

## NORTHEAST/ MID-ATLANTIC

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# Growth Is Contagious

*New York program benefiting from Aqueduct's  
Resorts World Casino New York City*

BY NATALIE VOSS

New York's racing and breeding program is riding a roller coaster. The opening of Aqueduct's Resorts World Casino New York City in November 2011 has stimulated New York purses and jump-started the breeder incentive program, but a recent state takeover of the New York Racing Association has left many wondering about the health of racing there in the near future.

Tracy Egan, executive director of the New York Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund, believes the developments are collectively positive.

"Racing puts a lot of money in the state coffers, and breeders help keep farm land in farming," said Egan. "There would be no political or financial upside to bury the industry, but there is a political and financial upside to fixing problems and providing stability for the racing and breeding industries here in New York."

Egan reports the state's foal crop is up 46% over last year.

Jeff Cannizzo, executive director of the New York Thoroughbred Breeders, said the breeder awards are also up, by 50%—and those awards are retroactive to New York-breds who began running before the increase was implemented.

"You have people who have stayed the course through the last several years, which has been tough on them and now... the breeding fund is flush with revenue due to the casino, and the awards that anyone earns from Jan. 1 going forward apply to any horse they've bred," said Cannizzo. "And the people beginning to breed in New York are going to see those results in the years ahead of course, too."

The second part of the state's development is the purse increase, which has been 30% across the board. Cannizzo anticipates record-high purses this summer and said the hike resulted in larger field sizes this winter at Aqueduct, as well as an increase in stall applications from trainers who haven't routinely raced in New York.

Saratoga's summer meet will give away about \$900,000 a day in purses in 2012.

Better still, the growth is contagious—higher purses result in higher payouts to breeders through the incentive program, which in turn boosts the value of New York-breds at sales.

New York's thriving program naturally has those inside the state lines buzzing but is also beginning to attract attention—and investors—from across the nation. The following profiles feature farms that have expanded or even reopened because of New York's change in fortunes.

#### Blue Chip Farms

Located near Wallkill, the 700-acre facility started as a Standardbred farm offering boarding, foaling, lay-up, and sales prep services to its trotter and pacer clients. Begun in 1969, the farm has produced winners of more than \$150 million, including 1,000 stakes winners.

Owner Tom Grossman has had his own small band of Thoroughbred mares for some time but said the new casino motivated him to offer his farm's services to outside owners of Thoroughbreds this year. He estimates the farm will foal out 500-600 horses of both breeds by the end of 2012.

