

# NORTHEAST/MID-ATLANTIC



ELLEN PONS

## Bay State Comes Back

BY JOHN SCHEINMAN

**THE MARYLAND THOROUGHBRED** breeding industry, already in steep decline, practically disintegrated when the financial crisis hit in 2008.

At Country Life Farm near Bel Air, brothers Josh and Mike Pons were more fortunate than most who watched as their livelihoods fell apart. The farm, founded by their grandfather Adolphe, who planned the mating that produced Man o' War, had made the star stallion Malibu Moon and had retained a sizable portion in him once he

### *Maryland-Bred Fund sparks resurgence*

moved on to greater glory in Kentucky in 2003.

With Malibu Moon providing a safety net, the Pons brothers concentrated on finding income at their Merryland Farm—less than three miles from Country Life—which they had purchased from Delaware Park owner Bill Rickman in 2001.

“We adapted,” Josh Pons said. “We fixed the racetrack up at Merryland, and we started breaking more and more yearlings. We morphed into a racing-partnership,

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**SHRINKING VIOLET** scored her first graded win in the Monrovia S.-G2, completing the 6 ½ f downhill turf event in 1:12.56 to pick up \$120,000. The 5YO mare has raced at 12 tracks with 16 starts resulting in 7 wins for owner/trainer Wesley Ward.



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Mike, left, and Josh Pons of Country Life Farm

ELEN PONS

versify into wine and Christmas trees. Some people started growing hay that they didn't before. Some people got cattle. Maybe they should have been diversified anyway because they have preserved farmland, but they wanted to be in the horse business. They want to do that first. They understood they had to stick it out and hope once Maryland was competitive, they could draw that business back."

That perseverance is now being rewarded thanks to a Maryland-Bred Fund breeders and owners awards program that launched in September 2013, which has begun to pay serious dividends.

A task force ordered by Maryland Racing

yearling-breaking, racehorse-training operation in Merryland. We rested the fields (at Country Life), re-seeded, sprayed for weeds, and grew hay for a couple of years."

Longtime clients, who supplied the mares and boarders at the heart of their business, either took their horses up the road to stallions in Pennsylvania and New York or retreated to the sidelines.

"It was like everything ran north, like I-95 only went one way," Mike Pons said.

The 2010 Maryland equine census reported a total of 16,040 equine facilities throughout the state, a drop of 21% from 2002. This included boarding venues, commercial and private breeding operations, farms, and private residences where horses were kept for recreation.

Yet the Thoroughbred breeders in Maryland, such as the Ponses, proved a resilient lot, and they dug in, diversified, prayed for good fortune, and waited.

"They were struggling, to say the least," said Cricket Goodall, executive director of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association. "They did anything they could. You saw some of them di-

2014 MARYLAND SIRES BY WINNERS

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Oriente	136	79
Not For Love	113	60
Dance With Ravens	89	49
Giacomo	106	48
Lion Hearted	94	45
Petionville	75	43
Scipion	50	30
Oufflanker	56	29
Rock Slide	53	26
Louis Quatorze	59	23
Two Punch	57	23
Great Notion	49	23
Cherokee's Boy	30	18
Showing Up	43	17
Gators N Bears	40	15
Greek Sun	15	8
Rush Bay	14	6
Go for Gin	18	5
Street Magician	15	5
M Eighty	5	5
Mojave Moon	8	3
La Reine's Terms	6	2
Mr. Shoplifter	4	1
Narrative (IRE)	3	1
Fleet Foot	2	1
Purple Passion	2	1
Pulverizing	1	1

Commission chairman Bruce Quade had a simple mission: create a program that could compete with the one in Pennsylvania and make a compelling case for breeding Thoroughbreds again in the state.

Led by long-time state breeder and veterinarian Dr. Tom Bowman and commission member David Hayden, who has produced many outstanding horses including Hall of Famer Safely Kept at his Dark Hollow Farm near Upperco, the task force worked quickly.

