

NORTHEAST/MID-ATLANTIC



COURTESY RANDY FUNKHOUSER

Randy and Clissy Funkhouser at their O'Sullivan Farms near Charles Town, W.Va.

Funkhouser Family Rises to the Challenge

O'Sullivan Farms owners actively pursue positive change in West Virginia

BY TOM LaMARRA

HISTORIC O'SULLIVAN FARMS has been a mainstay of the West Virginia Thoroughbred breeding industry for decades and, as it wraps up its milestone 75th year on the outskirts of Charles Town, has every intention of maintaining the tradition for years to come.

But it will do so amid an increasingly unstable environment for the racing and breeding industry in West Virginia and beyond. The day-to-day business of operating a breeding farm has been in recent years—and will continue to be—shadowed

by changes in the racing and gaming landscape and political battles that never seem to be resolved.

Randy Funkhouser, whose family founded the farm in 1939 on property once owned by the family of President George Washington, pulls no punches when it comes to assessing the state of racing and breeding in West Virginia.

"It has been very difficult," said the 63-year-old Funkhouser, president of the Charles Town Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association. "And it's scary. Everybody (in the

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www.carmalleyvalleyfarm.com	www.saratogastudllc.com
Big Brown at Dutchess Views 47	Sequel Stallions..... 48
www.sunrifestallions.com	www.sequelnewyork.com
Heritage Stallions..... 53	Shamrock Farm 50
www.heritigestallionsinc.com	www.shamrockfarmmd.com
McMahon of Saratoga 45	Spendthrift Farm 43
www.mcmahonthoroughbreds.com	www.spendthriftfarm.com
Rockridge Stud 33	Waldorf Farm..... 49
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2014 LEADING SIRES IN WEST VIRGINIA