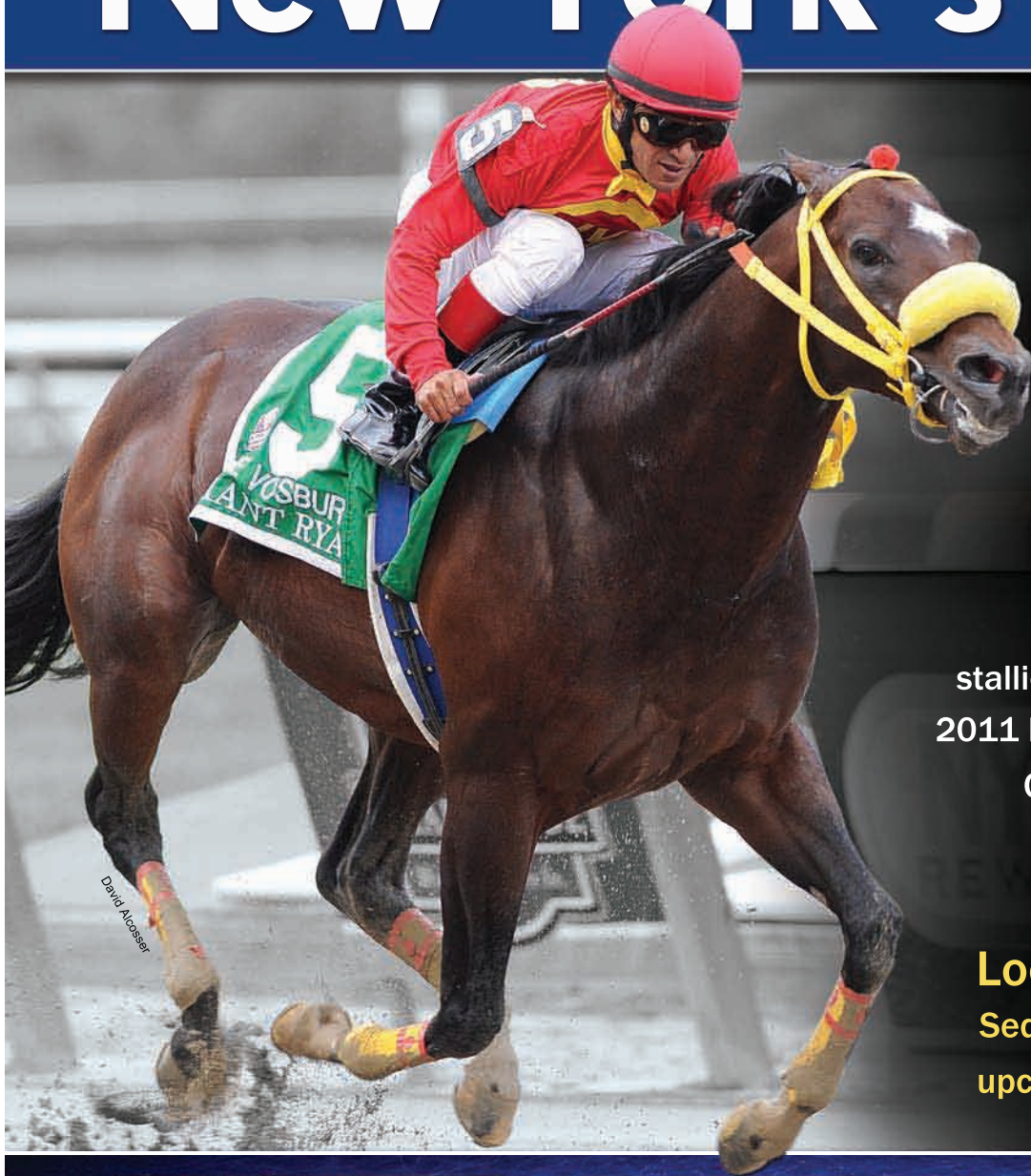
"The last step for us will be standing (a Thoroughbred) stallion," said Grossman.

Grossman anticipates the value of New York-breds will drastically increase in the next one to two years.

"It's just starting," said Grossman. "Two or three smart people see the opportunity, but...Kentucky and European horse people are a traditional group. I think you're going to start to see New York-bred horses earning big premiums in races that are not just New York-bred races. I think this summer at Saratoga will be the first firm step toward that eye-opening experience."

He believes the key to growing New York's Thoroughbred business will be to bring in higher-quality stallions.