They developed a framework for awards that gives a 30% bonus to Maryland-bred horses that finish first, second, or third at all levels of races run in Maryland. They phased in a bonus for the owner of a winning Maryland-bred, beginning at 17.5%, which rose to 30% Jan. 1. Another 10% bonus goes to the owner of a Maryland-registered stallion.

The industry's horse racing purse dedication account receives 7% of all revenue generated by video lottery terminals at casinos in the state, with 85% of that going to race purses, including stakes races. The remaining 15% goes to the Maryland-Bred Race Fund, created in 1962 as the first of its



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# 2014 LEADING SIRES IN PENNSYLVANIA 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	ROCKPORT HARBOR (02, Unbridled's Song)	Died, 2013	204/115	9/15	2/9	(Majestic Harbor, \$460,250)	\$5,544,066	422	26	1.40	1.45
2	JUMP START (99, A.P. Indy), Northview PA	\$10,000	153/90	8/12	4/8	(Miss Behaviour, \$548,834)	\$5,226,557	*915	41	1.60	1.36
3	CORINTHIAN (03, Pulpit), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$4,000	214/96	3/3	1/3	(Frivolity, \$106,472)	\$3,000,818	*433	9	0.84	1.41
4	SILVER TRAIN (02, Old Trieste)	Died, 2013	153/84	3/3	0/3	(Balance of Power, \$181,330)	\$2,749,714	*339	16	1.04	1.34
5	SMARTY JONES (01, Elusive Quality), Northview PA	\$4,000	104/54	5/9	2/5	(Cary Street, \$320,998)	\$2,599,635	*487	25	1.67	2.06
6	WISEMAN'S FERRY (99, Hennessy), Dana Point Farm, PA	\$5,000	64/34	1/4	0/1	(Wise Dan, \$1,259,310)	\$2,332,104	*273	6	1.72	1.09
7	FAIRBANKS (03, Giant's Causeway), Northview PA	\$2,500	82/48	1/1	1/1	(Vielsalm, \$103,204)	\$2,150,977	150	2	1.11	1.30
8	ALBERT THE GREAT (97, Go for Gin), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$2,500	51/28	1/2	0/1	(Moonshine Mullin, \$641,627)	\$1,545,578	*356	9	1.17	1.14
9	MEDALLIST (01, Touch Gold), Northview PA	\$2,000	60/34	1/3	0/1	(Monkey's Medal, \$134,305)	\$1,359,398	175	6	1.28	1.43
10	REAL QUIET (95, Quiet American)	Died, 2010	43/25	1/5	1/1	(Where's Rosie B, \$144,420)	\$1,085,770	*624	16	1.19	1.23
11	WEIGELIA (01, Safely's Mark), WynOaks Farm	\$3,500	36/20	0/0	0/0	(Isabella Swift, \$148,245)	\$949,251	56	2	1.22	1.00
12	LOVE OF MONEY (01, Not For Love)	Died, 2012	46/20	0/0	0/0	(Avaritia, \$90,733)	\$888,171	107	2	1.05	1.26
13	TRAJECTORY (97, Gone West), Mountain Springs Farm	\$3,500	48/32	0/0	0/0	(Marten Lake, \$59,290)	\$847,302	361	14	1.09	1.37
14	RIMROD (00, Danzig), Castle Rock Farm	\$1,500	30/16	1/1	1/1	(Lenape Rim, \$93,300)	\$834,344	81	2	1.49	1.19
15	TALENT SEARCH (03, Catienus), Diamond B Farm	\$2,500	33/19	0/0	0/0	(He's Got Talent, \$106,998)	\$685,927	58	0	0.97	1.43
16	ACTIVIST (94, Wild Again), Godstone Farm	Private	41/17	0/0	0/0	(Graced, \$100,420)	\$676,298	174	3	0.94	0.86
17	PARTNER'S HERO (94, Danzig), Castle Rock Farm	\$1,500	47/17	2/1	1/2	(Nasty Noozie, \$82,963)	\$665,312	436	21	1.21	1.34
18	GIMMEAWINK (00, Elusive Quality), Mountain Springs Farm	\$2,500	50/29	1/2	0/1	(Gimmeadrink, \$86,130)	\$626,052	*199	3	0.78	1.06
19	DELAWARE TOWNSHIP (96, Notebook), Maui Meadow Farm	\$1,000	35/16	0/0	0/0	(Hasty Miss, \$78,560)	\$561,182	278	7	1.08	1.23