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2014 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	LIMEHOUSE (01, Grand Slam), O'Sullivan Farms	\$3,500	112/70	3/8	0/3	(Alonso, \$165,057)	\$2,599,892	*336	19	1.25	1.24
2	WINDSOR CASTLE (98, Lord Carson), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$3,500	77/40	4/8	4/4	(Down Town Allen, \$236,760)	\$1,602,433	213	11	1.17	1.09
3	BROTHER DEREK (03, Benchmark)	N/A	60/41	3/4	0/3	(Zee Bros, \$318,666)	\$1,591,891	*96	3	1.23	1.25
4	BOP (97, Rahy)	Died, 2012	57/31	0/0	0/0	(Pepper Bay, \$72,016)	\$964,499	*185	5	0.99	0.90
5	LUFTIKUS (96, Meadowlake)	N/A	57/30	1/1	1/1	(Joanne Elizabeth, \$88,445)	\$810,878	274	9	1.00	1.11
6	FIBER SONDE (05, Unbridled's Song), Beau Ridge Farm	\$1,000	23/17	2/2	2/2	(Cat Thats Grey, \$103,108)	\$653,634	44	3	1.40	0.78
7	REPARATIONS (96, Forty Niner)	N/A	38/15	0/0	0/0	(Allegheny Jack, \$80,667)	\$461,718	126	3	1.00	0.82
8	FOREST GROVE (01, Forestry), Naylee Farm	\$1,500	28/16	0/0	0/0	(Miss Layla, \$63,579)	\$456,455	100	2	0.91	1.24
9	MEDFORD (95, Meadowlake)	Pnsd	18/12	1/1	1/1	(Perfect Cross, \$73,151)	\$364,999	89	2	0.69	0.81
10	YARROW BRAE (95, Deputy Minister), O'Sullivan Farms	\$750	20/13	0/0	0/0	(Margaret High, \$66,900)	\$333,824	286	10	1.12	1.01
11	PEAK DANCER (97, Mt. Livermore)	N/A	26/9	0/0	0/0	(Nagatamen, \$35,792)	\$306,065	67	4	1.08	0.91
12	PRIZED (86, Kris S.)	Died, 2014	23/12	0/0	0/0	(Barcelona Baby, \$43,545)	\$282,719	*752	30	1.36	1.31
13	GHOSTLY MINISTER (97, Deputy Minister)	N/A	22/8	0/0	0/0	(Bear's Lucky Lady, \$41,996)	\$228,765	65	1	0.94	0.97
14	DURING (00, Cherokee Run), O'Sullivan Farms	\$1,500	18/8	0/0	0/0	(Hampton Bays Sun, \$62,560)	\$211,472	165	4	0.85	1.14
15	ADMIRALTY ARCH (00, Arch)	Died, 2012	8/4	0/0	0/0	(Little Big Sime, \$104,766)	\$186,274	15	0	0.71	0.40
16	FEAR THE CAPE (01, Cape Town)	N/A	13/7	0/0	0/0	(Fearless Angel, \$63,500)	\$182,362	29	1	1.06	0.89
17	DENIS OF CORK (05, Harlan's Holiday), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$3,500	16/7	0/0	0/0	(Wild Faith, \$30,122)	\$176,452	35	0	0.68	1.32
18	CHARITABLE MAN (06, Lemon Drop Kid), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$3,500	11/4	0/0	0/0	(One More Time, \$83,632)	\$163,537	36	0	0.74	1.22
19	REAL ESTATE (04, High Yield), Flamingo Run Farm	Private	10/4	0/0	0/0	(Emblem's Estate, \$45,490)	\$144,378	27	0	0.67	0.86
20	XCHANGER (04, Exchange Rate), O'Sullivan Farms	\$500	12/6	0/0	0/0	(World Changer, \$37,993)	\$139,142	43	0	0.35	1.17
21	TIDAL WAVE (00, Stormy Atlantic)	N/A	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Rip Current, \$76,095)	\$131,019	9	0	1.08	0.55
22	MESOPOTAMIA (93, Deputy Minister)	N/A	9/5	0/0	0/0	(Allegheny Shine, \$39,490)	\$123,387	106	2	0.71	0.98
23	DEPUTY ROKEBY (01, Deputy Minister)	N/A	10/4	0/0	0/0	(Wild Horse Annie, \$27,125)	\$122,040	*33	0	0.57	0.86
24	GARNERED (98, Holy Bull)	N/A	15/5	0/0	0/0	(Sydneys Astral Hat, \$36,825)	\$118,935	79	0	0.67	0.74
25	CIVILISATION (98, Gone West), Naylee Farm	\$1,000	7/4	0/0	0/0	(Shenandoah Grand, \$72,150)	\$114,775	166	0	0.60	0.70
26	FOOTNOTES (04, Storm Cat)	N/A	7/2	0/0	0/0	(My Jordan, \$43,005)	\$93,968	13	0	1.04	0.84
27	ROCK CITY (02, Meadowlake)	N/A	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Rock Buster, \$48,080)	\$84,718	11	0	0.46	0.88
28	ON EAGLES WINGS (04, Gone West)	N/A	8/3	0/0	0/0	(Roy's Eagle, \$26,125)	\$83,440	12	0	0.65	1.11
29	GRAND RESERVE (02, Theatrical)	N/A	13/4	0/0	0/0	(Mighty Grand, \$25,070)	\$82,817	29	0	0.36	0.76
30	GREEN GOBLIN (03, Mr. Greeley)	Died, 2011	9/4	0/0	0/0	(George Deer, \$38,240)	\$80,390	12	0	0.33	0.71
31	GUNNERSIDE (02, Seattle Slew)	N/A	9/2	0/0	0/0	(Paycheck, \$34,115)	\$74,278	51	0	0.28	0.51
32	COUNTRY ONLY (97, Carson City)	N/A	14/3	0/0	0/0	(Little Hud, \$26,500)	\$65,935	49	0	0.33	0.80
33	PRINTS OF PEACE (01, Storm Cat)	N/A	9/4	0/0	0/0	(Prince Killmain, \$21,985)	\$61,535	49	0	0.62	0.71
34	PROSPECT BAY (92, Crafty Prospector)	N/A	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Practical Ideas, \$26,390)	\$60,047	280	8	0.93	1.48
35	BALLADO'S GOLD (03, Saint Ballado), Witherow Farm	\$1,000	6/1	0/0	0/0	(Hill's of Gold, \$50,392)	\$54,751	22	0	0.56	0.40

General Assembly) is looking for money. We're the weaker link, so they pick on us."

The West Virginia Thoroughbred breeding industry is predominantly located in Jefferson County in a region known as the Eastern Panhandle, which borders Maryland and Virginia. It's the home of Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races, which offers most of the West Virginia-bred races run each year in the state.

Charles Town was shuttered in 1994 after Jefferson County voters rejected a ballot measure authorizing video lottery terminals at the track. The measure, however, passed in 1996, which led Penn National Gaming Inc. to purchase the track and install VLTs a year later.

Charles Town reopened in late April 1997 and raced 159 days that year. Purses totaled \$5.48 million, with about \$413,000 set aside for state-bred races.