# New York's Finest!



## NY-bred **HORSE** of the **YEAR**

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# 2012 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 May 30, 2012. 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/Wnrs	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2012 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	POSSE (00, Silver Deputy), Vinery New York at Sugar Maple	\$10,000	140/59	2/2	2/2	(Caleb's Posse, \$270,000)	\$2,039,554	*435	15	1.47	1.39
2	BLUEGRASS CAT (03, Storm Cat), Vinery New York at Sugar Maple	\$17,500	105/37	2/3	1/2	(Teeth of the Dog, \$162,400)	\$1,418,398	*271	7	1.42	2.19
3	FREUD (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York	\$10,000	82/18	1/1	0/1	(Mr. Vegas, \$104,750)	\$959,093	386	29	1.75	1.27
4	TOUCH GOLD (94, Deputy Minister), Adena Springs at McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$10,000	113/44	0/0	0/0	(Quiet Man, \$55,480)	\$790,800	*772	30	1.32	2.03
5	GOLDEN MISSILE (95, A.P. Indy), Milfer Farm	\$5,000	76/21	0/0	0/0	(Winning Drive, \$56,230)	\$639,582	*577	15	1.08	1.63
6	ALPHABET SOUP (91, Cozzene), Adena Springs at McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$6,000	98/21	0/0	0/0	(Joan's Choice, \$59,500)	\$604,721	*763	43	1.28	1.26
7	UTOPIA (JPN) (00, Forty Niner), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	36/12	1/1	1/1	(I'll Stake U, \$96,775)	\$587,428	116	1	0.85	1.36
8	CONGAREE (98, Arazi), Highcliff Farm	\$7,500	60/19	0/0	0/0	(Jeranimo, \$78,000)	\$574,502	*253	11	1.42	1.52
9	DISCO RICO (97, Citidancer), Keane Stud Operations	\$5,000	50/14	0/0	0/0	(Mississippi Man, \$60,760)	\$436,653	218	8	1.36	1.24
10	ROARING FEVER (00, Storm Cat), Dutchess Views Farm	\$3,500	45/11	0/0	0/0	(Elsararin, \$77,170)	\$436,116	154	5	1.27	0.99
11	CATIENUS (94, Storm Cat), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	82/24	0/0	0/0	(Jolie, \$45,590)	\$426,882	*482	23	1.25	1.30
12	GREELEY'S GALAXY (02, Mr. Greeley), Sugar Maple Farm	\$3,000	26/11	0/0	0/0	(Verbosity, \$47,036)	\$329,685	68	0	0.76	1.22
13	SILENT NAME (JPN) (02, Sunday Silence), Adena Springs at McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	30/9	0/0	0/0	(Silent Legacy, \$36,360)	\$290,326	*104	0	0.82	1.33
14	GOLD TOKEN (93, Mr. Prospector)	Died, 2006	17/5	1/2	0/1	(Inherit the Gold, \$111,300)	\$268,288	*281	10	1.36	1.14
15	PERUVIAN (92, Conquistador Cielo)	N/A	4/1	1/2	1/1	(Saginaw, \$233,450)	\$257,684	85	2	0.87	0.85
16	SAY FLORIDA SANDY (94, Personal Flag), Buckridge Farm	\$2,500	39/7	0/0	0/0	(My Girl Gracie, \$54,560)	\$240,979	*179	1	0.83	1.15
17	RAFFIE'S MAJESTY (95, Cormorant)	\$3,000	22/3	0/0	0/0	(Ruffino, \$71,200)	\$211,955	*162	10	1.52	1.14
18	HERE'S ZEALOUS (97, Dehere), Kaz Hill Farm	\$3,000	27/8	0/0	0/0	(Catch Me Kaz, \$37,880)	\$210,384	95	0	0.64	0.93
19	WILD DESERT (02, Wild Rush), Unbridled Racing Stable	\$3,000	13/4	1/1	1/1	(Sunny Desert, \$110,600)	\$199,405	63	1	0.80	1.06
20	MAYAKOVSKY (99, Matty G)	N/A	21/8	0/0	0/0	(Russian Ally, \$40,260)	\$198,208	89	1	1.13	1.26

\*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.

"I think you're going to see top stallions in New York very soon," he said. "I've seen it happen on the trotting and pacing side, and it's sort of reading the same book again."

## Vinery New York at Sugar Maple

Already a well-known name in Kentucky's breeding business, Vinery Stud expanded its operation with a lease on Sugar Maple Farm in 2010 with the intent to participate in the New York Breeding Fund's awards program.

Located near Poughquag, the farm was converted from a catle operation to Thoroughbreds in the mid-1980s and went on to produce champion and Hall of Fame inductee Sky Beauty.