20	LITE THE FUSE (91, Buckaroo)	N/A	32/17	0/0	0/0	(Well Lit, \$61,230)	\$555,708	533	23	1.23	1.19
21	SIR SHACKLETON (01, Miswaki), Dana Point Farm, PA	\$1,000	33/18	2/2	1/2	(Patty's Key, \$73,620)	\$525,982	*92	2	0.69	1.09
22	MORE SMOKE (02, Smoke Glacken), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$1,500	20/13	1/1	1/1	(Raging Smoke, \$99,480)	\$490,734	46	1	1.05	1.26
23	FORMAL DINNER (88, Well Decorated)	N/A	29/13	1/3	1/1	(Cavir N Champagne, \$184,640)	\$483,985	*639	25	1.08	1.10
24	GOT THE LAST LAUGH (04, Distorted Humor), Diamond B Farm	\$2,500	19/13	0/0	0/0	(Infinity of Humor, \$93,551)	\$483,240	31	0	1.24	1.22
25	AISLE (99, Pulpit), Whirlwind Stables	\$1,000	23/14	0/0	0/0	(Kohl, \$75,420)	\$455,451	81	0	0.84	0.79
26	SNOW RIDGE (98, Tabasco Cat)	Died, 2012	30/17	1/1	0/1	(One Diego, \$48,657)	\$389,366	*284	8	1.00	1.16
27	¶ BULLSBAY (04, Tiznow), Northview PA	\$3,000	9/4	1/2	1/1	(Miss Bullistic, \$161,620)	\$357,325	21	1	1.91	1.01
28	BARBICAN (03, A.P. Indy)	Died, 2011	12/9	0/0	0/0	(Tastefully Simple, \$128,906)	\$341,758	25	0	1.05	1.01
29	PURE PRECISION (99, Montbrook), Blackstone Farm	\$1,000	24/11	1/1	0/1	(Tightend Touchdown, \$155,500)	\$331,965	159	3	1.13	1.01
30	SOUTHERN SUCCESS (03, Dixieland Band), Dana Point Farm, PA	\$1,000	16/10	0/0	0/0	(Golden Success, \$54,636)	\$298,991	43	0	1.12	1.10
31	INVISIBLE INK (98, Thunder Gulch)	Died, 2011	16/9	0/0	0/0	(Prince of Time, \$56,239)	\$284,856	*109	5	0.88	1.22
32	SENIOR SWINGER (00, El Prado), Diamond B Farm	\$2,000	28/9	1/0	0/1	(Only One for Me, \$48,400)	\$281,418	71	1	0.46	0.97
33	POWER BY FAR (95, Power of Mind), Castle Rock Farm	\$1,500	13/5	0/0	0/0	(Nibiru's Return, \$58,780)	\$269,814	107	1	1.21	1.19
34	CITY SHARPSTER (99, Carson City), Woodvale Farm	\$1,000	22/10	0/0	0/0	(Poderosa, \$69,985)	\$265,512	46	0	0.60	0.75
35	MONBA (05, Maria's Mon), Penn Ridge Farms	\$4,000	21/5	0/0	0/0	(Supermon, \$46,390)	\$250,038	43	0	0.53	1.47
36	CAPITANO (01, Belong to Me), Fox Tale Stud	\$1,500	12/6	0/0	0/0	(Eight Dancers, \$71,624)	\$231,894	26	0	0.66	1.17
37	REVIVAL SONG (01, Unbridled's Song), Woodvale Farm	\$500	16/8	0/0	0/0	(Plebeyo, \$41,558)	\$199,126	34	0	0.65	0.89
38	LYRACIST (96, Sultry Song), Mouse House Farm	\$1,500	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Modest Mouse, \$100,686)	\$159,312	22	0	0.84	0.64
39	STONECOLD BROKE (98, Unbridled), Hope Hill Farm	\$1,000	11/6	0/0	0/0	(Billy Badpay, \$84,546)	\$155,070	49	0	0.51	1.16
40	COASTAL STORM (99, Storm Cat)	N/A	8/3	0/0	0/0	(Shannameh, \$42,292)	\$152,614	137	3	1.08	0.85
41	TEKKEN (IRE) (94, Nureyev), Lojeski Farms	\$1,500	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Picadilly Pete, \$54,236)	\$142,649	42	1	1.28	1.25
42	SHOW TUNE (04, Unbridled's Song), Safe Haven Equine	\$500	12/5	0/0	0/0	(Candy Tunes, \$42,158)	\$138,086	45	0	0.61	1.03
43	GOULDINGS GREEN (01, Charismatic), Mohns Hill Farm	\$2,000	6/3	0/0	0/0	(La Mala, \$29,450)	\$104,944	18	0	0.61	1.47
44	BAND IS PASSING (96, Pass the Line)	N/A	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Wild Songstress, \$42,089)	\$103,394	33	0	0.64	0.89
45	CETEWAYO (94, His Majesty), Godstone Farm	Private	17/4	0/0	0/0	(Princess Magogo, \$18,256)	\$102,500	78	1	0.61	1.00