Ten years later the transformation was remarkable. When Charles Town wrapped up a 224-day racing season at the end of 2006, it had paid more than \$41.1 million in purses, with more than \$6.1 million set aside for West Virginia-bred races.

In 2013 Charles Town paid \$38.3 million in purses, down 6.8% from 2006. Money for restricted races, however, totaled \$12.4 million—more than twice the



Limehouse, the state's leading sire, stands at O'Sullivan Farms

COURTESY JOHN FUNKHOUSER

amount in 2006 and more than one-third of total purses paid.

That shift in large part has stemmed from growth in the Thoroughbred breeding program, thanks to revenue from VLTs.

The program hit rock bottom with 174 registered foals in 1996, but in 2007 it peaked at 671 foals. Though it has declined—in keeping with national trends—

2014 WEST VIRGINIA SIRES BY WINNERS

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Limehouse	112	70
Brother Derek	60	41
Windsor Castle	77	40
Bop	57	31
Luftikus	57	30
Fiber Sonde	23	17
Forest Grove	28	16
Reparations	38	15
Yarrow Brae	20	13
Prized	23	12
Medford	18	12
Peak Dancer	26	9
Ghostly Minister	22	8
During	18	8
Denis of Cork	16	7
Fear the Cape	13	7
Xchanger	12	6
Garnered	15	5
Mesopotamia	9	5
Grand Reserve	13	4
Charitable Man	11	4
Deputy Rokeby	10	4
Real Estate	10	4
Green Goblin	9	4
Prints of Peace	9	4
Admiralty Arch	8	4
Civilisation	7	4



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– **B. Wayne Hughes**

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- Breed with no stud fees owed until sale.
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2014 LEADING SIRES IN NEW YORK

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2014 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	FREUD (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York	\$10,000	158/76	4/7	2/4	(Lubash, \$311,720)	\$4,276,121	*734	38	1.70	1.28
2	POSSE (00, Silver Deputy), Rockridge Stud	\$5,000	155/90	7/7	6/7	(Apprehender, \$152,812)	\$3,856,512	*565	25	1.38	1.37
3	BIG BROWN (05, Boundary), Dutchess Views Farm	\$8,500	133/68	9/10	0/9	(Kiss to Remember, \$264,086)	\$3,634,367	*331	12	1.34	1.88
4	NOBLE CAUSEWAY (02, Giant's Causeway)	Died, 2014	97/50	3/4	0/3	(Samraat, \$745,000)	\$2,262,088	203	6	0.85	1.08
5	CONGAREE (98, Arazi), Saratoga Stud	\$7,500	66/31	3/6	0/3	(Don't Tell Sophia, \$909,597)	\$2,117,667	*313	15	1.38	1.45
6	DISCO RICO (97, Citidancer), Keane Stud Operations	Private	52/31	3/3	3/3	(Marriedtothemusic, \$186,225)	\$1,951,050	243	11	1.35	1.22
7	STONESIDER (03, Giant's Causeway), Saratoga Stud	\$3,500	71/35	2/4	1/2	(Sinistra, \$218,050)	\$1,885,545	*169	3	1.17	1.23
8	BOB AND JOHN (03, Seeking the Gold), Saratoga Stud	\$6,000	93/43	1/1	0/1	(Jonrah, \$102,214)	\$1,510,959	*179	8	0.97	1.40
9	CATIENUS (94, Storm Cat), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	84/47	1/0	0/1	(Jcs American Dream, \$95,316)	\$1,316,239	*534	26	1.13	1.27
10	FROST GIANT (03, Giant's Causeway), Keane Stud Operations	\$10,000	43/23	1/1	1/1	(Loki's Vengeance, \$128,459)	\$1,223,241	*128	5	1.94	1.16
11	BUSTIN STONES (04, City Zip), Waldorf Farm	\$5,000	40/22	2/2	1/2	(Hot Stones, \$232,339)	\$1,065,269	71	2	1.37	1.49
12	HERE'S ZEALOUS (97, Dehere), Kaz Hill Farm	\$1,000	56/26	0/0	0/0	(Here's Zealicious, \$168,494)	\$985,935	174	0	0.83	0.97
13	GOLDEN MISSILE (95, A.P. Indy), Milfer Farm, Inc.	\$3,500	62/28	0/0	0/0	(Estrada's Girl, \$141,334)	\$962,191	*620	15	1.05	1.55
14	TEUFLESBERG (04, Johannesburg), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	33/18	0/0	0/0	(Good Bye Greg, \$63,766)	\$622,679	70	4	1.83	1.19
15	THE CLIFF'S EDGE (01, Gulch), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	50/26	1/1	0/1	(Frazil, \$106,668)	\$619,656	229	5	0.84	1.20
16	CONGRESSIONALHONOR (01, Forestry), Sandy Way Farm	\$2,500	36/11	1/1	1/1	(Merry's Honor, \$77,760)	\$534,365	161	1	0.68	0.95
17	MR. SEKIGUCHI (03, Storm Cat), Mole's Hill Farm	\$2,500	35/18	0/0	0/0	(Little Daniella, \$46,875)	\$517,647	*85	1	0.87	1.28
18	LEWIS MICHAEL (03, Rahy), Questroyal North	\$3,000	41/18	1/1	0/1	(Los Bambinos, \$97,950)	\$503,656	77	2	0.76	1.17
19	DESERT PARTY (06, Street Cry), Sequel Stallions New York	\$7,500	35/8	2/2	1/2	(Heart's Song, \$138,910)	\$450,136	71	2	0.78	1.50
20	COSMONAUT (02, Lemon Drop Kid), Saratoga Stud	\$5,000	23/7	1/1	1/1	(Selenite, \$124,676)	\$423,364	44	1	1.07	1.13