Today the farm comprises 500 acres that are remarkably reminiscent of the rolling hills on Vinery Kentucky's facility. Sugar Maple is focused on breeding and boarding but also offers sales prep and consignment, and racing services.

Sugar Maple stands six stallions, including Bluegrass Cat, D' Funnybone, and Posse.

"It was all down to VLTs and the subsequent money for breeders' awards, stallion awards and the general upturn in the New York market," said general manager Dan Hayden. "Business has skyrocketed in New York. It's a bright spot in the whole market in America, and that's why (Vinery) wanted to get in."

Hayden reports boarding demand has left Sugar Maple "full to the brim," and has also been prosperous for Vinery's other New York holding in Hudson at Vinery North. Vinery North provides the same boarding services to clients as Sugar Maple but at a slightly reduced price.

"The glitches that are going on with NYRA make everyone a little nervous, but this year has been phenomenal really," said Hayden. "We've had a great influx of mares from all around the country, especially Kentucky."

He believes the 30% award to breeders is a gift that keeps giving.

"It's hard enough to turn a profit as a breeder in any scenario, so when you have a bit of an edge...you have to take a look at it," said Hayden.

## Waldorf Farm

Waldorf Farm has been a fixture in the New York breeding industry for some 30 years. Nestled in the rolling hills near North Chatham, the farm is owned and operated by Dr. Jerry Bilinski and offers a range of services including boarding, lay-up, sales prep, foaling, and bloodstock, with easy access to nearby North Chatham's Equine Medical Center. The facility houses approximately 50-60 broodmares this year. Waldorf stands Bustin Stones, undefeated Carter Handicap (gr. I) winner; and Signal Tap stallion Breathless Affair.

Bilinski noticed a 25% increase in business after Aqueduct opened its casino, primarily from out-of-state clients, and a corresponding 20% increase in staffing.

"There's a lot more excitement, a lot more positive feeling for the industry," said Bilinski. "It has given us a second life."

He sees a bright future for the state's industry as purses increase and breeders move their horses in from other states.

"There will be a lot more optimism, and people will start attending the sales," he said. "I envision that this summer the sales for New York-breds will be very positive, and this fall a lot of people will be purchasing broodmares to foal in New York."

He noted that the long delay in getting slots at Aqueduct was a letdown for the state's program but hopes the government has finally learned to value the industry and its impact on the economy as a whole.

### 2012 New York Second-Crop Sires By Earnings

Sire	Named Foals	Rnrs	Wnrs	Stks Wnrs	Earnings
Utopia (JPN)	116	36	12	1	\$587,428
Silent Name (JPN)	104	30	9	0	\$290,326
Wild Desert	63	13	4	1	\$199,405
Sunriver	92	24	5	0	\$195,464
Patriot Act	55	16	5	0	\$155,519
Maybry's Boy	9	3	1	0	\$130,491
Stonesider	71	16	3	0	\$128,849



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### WHY A NEW YORK BRED?

- ♦ State incentive programs boosted by gaming revenue are making NY yearlings worth more because of their potential increased earning power as racehorses.
- ♦ Introduction of VLT gaming at Aqueduct in 2011 has led to an increase in the overnight and stakes purse structure at all NYRA affiliated tracks.
- ♦ NY Thoroughbred Breeding & Development Fund. Over \$45 million dollars distributed per year with 50% across-the-board increase in breeders' awards for both New York- and non-New York-sired horses in 2012.
- ♦ 2012 Stakes purses at Belmont increase 26.6% to \$9.05 million & at Saratoga increase 27% to \$13.35 million.
- ♦ 2012 restricted New York bred Maiden Special Weights will race for \$65,000 & restricted New York bred Overnight Stakes races will have a purse of \$100,000.