kind in the country. For calendar year 2014, VLTs poured \$5.79 million into that fund, according to statistics from the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency, up from \$4.1 million in 2013.

Breeder bonuses jumped from nearly \$1.96 million in 2013 to almost \$2.9 million in 2014, according to figures provided by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

In the summer of 2016, the highly anticipated MGM National Harbor resort and casino is expected to open in Prince George's County with 3,600 VLT ma-

## 2014 PENNSYLVANIA SIRES BY WINNERS

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs	Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Rockport Harbor	204	115	Love of Money	46	20
Corinthian	214	96	Weigelia	36	20
Jump Start	153	90	Talent Search	33	19
Silver Train	153	84	Sir Shackleton	33	18
Smarty Jones	104	54	Partner's Hero	47	17
Fairbanks	82	48	Activist	41	17
Wiseman's Ferry	64	34	Lite the Fuse	32	17
Medallist	60	34	Snow Ridge	30	17
Trajectory	48	32	Delaware Township	35	16
Gimmeawink	50	29	Rimrod	30	16
Albert the Great	51	28	Aisle	23	14
Real Quiet	43	25			

### 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 31, 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 pure 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.

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# 2014 LEADING SIRE IN NEW YORK

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)	2014 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>FREUD</b> (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York	\$10,000	161/78	5/9	3/5	(Lubash, \$311,720)	<b>\$4,505,272</b>	*734	39	1.71	1.28
2	<b>POSSE</b> (00, Silver Deputy), Rockridge Stud	\$5,000	159/93	8/9	7/8	(The Lewis Dinner, \$229,500)	<b>\$4,325,697</b>	*566	26	1.39	1.37
3	<b>BIG BROWN</b> (05, Boundary), Dutchess Views Farm	\$8,500	138/74	11/13	0/11	(Dortmund, \$359,400)	<b>\$4,210,556</b>	*338	14	1.33	1.87
4	<b>NOBLE CAUSEWAY</b> (02, Giant's Causeway)	Died, 2014	98/50	3/4	0/3	(Samraat, \$745,000)	<b>\$2,320,408</b>	203	6	0.85	1.08
5	<b>CONGAREE</b> (98, Arazi), Saratoga Stud	\$7,500	68/33	3/6	0/3	(Don't Tell Sophia, \$909,597)	<b>\$2,170,083</b>	*313	15	1.37	1.47
6	<b>DISCO RICO</b> (97, Citidancer), Keane Stud Operations	Died, 2014	53/31	3/3	3/3	(Marriedtothemusic, \$193,725)	<b>\$2,067,490</b>	243	11	1.36	1.22
7	<b>STONESIDER</b> (03, Giant's Causeway), Saratoga Stud	\$3,500	74/35	2/4	1/2	(Galiana, \$221,531)	<b>\$1,972,034</b>	*171	3	1.18	1.22
8	<b>BOB AND JOHN</b> (03, Seeking the Gold), Saratoga Stud	\$6,000	93/46	1/1	0/1	(Jonrah, \$123,214)	<b>\$1,596,304</b>	*179	8	0.97	1.40