since then and totaled 522 in 2012, West Virginia has picked up market share: In 2012 the state accounted for 2.3% of the North American Thoroughbred foal crop.

Randy Funkhouser; his wife, Clissy; and their sons, John and Joe, are heavily invested in the future of the state's breeding business, and as such are very active in state and local government, given the role politics plays in the business. Joe Funkhouser is on the Charles Town Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association board of directors along with his father, while John Funkhouser sits on the board

of the West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association.

Randy Funkhouser, as president of the horsemen's group at Charles Town, has focused on the economic development aspects of a strong breeding and racing industry in Jefferson County. In that regard the Charles Town HBPA has taken an activist-type approach to tout the benefits of Thoroughbred breeding to the local community.

The West Virginia legislature and two governors have tapped the horsemen's share of VLT revenue to help support other

state programs. The biggest hit came in the mid-2000s when a sizable amount of money was first diverted on a yearly basis to fund workers' compensation programs; the second came earlier this year when a 10% reduction in the purse fund was authorized just hours before a special legislative session ended.

"In this market, with its instability, we're starting to see breeders leave and go to other states," Randy Funkhouser said. "People are looking at where their investment might be more stable than in West Virginia, even though our program is democratic and offers a well-thought-out way to distribute money in the breeders' fund.

"There are a number of good horses running around that were bred in West Virginia. I think we delivered on every part of (the mission to improve the state-bred program), and now to be cut off (by state government) makes no sense."

The Charles Town HBPA this year started a newsletter, *Beyond the Paddocks*, which seeks to educate the community about racing and breeding as well as those who participate in the business. The newsletter profiles offer a look at the trickle-down effect the industry has on the economy of the county and state.

"These are serious times; our way of life could vanish if we do nothing," Funkhouser said. "We cannot let horse racing—the heart of our community—be ripped away



A rainbow over O'Sullivan Farms signals the farm's good fortunes

COURTESY JOHN FUNKHOUSER

Special Note For Sire Lists:

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in North America (stallions exported prior to the 2010 breeding season are excluded), and have runners in North America. All available statistics listed for the Northern Hemisphere through December 3, 2014. 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.)

*AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX and COMPARABLE INDEX: Lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned 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; 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 AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX higher than their mares' COMPARABLE INDEX.

New for 2015



Bill Gross

CENTRAL BANKER

2015 Fee: \$7,500 Live Foal

- Winner of \$598,786, 1st Churchill Downs S.-G2 earning a (107 Beyer / 1 3/4 Rag), placed in the Malibu S.-G1 (105 Beyer), King's Bishop S.-G1
- Defeating six G1 winners, *Shakin It Up*, *Capo Bastone*, *Sahara Sky*, *Itsmyluckyday*, *Overanalyze* and classic winner *Oxbow*
- Gorgeous 16 hand son of *Speightstown*, the leading sire in 2013 by stakes wins (37), second by earnings and sire of *Munnings*, co-second leading freshman sire by Graded stakes horses (2)
- His dam produced 6 starters, 6 winners, 2 graded blacktype winners with earnings of more than \$1,715,00

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2014 LEADING SIRES IN PENNSYLVANIA