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- ♦ Blue Chip has been a World Class Breeding Facility since 1969 & developed earners of over \$150 million including 5 World Champions & over 1,000 Stakes winners.
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- ♦ 700 fenced acres of properly maintained rolling pasture for optimal nourishment.
- ♦ 30 Experienced and dedicated employees residing on the farm property to provide top quality 24 hour care.
- ♦ Full time veterinarian with over 20 years of practice in equine reproduction. BCF conception rate is exceptional.
- ♦ Blue Chip Farms is centrally located in New York's beautiful Hudson Valley & conveniently located from Metropolitan NY & NY tracks (75 miles) as well as the Saratoga Racecourse (115 miles).

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[www.Bluechipfarms.com](http://www.Bluechipfarms.com)

"I think our legislators have seen the light and realize how many thousands of jobs this industry produces in New York," said Bilinski.

**Keane Stud**

Nestled in the mid-Hudson Valley half-way between Belmont and Saratoga, Keane Stud was established in the mid-1980s by James Edwards to take advantage of the region's limestone-rich soil. The result was a 275-acre, 116-stall facility with bluegrass and clover pastures relatively similar to those found in Central Kentucky. Keane primarily deals in broodmare boarding, foaling, breeding, and stallion services.

Recent success stories from the farm include Went the Day Well, fourth-place finisher in the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (gr. I); and Wildcat's Smile, who defeated the colts in the New York Breeders' Futurity; both horses were born and raised at Keane Stud.

For the 2012 breeding season Keane stands Disco Rico, Dublin, and One Nice Cat.

Dr. Winslow Stevens, longtime farm veterinarian, jumped at the chance to lease the facility five years ago, feeling it was an opportunity to get back to his roots as a former farm manager in Kentucky. Currently, he is also a principal at nearby Millbrook Equine Veterinary Clinic.

He said that although the farm didn't change its operation when Aqueduct's casino opened, he did see a considerable rise in interest from out-of-state breeders wanting to send their mares north for boarding and foaling.

Stevens said mares on the farm for this foaling season hail from Canada, Washington, Florida, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, many which are new to Keane.

**Dutchess Views Farm**

As with Keane Stud, Dutchess Views Farm is located in the Hudson Valley of New York and boasts 15 years of experience in the business. Owned and managed by Michael Lischin and Anya Sheckley, Dutchess View offers the traditional services of boarding, breeding/foaling, sales prep, racing partnership, and bloodstock consultation; it also makes available equine legal and insurance services via Lischin and his Hammertown Insurance Agency.

The 200-acre farm includes three barns, including eight foaling stalls with security cameras. Lischin estimates there are 70 mares on the farm, with about 50 to foal out this year. Dutchess Views also stands five stallions.

Lischin said the last few years have seen a reduction in the number of mares foaling out from an average of 75 in a season to 50 or so. The farm saw an increase in business when talk of a racino first emerged in the state, but he said around four years ago

when the project's delays kept mounting and the economy continued its downturn, there was a distinct drop-off in both foalings and insurance.

"Last year and this year have been dramatically better than the previous two and even better than the prior 10 years," said Lischin.

Dutchess Views' stallions belong to outside interests, who Lischin said chose to stand their horses in New York for the breeders' incentives.

"The breeder award is 30%, the open company award is 30%, and the stallion award is 10%. That's very substantial," he said.

**Spendthrift**

Spendthrift has a storied history in Central Kentucky as a top stud farm, including having stood Seattle Slew and Affirmed early in their breeding careers, but the farm is finding new opportunities in New York. Shortly after the retirement of Dublin, the farm announced he would stand at Keane Stud in New York beginning in 2012.

"We felt like this was the ideal time to get in (to New York), and we wanted to have the right horse to do it with," said Spendthrift general manager Ned Toffey.

Toffey said New York's industry might be the perfect blend of quality farmland, solid facilities, and competitive racing with the breeders' incentive awards serving as a cherry on top.

The standard procedure has been for farms to retire horses to Kentucky and stand them in other states only if they did not prosper in the Bluegrass, according to Toffey. Spendthrift, however, did not want to approach a New York prospect that way. Instead he said the farm wanted a strong stallion prospect that would get breeders excited, and with his exceptional looks Dublin seemed like an excellent fit. And his race record was a perfect fit, too.