9	<b>CATIENUS</b> (94, Storm Cat), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	84/47	1/0	0/1	(Jcs American Dream, \$134,516)	<b>\$1,376,120</b>	*535	26	1.13	1.27
10	<b>FROST GIANT</b> (03, Giant's Causeway), Keane Stud Operations	\$10,000	44/25	1/1	1/1	(Loki's Vengeance, \$128,459)	<b>\$1,286,782</b>	*129	5	1.92	1.16
11	<b>BUSTIN STONES</b> (04, City Zip), Waldorf Farm	\$5,000	41/23	2/2	1/2	(Hot Stones, \$232,339)	<b>\$1,122,808</b>	72	2	1.37	1.49
12	<b>HERE'S ZEALOUS</b> (97, Dehere), Kaz Hill Farm	\$1,000	58/27	0/0	0/0	(Here's Zealicious, \$192,494)	<b>\$1,088,296</b>	174	0	0.84	0.97
13	<b>GOLDEN MISSILE</b> (95, A.P. Indy), Milfer Farm	\$3,500	62/28	0/0	0/0	(Estrada's Girl, \$141,334)	<b>\$985,593</b>	*620	15	1.05	1.54
14	<b>THE CLIFF'S EDGE</b> (01, Gulch), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	51/27	1/1	0/1	(Frazil, \$108,318)	<b>\$668,111</b>	229	5	0.84	1.20
15	<b>TEUFLESBERG</b> (04, Johannesburg), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	34/18	0/0	0/0	(Good Bye Greg, \$63,766)	<b>\$633,700</b>	70	4	1.79	1.19
16	<b>CONGRESSIONALHONOR</b> (01, Forestry), Sandy Way Farm	\$2,500	37/11	1/1	1/1	(Merry's Honor, \$77,760)	<b>\$570,735</b>	161	1	0.68	0.95
17	<b>LEWIS MICHAEL</b> (03, Rahy), Questroyal North	\$2,500	41/21	1/1	0/1	(Los Bambinos, \$97,950)	<b>\$564,326</b>	77	2	0.78	1.17
18	<b>MR. SEKIGUCHI</b> (03, Storm Cat), Mole's Hill Farm	\$2,500	35/18	0/0	0/0	(Little Daniella, \$47,225)	<b>\$538,590</b>	*86	1	0.87	1.28
19	<b>¶ DESERT PARTY</b> (06, Street Cry), Sequel Stallions New York	\$7,500	38/9	2/2	1/2	(Heart's Song, \$138,910)	<b>\$474,780</b>	71	2	0.73	1.49
20	<b>COSMONAUT</b> (02, Lemon Drop Kid), Saratoga Stud	\$5,000	25/9	1/1	1/1	(Selenite, \$124,676)	<b>\$458,583</b>	45	1	1.02	1.12
21	<b>ELTISH</b> (92, Cox's Ridge)	Died, 2012	28/17	0/0	0/0	(Gingee, \$64,930)	<b>\$403,672</b>	308	13	1.16	1.26
22	<b>ALEX'S PAL</b> (99, Valid Expectations)	N/A	19/8	0/0	0/0	(My Pal Chrisy, \$105,000)	<b>\$392,740</b>	88	2	1.28	0.95
23	<b>SAY FLORIDA SANDY</b> (94, Personal Flag)	Pnsd	22/9	0/0	0/0	(Say Mr. Sandman, \$59,840)	<b>\$295,707</b>	*189	1	0.80	1.12
24	<b>¶ MUSKET MAN</b> (06, Yonaguskaj), Waldorf Farm	\$2,500	7/3	1/1	1/1	(Ostrolenka, \$187,292)	<b>\$231,364</b>	15	1	1.59	1.11
25	<b>NORTHERN SPUR (IRE)</b> (91, Sadler's Wells)	Pnsd	9/7	0/0	0/0	(Chilton, \$116,650)	<b>\$214,276</b>	99	4	1.17	1.16
26	<b>UNCLE CAMIE</b> (00, Abaginone)	Died, 2012	7/1	1/1	1/1	(Uncle Southern, \$153,150)	<b>\$171,674</b>	27	1	0.88	0.78
27	<b>¶ DR LARGE</b> (06, A.P. Indy), Banahan Farms	\$2,500	2/1	1/2	1/1	(Spooled, \$135,288)	<b>\$143,954</b>	8	1	3.46	0.78
28	<b>GRIFFINITE</b> (98, Unbridled's Song)	N/A	14/7	0/0	0/0	(Canela Rose, \$29,137)	<b>\$127,122</b>	66	0	0.60	0.89