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2014 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	OFFLEE WILD (00, Wild Again)	N/A	131/69	8/12	4/8	(Bayern, \$4,389,680)	\$7,321,001	*390	17	1.57	1.23
2	ANY GIVEN SATURDAY (04, Distorted Humor)	N/A	181/109	6/10	0/6	(Hoppertunity, \$950,675)	\$5,768,776	*468	13	1.24	1.48
3	ROCKPORT HARBOR (02, Unbridled's Song)	Died, 2013	199/114	9/14	2/9	(Majestic Harbor, \$460,250)	\$5,239,367	*420	26	1.39	1.46
4	JUMP START (99, A.P. Indy), Northview PA	\$10,000	148/83	8/11	4/8	(Miss Behaviour, \$548,834)	\$4,966,676	*915	41	1.58	1.36
5	CORINTHIAN (03, Pulpit), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$4,000	209/94	3/3	1/3	(Corsierra, \$93,045)	\$2,836,744	*432	9	0.85	1.41
6	SILVER TRAIN (02, Old Trieste)	Died, 2013	148/80	3/3	0/3	(Balance of Power, \$181,330)	\$2,602,623	*339	16	1.05	1.34
7	SMARTY JONES (01, Elusive Quality), Northview PA	\$4,000	103/51	4/8	1/4	(Cary Street, \$320,998)	\$2,368,690	*486	24	1.66	2.09
8	WISEMAN'S FERRY (99, Hennessy)	N/A	63/32	1/4	0/1	(Wise Dan, \$1,259,310)	\$2,260,430	*273	6	1.72	1.30
9	FAIRBANKS (03, Giant's Causeway), Northview PA	\$2,500	81/46	1/1	1/1	(Vielsalm, \$103,204)	\$2,013,345	150	2	1.09	1.30
10	ALBERT THE GREAT (97, Go for Gin), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$2,500	51/25	1/2	0/1	(Moonshine Mullin, \$641,627)	\$1,443,252	*356	9	1.17	1.15
11	MEDALLIST (01, Touch Gold), Northview PA	\$2,000	58/32	1/3	0/1	(Monkey's Medal, \$131,545)	\$1,240,113	175	6	1.28	1.43
12	REAL QUIET (95, Quiet American)	Died, 2010	42/23	1/4	1/1	(Where's Rosie B, \$144,420)	\$1,008,901	*624	16	1.19	1.23
13	WEIGELIA (01, Safely's Mark), WynOaks Farm	\$3,500	34/19	0/0	0/0	(Isabella Swift, \$146,865)	\$907,663	56	2	1.24	1.00
14	LOVE OF MONEY (01, Not For Love)	Died, 2012	46/20	0/0	0/0	(Avaritia, \$86,720)	\$853,486	107	2	1.05	1.26
15	TRAJECTORY (97, Gone West)	N/A	48/32	0/0	0/0	(Marten Lake, \$59,290)	\$831,397	361	14	1.09	1.37
16	RIMROD (00, Danzig), Castle Rock Farm	\$1,500	29/15	1/1	1/1	(Lenape Rim, \$93,300)	\$808,697	81	2	1.49	1.19
17	TALENT SEARCH (03, Catienus), Diamond B Farm	\$2,500	32/19	0/0	0/0	(He's Got Talent, \$106,998)	\$645,775	58	0	0.94	1.44
18	ACTIVIST (94, Wild Again)	N/A	41/16	0/0	0/0	(Graced, \$97,670)	\$627,137	174	3	0.94	0.86
19	PARTNER'S HERO (94, Danzig), Castle Rock Farm	\$1,500	45/15	2/1	1/2	(Nasty Noozie, \$82,778)	\$626,275	436	21	1.21	1.33
20	GIMMEAWINK (00, Elusive Quality)	N/A	48/28	1/1	0/1	(Gimmeadrink, \$85,030)	\$600,452	*199	3	0.79	1.07
21	DELAWARE TOWNSHIP (96, Notebook), Maui Meadow Farm	\$2,000	35/16	0/0	0/0	(Hasty Miss, \$78,560)	\$544,875	278	7	1.08	1.24
22	LITE THE FUSE (91, Buckaroo)	N/A	32/17	0/0	0/0	(Well Lit, \$61,230)	\$528,943	533	23	1.23	1.19
23	SIR SHACKLETON (01, Miswaki)	N/A	33/18	2/2	1/2	(Patty's Key, \$73,620)	\$519,504	*92	2	0.69	1.09
24	FORMAL DINNER (88, Well Decorated)	N/A	29/13	1/3	1/1	(Caviar N Champagne, \$184,640)	\$476,692	*639	25	1.08	1.10
25	GOT THE LAST LAUGH (04, Distorted Humor)	N/A	19/13	0/0	0/0	(Infinity of Humor, \$93,551)	\$455,295	31	0	1.23	1.22

from us. Do we really want Charles Town to become just another suburban outpost of Washington, D.C.? That's why we need to take a stand and work together in a coordinated fashion to meet the economic and political challenges that lie ahead."