Dublin found success on the track in New York, winning the Three Chimneys Hopeful Stakes (gr. I). This is his first season at stud.

Toffey said Spendthrift would love to send another stallion to New York, but he is hoping to see the dust settle and watch the business develop first.

"It seems like there's a new development weekly up there," he noted. "It has all the potential in the world...we all have to watch very closely."

**Edition Farm/Denali Stud partnership**

In late 2011 Denali Stud became another in a list of Kentucky-based facilities to take a foothold in New York when it announced an alliance with Edition Farm. Edition celebrated 25 years in operation last year, during which it was twice selected as the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association's New York Breeder of the Year.

The farm sits on about 150 acres with two barns and an arena for boarders and foaling mares. The facility is within 10 minutes of Millbrook Veterinary Equine Clinic.

"(Denali Stud's Craig Bandoroff) wanted to make sure that the farm he chose was up to his standards," said farm owner Vivien Malloy.

For Bandoroff and Malloy the decision to partner together was an easy one as they have worked together to sell horses for many years.

"We wanted to be in a position to participate in it, especially if any of our clients wanted to move mares up there from here," said Bandoroff. "We've seen some. I wouldn't say we've seen what I'd anticipated...I think it's like anything else, a building process."

According to Malloy, Aqueduct's slots are a win-win for both the Thoroughbred industry and the state, citing the 40,000 jobs created by the facilities, as well as the money the system puts into the state's education system.

**Sequel Stallions**

Established in 2001, Sequel Stallions is not a typical boarding and foaling facility. The 223-acre farm located near Hudson has always been primarily a stallion operation and boards exclusively mares breeding to Sequel's stallions. Some mares are on the farm only long enough to be bred, while others are establishing residency in New York's program (which requires them to stay in-state for 90 days post-foaling) and remain on the farm. Owner Becky Thomas estimated 90% of this year's resident mare group are from Kentucky.

After a brief closure due to the poor economy, Sequel reopened in 2011 with \$750,000 in renovations to bring it to a "Kentucky standard." The farm currently stands Freud, New York's leading sire by stakes winners; as well as Noonmark and Girolamo, a Darley stallion.

Thomas said the farm's re-opening was driven by the opening of Aqueduct's casino.

"We are the poster child of what has

2012 New York Sires By Winners		
Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Posse .....	140.....	59
Touch Gold.....	113.....	44
Bluegrass Cat.....	105.....	37
Catienus .....	82.....	24
Alphabet Soup .....	98.....	21
Golden Missile .....	76.....	21
Congaree.....	60.....	19
Freud .....	82.....	18
Disco Rico.....	50.....	14
Utopia (JPN).....	36.....	12
Roaring Fever.....	45.....	11
Greeley's Galaxy.....	26.....	11
Silent Name (JPN).....	30.....	9

happened because of the casino revenue," she said. "We had a farm open, and we had a farm close."

Thomas credited the casino's benefits to the state program for the new barn she will be building soon as well as Sequel's impact on the local economy, which comes in the form of jobs, taxes, feed, equipment purchases, and veterinary services; the farm's vet recently relocated from Kentucky to New York.

Although she sees the future of New York's industry as bright, Thomas is watching the state takeover of NYRA carefully.

"We've put a large amount of money in and are continuing to put money in... It wasn't what we had envisioned," said Thomas. "There's been some issues, but what NYRA's done for the farm has been (what's kept us) all operating. That's why we're all open."

### Highcliff Farm

Established Feb. 17, 1989, by Dr. Lynwood and Suzie O'Cain, Highcliff Farm offers mare boarding and foaling, sales prep, lay-ups, and stallion services. Highcliff's 2012 stallion roster includes well-known grade I winner Congaree, as well as Cosmonaut, Maybry's Boy, and Stonesider. Dr. O'Cain is a veterinarian, so the farm has access to medical care 24 hours a day.