## 2014 NEW YORK SIRE BY WINNERS

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Posse	159	93
Freud	161	78
Big Brown	138	74
Noble Causeway	98	50
Catienus	84	47
Bob and John	93	46
Stonesider	74	35
Congaree	68	33
Disco Rico	53	31
Golden Missile	62	28
Here's Zealous	58	27
The Cliff's Edge	51	27
Frost Giant	44	25
Bustin Stones	41	23
Lewis Michael	41	21
Mr. Sekiguchi	35	18
Teufflesberg	34	18
Eltish	28	17
Congressionalhonor	37	11
Desert Party	38	9
Cosmonaut	25	9
Say Florida Sandy	22	9
Alex's Pal	19	8
Griffinite	14	7
Northern Spur (IRE)	9	7
Musket Man	7	3
Smart Alert	7	3
Harlem Rocker	4	3

chines. A Maryland Racing Commission report projected VLT funding of the horse racing purse dedication account to jump from \$38.6 million in 2014 to \$81.1 million in fiscal 2017, although Quade said, based on current VLT income reports, that number will be hard to reach.

There were apprehension and tugs of war during the implementation of the program, according to Bowman, as stakeholders argued whether it was right to pay bonuses at the lowest levels of racing as well as whether to begin conducting restricted racing for state-breds, but the program was voted through.

Bullish optimism hasn't been this high in years.

"What's neat about the program is, if you have a Maryland-sired Maryland-bred, you get a 40% breeder bonus—or 30% with an out-of-town sire," Mike Pons said. "You're going to get a 30% owner bonus for a Maryland-bred, so you can have a homebred and get 70% plus the purse. You're like running for 125% of the purse, and it's on every race."

On selling this prospect to clients, Mike Pons said, "It's like the birds at the bird feeder: You put the bird feed out there, and they start pecking it up and saying, 'This is pretty good stuff!'"

The results have been nearly imme-

diately: After years of decline, 19 new stallions took up residence in Maryland in 2014. The 751 mares bred during the year may not seem like a lot when compared with the 16,826 bred in Kentucky or the 1,614 bred in New York, but it represents a 16.1% increase from 647 mares in 2013 and is 203 more than the 548 bred in 2011, when the industry hit rock-bottom.

That increase is the largest among any other breeding state in the country in the past year.