Joe Funkhouser, 32, went to law school with the future of the racing and breeding industry in mind. He has joined his father in becoming active in the issues that ultimately could decide the fate of the business.

"I saw it as necessary," he said of the law degree. "A lot of important decisions are made at high levels, and I thought those skills would be useful. It helped inspire me to go to law school and also to run for the horsemen's board of directors.

"There is a lot of consolidation going on (at the state level), and that has creat-

ed a lot of uncertainty. We didn't always have the highest purses at Charles Town, but we had a good, stable environment. Now people are considering moving to Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Ohio.

"When you have a perpetual battle with the legislature every year, it doesn't create the stability needed for people to invest in the industry."

A 2012 economic impact study authored by the West Virginia University College of Business put the total annual economic impact of racing and breeding in Jefferson County at \$159.4 million. The study said breeders, owners, and trainers combined account for about \$75 million a year in direct economic impact.

The number of active Thoroughbred stallions in West Virginia was 49 in 2013, according to The Jockey Club. As recently

as 2008 the number was 90.

The drop in the number of stallions isn't unique to West Virginia. Industry changes have dictated a move to fewer but more attractive stallions, and West Virginia farms have followed suit.

West Virginia-bred yearlings have performed well at auction in recent years. TJC statistics reflect the interest: There were 21 yearlings that sold at auction in 2012 for \$1.3 million while 37 sold in 2013 for \$1.27 million.

O'Sullivan Farms has been a leader in West Virginia for decades and continues to look for the right mix of stallions to attract mares to the state with the goal of producing quality foals. The family has upgraded facilities on the farm as well.

John Funkhouser, who manages O'Sullivan Farms for his family, graduated college in 2004 and went about building a first-class stallion barn, which took about a year to complete. He came up with the structure and design in the hope it would attract more mares to the breeding shed.

The results were good. Before 2004, John Funkhouser, 34, hadn't spent much time around horses with the exception of helping foal some mares; he said he spent several years learning farm management so his father could focus on other aspects of the business.

"We haven't lost too many babies, and we've foaled 90 to 100 mares the last five years," Funkhouser said. "We've been through a lot of people like every farm, but every year we have a good crew that knows what to do.



COURTESY RANDY FUNKHOUSER

A horse is led to a paddock at O'Sullivan Farms

KENTUCKY DERBY FUTURE WAGER POOL 1

INDIVIDUALS BY CLOSING ODDS

DO YOU WANT TO WIN THE DERBY?

Rank	Wager	Favorite	Opening Odds	Closing Odds	\$2.00 Pays
1	Dortmund		50-1	9-1	\$20.20
2	American Pharoah		2-1	2-1	\$27.60
3	Texas Red		15-1	14-1	\$20.00



DORTMUND recorded the highest 2YO Beyer at Churchill Downs' fall meet - 97

15	Calculator		20-1	71-1	\$145.20
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GIVE YOUR MARE HER BEST SHOT IN NY

17	Lord Nelson		33-1	72-1	\$146.60
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17	The Great War		30-1	72-1	\$147.40
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19	El Kabeir		50-1	74-1	\$151.80
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19	I Spent It		50-1	100-1	\$203.40
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BIG BROWN

Boundary - Mien, by Nureyev

20	Classy Class		50-\$8,500 live foal	126-1	\$245.40
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21	Lucky Player		50-1	130-1	\$263.20
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2014 LEADING SIRES IN NEW JERSEY Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2014 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	DEFRERE (92, Deputy Minister), Wainford Stud	\$2,000	46/23	1/1	1/1	(Maybe Tonight, \$118,190)	\$958,391	*575	23	1.24	1.18
2	DON SIX (00, Wild Escapade), Greenfields Farm	Private	30/16	0/0	0/0	(Saucy Don, \$87,305)	\$614,342	72	2	1.20	1.21
3	HEY CHUB (00, Carson City), Joe-Dan Farm	\$2,000	10/9	0/0	0/0	(Chubbianna, \$116,300)	\$450,880	17	0	2.02	1.70
4	MO MON (98, Maria's Mon)	Died, 2011	32/10	0/0	0/0	(Mo Didn't Know, \$49,691)	\$368,639	122	3	0.75	1.16
5	UNBRIDLED JET (96, Unbridled)	Died, 2011	17/8	1/1	1/1	(O K Lefty, \$93,576)	\$345,921	*257	10	1.04	1.23
6	PARK AVENUE BALL (02, Citidancer)	N/A	16/7	0/0	0/0	(Park Avenue Appeal, \$50,390)	\$208,159	32	0	0.65	1.36
7	CABLE BOY (04, Jump Start), Colonial Farms	Private	6/2	0/0	0/0	(She's Hot Wired, \$106,736)	\$197,133	11	0	1.13	0.98