"This farm is unique because there's a resident veterinarian. And my husband just has this farm. Some people say they have one, but they're on the road seeing other accounts," said Suzie O'Cain.

Highcliff was recognized as New York's leading stud farm by average earnings per

starter in 2010 and ranked 10th in the nation by percentage of stakes winners from 100 or more starters for 2009.

For O'Cain, the many foaling seasons at Highcliff have created a sense of family.

"Hopefully, the little fillies grow up, retire from racing, and come back here to be moms. It's really neat," she said.

Highcliff has seen a lot of mares coming in from out of state and while the farm's growth has not been as extensive as neighboring ones, O'Cain said the growth spurred by the casino has given them all the business they can handle.

"We've waited 10 years for this result, and it's so great...not having to lose business every year to people who just couldn't wait anymore," she said.

O'Cain sees a bright future for New York, especially during the upcoming Saratoga sale when she anticipates yearling prices reflecting the \$150 million that has been pumped into the state incentive fund.

### McMahon of Saratoga

Joe and Anne McMahon bought their first upstate New York farm in 1971 and built it piece by piece—cleared land, built barns, and ran miles of fencing. At the same time, Joe McMahon was active politically, helping to build the foundation of a now lucrative breeding program that is luring more business to the Empire State.

The growth fueled by Aqueduct's new casino brought five new stallions to the McMahons's farm this year. These sires—Touch Gold, Alphabet Soup, Tiago, Harlem Rocker, and Silent Name—all came from Adena Springs, owned by perennial leading North American breeder Frank Stronach. Other stallion operations, like Vinery, WinStar Farm, Spendthrift Farm have invested in New York this year, too, and McMahon is glad to see it.

"I think it's good for everybody with those types of operations coming in," he said. "It's going to give us a much broader pool of bloodstock to breed mares to. You need strength in all facets of the game, so the more participation you get, the better off it is."

The McMahons run their stallion barn on the original 100-acre parcel they purchased 40 years ago plus have another 400 acres where broodmares and yearlings are kept. It's all just a few miles east of Saratoga's famed racetrack. The farm also grows all its own hay and straw to keep a tight control on the quality.

With better stallions in the market and yearling prices rising, McMahon said the goal is now to upgrade the quality of the broodmares.

"That's the next big issue that has got to happen to maintain this momentum," McMahon said. ☐

2011 New York Sires By 2-Year-Old Winners			
Sires	2yos	2yo Rhrs	2yo Wnrs
Bluegrass Cat.....	84	49	18
Posse .....	74	39	11
Touch Gold.....	40	22	10
Disco Rico.....	31	14	6
Silent Name (JPN).....	54	24	6
Sunriver.....	54	16	5
Congaree.....	42	16	5
Utopia (JPN).....	68	34	5
Patriot Act.....	34	7	3
Alphabet Soup.....	43	11	3
Eltish.....	25	5	3
Catienus.....	43	18	3

2011 New York Sires By Stakes Winners		
Sire	Stks Wnrs	Stks Wins
Freud.....	8	15
Posse .....	5	10
Alphabet Soup.....	5	6
Bluegrass Cat.....	4	7
Congaree.....	3	6
Roaring Fever.....	3	4
Golden Missile.....	2	2

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WITH RACING PROGENY  
ALL RANKED AMONG NY'S  
TOP 13 SIRES IN 2012.

## JUSTENUFFHUMOR

DISTORTED HUMOR - JUSTENUFFHEART

## SILENT NAME

SUNDAY SILENCE- DANZIGAWAY

## TOUCH GOLD

DEPUTY MINISTER – PASSING MOOD

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FORTY NINER – DREAM VISION (JPN)

.....  
CALL JOE OR JOHN MCMAHON TODAY  
TO DISCUSS THESE TOP SIRES AND OUR  
TWO NEW STALLIONS FOR 2012,  
BOTH BY CHAMPION SIRES!



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