31	1.43

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grade II winner Doremifasollatido was raised at Keane. "That saves me time and energy.

"One thing that's not generally well known is the skills Stevens has as a reproductive expert," he added. "Some of my mares have had difficulty getting in foal, but he's always found a way to get them in foal. To a commercial breeder and a person that races, that's very important, because any time you have (a mare with) an open year, it's an economic loss."

Messina said Stevens' specialized veterinary skills make him stand out from other farm operators.

In his typically modest fashion, Stevens shifted the focus off himself and noted most of Keane Stud's base clientele have kept mares at the farm for several years mainly due to the positive relationship they've maintained with Las-seur. "They're here because of him and the excellent job he does managing the farm on a day-to-day basis," said Stevens. "He does the heavy lifting; I just sign the checks."

But Stevens' day-to-day activities include much more than just his signature. Awake before dawn, he checks on operations at his veterinary clinic, then makes the 10-minute drive to Keane, where he does the farm's necessary veterinary work and examines the foals. After his work at Keane is completed, he heads out to make a few veterinary calls at other farms in the area and then returns to the farm in the afternoon.

## New York Incentives

Dublin, who is standing his first season at stud, represents the initial foray into the New York stallion marketplace for Spendthrift. The farm is part of a trend with Kentucky-based nurseries forming breeding ventures in the Empire State. In early 2011 Vinery expanded its stallion operation into New York, starting a division at Empire Stud. Soon after, Vinery took over the management of Sugar Maple Farm.


"We're doing this now (standing Dublin in New York) because we feel like the ground is a little firmer than it has

been," Spendthrift's stallion director Ken Wilkins told *The Blood-Horse*. "The New York-bred program is unbelievable, and we also think there is a potentially huge market for growth, so we decided we could stand a horse in New York that could probably stand in Kentucky."

While New York's state-bred awards program has been strong for many years, a new incentive to bring stallions to the state came with Aqueduct's 5,000 new gaming machines, which are expected to generate nearly \$45 million per year in purse money for the New York Racing Association and nearly \$7 million for the state's breeding program.

"I think the New York market is going

to be up-and-coming in the future with the VLTs coming through," said Stevens. "Obviously, the people moving horses into the state are seeing that. I've been a supporter of the New York program all along; I thought a lot of people were overlooking a good deal here. In the next five years we're going to see a huge change in this market."

DiRico thinks New York is currently the most lucrative location in the U.S. to have horses. "(New York) is just a great place to be right now...if you're breeding horses and have decent mares, I wouldn't want to be anywhere else in the country. There's a lot of money to be made, especially with the breeders' awards." 

## The Leading Sires For West Virginia-Breds

### WINDSOR CASTLE

Lord Carson—Frigidette, by It's Freezing

#1 Sire by 2011

West Virginia-Bred  
Earnings & Winners

Fee: \$2,500 LFSN

33 Winners in 2011, including 9-time SW **DOWN TOWN ALLEN** (\$464,037), new SW **WON'T BE DENIED** (\$82,225) and new Stakes Performers **King of Scotland** (3YO) & **Allen Did It** (2YO)

- 14% Stakes Horses from Runners
- 76% Winners from Runners
- Over \$3 Million in Progeny Earnings

Already  
5 Winners  
in 2012

### LUFTIKUS

Meadowlake—Andora,  
by Conquistador Cielo

#2 Sire by 2011

West Virginia-Bred  
Earnings & Winners

Fee: \$2,500 LFSN

34 Winners in 2011, including returning SW **PLANTATION** (\$189,120)—placed in \$500,000 West Virginia Breeders' Classic, **PEACEFUL BLISS** (\$417,065) and **BLUES IN THE NIGHT** (\$265,935), as well as multiple Stakes-Placed 2YO **Coleman Barricks**

- 12% Stakes Horses from Runners
- Over \$7 Million in Progeny Earnings

Also  
5 Winners  
in 2012

And Young Guns...

### CHARITABLE MAN

Lemon Drop Kid—Charitable donation, by Saint Ballado

Multiple Graded Stakes Winner of \$475,800

Won the **Futurity S. (G2)** at two and the **Peter Pan S. (G2)** at three

From the family of leading sires

**CAPOTE** and **BALDSKI**

\$3,500\* LFSN

### DENIS OF CORK

Harlan's Holiday—Unbridled Girl, by Unbridled

Graded Stakes Winner of \$613,252

A winner in his only start at two; graded SW at three and placed in both the **Kentucky Derby (G1)** and **Belmont S. (G1)**

From the family of **Belmont S. (G1)** winner **DA' TARA**

\$2,500\* LFSN

1st Foals  
Arrive  
in 2012

1st Foals  
Yearlings  
in 2012

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