2014 LEADING SIRES IN MASSACHUSETTS

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2014 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	WILD DESERT (02, Wild Rush), Briar Hill Farm	\$2,000	39/18	0/0	0/0	(Joe Mouch, \$102,000)	\$897,049	99	1	1.00	1.06
2	INDIAN OCEAN (02, Stormy Atlantic), Briar Hill Farm	\$2,000	51/29	1/1	0/1	(Natalie Victoria, \$143,200)	\$883,905	*229	5	0.81	1.34
3	LYCIUS (88, Mr. Prospector)	N/A	14/4	1/2	1/1	(Bobby J's Rush, \$38,270)	\$81,340	*567	31	0.99	1.26
4	SILK BROKER (96, Pentelicus), Salim Stable	\$1,000	8/4	0/0	0/0	(Restless Rebel, \$20,190)	\$73,588	25	3	0.57	0.51
5	SOCIANO (95, Rubiano), Briar Hill Farm	Died, 2014	8/2	0/0	0/0	(King Colby, \$24,120)	\$52,384	22	1	0.50	0.38

“From the end of January through August, you’ll find me here; I really can’t go anywhere else. We pride ourselves on the fact we’ve gotten foals that are healthy. There’s not a whole lot we miss.”

O’Sullivan Farms at one time had nine stallions, but currently has seven: During, Gattopardo, Hunt Crossing, Limehouse, Our Entourage, XChanger, and Yarrow

Brae. Price-wise, Limehouse will lead the way in 2015 with a \$3,500 fee live foal.

“Limehouse (by Grand Slam) is the type of horse the farm wants,” Randy Funkhouser said of the stallion that was the leading West Virginia sire by earnings in 2013-14. “His first crop (of West Virginia-breds) will run at Charles Town in 2015. He gets early-maturing horses, and no

huge horses, so they should get around the turns at Charles Town.”

In his first year at O’Sullivan Farms, Limehouse bred 70 mares, and last year he bred 53 mares. Those are solid numbers for West Virginia.

Hunt Crossing, by Corinthian, will have his first foals on the racetrack next year. The 5-year-old stallion, who only raced at



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Danzig—Lassie's Lady, by Alydar

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BALTIMORE BOB

Malibu Moon—Gabby's Love, by Perkin Wareck

Multiple stakes-winning son of a leading sire.
First full crop arrives in 2015. \$2,500 LFSN. MM



ROCK SLIDE

A.P. Indy—Prospectors Delite, by Mr. Prospector

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MG1 millionaire TOMISUE'S DELIGHT. \$2,000 LFSN. MM & BC

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2014 LEADING SIRES IN MARYLAND

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/Wns	Rstrct SW/BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2014 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	NOT FOR LOVE (90, Mr. Prospector), Northview Stallion Station	\$15,000	110/57	6/6	5/6	(Steady N Love, \$163,150)	\$2,928,860	888	78	1.71	1.45
2	ORIENTATE (98, Mt. Livermore), Northview Stallion Station	\$5,000	135/76	2/2	1/2	(Declassify, \$192,500)	\$2,228,097	*735	40	1.30	1.76
3	GIACOMO (02, Holy Bull), Heritage Stallions	\$3,500	105/47	2/2	1/2	(Classic Giacroll, \$202,300)	\$1,674,452	*259	15	1.14	1.28
4	DANCE WITH RAVENS (02, A.P. Indy), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,000	88/46	1/1	1/1	(Dancing Roy, \$89,180)	\$1,601,977	303	10	1.18	1.48
5	PETIONVILLE (92, Seeking the Gold), Murmur Farm	\$5,000	74/42	3/4	1/3	(Caribbean Cowboy, \$141,356)	\$1,458,165	*661	49	1.34	1.28
6	LION HEARTED (96, Storm Cat), Northview Stallion Station	\$2,500	90/40	0/0	0/0	(Wild Kay, \$78,401)	\$1,453,784	*577	20	1.21	1.30
7	GREAT NOTION (00, Elusive Quality), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,500	48/22	3/3	2/3	(Talk Show Man, \$162,211)	\$1,359,536	162	11	1.60	1.21
8	LOUIS QUATORZE (93, Sovereign Dancer), Murmur Farm	\$2,500	56/22	1/3	0/1	(Ribo Bobo, \$232,667)	\$1,269,396	*945	24	1.15	1.34
9	OUTFLANKER (94, Danzig), Shamrock Farm	\$3,000	54/29	2/2	1/2	(Joint Custody, \$91,425)	\$1,205,771	*506	24	1.40	1.15
10	SCIPION (02, A.P. Indy), Murmur Farm	\$2,500	50/30	1/2	1/1	(Speed Is Life, \$117,670)	\$1,033,392	97	3	1.13	1.04
11	ROCK SLIDE (98, A.P. Indy), Shamrock Farm	\$2,000	52/26	1/1	0/1	(Rockinontheater, \$89,095)	\$888,695	251	8	1.03	1.21
12	TWO PUNCH (83, Mr. Prospector)	Died, 2011	55/23	0/0	0/0	(Coco Punch, \$109,557)	\$801,455	*1102	56	1.42	1.40
13	GATORS N BEARS (00, Stormy Atlantic)	Died, 2012	39/14	2/2	1/2	(Bear Access, \$102,960)	\$736,311	150	6	1.06	1.19
14	CHEROKEE'S BOY (00, Citidancer), Murmur Farm	\$2,000	30/17	0/0	0/0	(Imanindianoutlaw, \$81,068)	\$661,471	83	1	1.20	1.05
15	SHOWING UP (03, Strategic Mission)	N/A	43/16	0/0	0/0	(Hey Bud, \$56,628)	\$470,326	*99	3	0.70	1.48



Funkhouser with some weanlings on the farm

COURTESY RANDY FUNKHOUSER

Oh Say mare Sweet Annuity), who won the Maryland Million Nursery Stakes. The colt brought \$120,000 at the 2013 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic September yearling sale.

“My dad knows a lot about pedigrees, and it cultured with me,” John Funkhouser said. “It’s exciting to me. We’ll never have the money to compete at the top level, but if we caught even one good mare a year, you never know.”

“We’re breeding to some decent stallions and continuing to upgrade our stock. We may have a chance to get back into some selling (at auction).”

The O’Sullivan Farms tradition is based on family experience. Randy Funkhouser said he learned the ins and outs of the breeding business from his father, Justin, and longtime family trainer Frank Gall. He has no doubts his sons will remain active in running the farm and working to protect the family investment in breeding and racing.

“They’re going to carry on,” he said. “And the way this is set up, you get out of it what you put into it.” **BA**

2 and won the Monmouth Park NATC Futurity, was bred to 30 mares in 2012 and 62 mares in 2013.

“We really can’t knock his babies,” John Funkhouser said. “If looks can run, his foals will run. He’ll probably be the stal-

lion we make here.”

The Funkhouser family also breeds to race and has had its fair share of West Virginia-bred stakes winners. And this year the O’Sullivan Farms-bred 2-year-old Golden Years (by Not For Love out of the

ASSOCIATION’S GOAL: PROTECT LIVE RACING AND BREEDING

Organizations in West Virginia are preparing to launch a non-profit trade association designed to protect and foster growth in live racing and breeding in the state.

West Virginia Racing United said its mission is to “promote the interests of live racing in West Virginia through education, adherence to standards for the humane treatment of animals, regulation, and advocacy at all levels.”

The founding members are the Charles Town Horsemen’s Benevolent and Protective Association, Mountaineer HBPA, West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association, and the Jockeys’ Guild. Charles Town HBPA board member Joe Funkhouser said the plan is to invite other organizations with common goals to join the effort.

“We’re trying to build a coalition,” Funkhouser said. “The operating agreement is basic and allows for additional mem-

bers and honorary members, with committees to be determined. We think we can be more effective if we speak with one voice.”

Funkhouser suggested state budget shortfalls could lead lawmakers again to propose reductions in VLT revenue generated for purses and breed development programs.

In addition, the advent of full casino gambling in neighboring Maryland has taken its toll on business at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races. Revenue has dropped about 25% since the Maryland Live! casino opened between Baltimore and Washington, D.C., and new casinos are planned for downtown Baltimore and just south of Washington.

“It’s a precarious situation,” Funkhouser said. “But I think there are a lot of things the racing industry can do to improve its situation.”

By Tom LaMarra

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