"The nice thing about Maryland is the infrastructure pretty much stayed in place," Mike Pons said. "Real good veterinarians, the feed guys, the race-tracks—what we lacked were dollars, purse money, breed-fund money. All of a sudden, now that it's coming back again, it's like having an engine and you're putting high-octane fuel in it."

Country Life is standing four new stallions—Friesan Fire, Cal Nation, Freedom Child, and Super Ninety Nine.

Freedom Child (stud fee \$3,000), like Super Ninety Nine, is owned in partnership with Spendthrift Farm. He is the first son of Malibu Moon to stand in Maryland, and, according to The Jockey Club statistics, led the state with 81 mares bred in 2014. Friesan Fire was second at 64.

Cal Nation is owned in partnership with WinStar Farm and Friesan Fire in



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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	<b>LIMEHOUSE</b> (01, Grand Slam), O'Sullivan Farms	\$3,500	113/72	3/8	0/3	(Alonso, \$165,057)	<b>\$2,776,643</b>	*336	19	1.25	1.24
2	<b>BROTHER DEREK</b> (03, Benchmark), Naylee Farm	\$3,500	61/42	4/5	0/4	(Zee Bros, \$318,666)	<b>\$1,840,817</b>	*96	4	1.29	1.24
3	<b>WINDSOR CASTLE</b> (98, Lord Carson), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$3,500	81/45	4/8	4/4	(Down Town Allen, \$236,760)	<b>\$1,752,415</b>	213	11	1.17	1.09
4	<b>BOP</b> (97, Rahy)	Died, 2012	57/31	0/0	0/0	(Pepper Bay, \$72,016)	<b>\$1,002,564</b>	*185	5	0.99	0.90
5	<b>LUFTIKUS</b> (96, Meadowlake), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$750	58/31	1/1	1/1	(Joanne Elizabeth, \$88,445)	<b>\$873,571</b>	274	9	1.00	1.11
6	<b>FIBER SONDE</b> (05, Unbridled's Song), Beau Ridge Farm	\$1,000	23/17	2/2	2/2	(Cat Thats Grey, \$103,108)	<b>\$700,072</b>	44	3	1.42	0.77
7	<b>FOREST GROVE</b> (01, Forestry), Naylee Farm	\$1,500	28/16	1/1	0/1	(Miss Layla, \$63,579)	<b>\$486,053</b>	100	3	0.91	1.23
8	<b>REPARATIONS</b> (96, Forty Niner), Blue Spruce Farm	\$1,500	39/15	0/0	0/0	(Allegheny Jack, \$80,667)	<b>\$469,386</b>	126	3	0.99	0.82
9	<b>MEDFORD</b> (95, Meadowlake)	Pnsd	18/12	1/1	1/1	(Perfect Cross, \$73,151)	<b>\$366,551</b>	89	2	0.69	0.81
10	<b>YARROW BRAE</b> (95, Deputy Minister), O'Sullivan Farms	\$750	21/13	0/0	0/0	(Margaret High, \$66,900)	<b>\$345,646</b>	286	10	1.12	1.00
11	<b>PEAK DANCER</b> (97, Mt. Livermore), Householder Farm	Private	30/9	0/0	0/0	(Here Am I, \$39,166)	<b>\$334,241</b>	67	4	1.04	0.91
12	<b>PRIZED</b> (86, Kris S.)	Died, 2014	23/13	0/0	0/0	(Barcelona Baby, \$43,645)	<b>\$298,577</b>	*752	30	1.36	1.31
13	<b>GHOSTLY MINISTER</b> (97, Deputy Minister), Buckstud	\$2,500	22/8	0/0	0/0	(Bear's Lucky Lady, \$41,996)	<b>\$232,154</b>	65	1	0.93	0.97
14	<b>DURING</b> (00, Cherokee Run), O'Sullivan Farms	\$1,500	18/8	0/0	0/0	(Hampton Bays Sun, \$62,560)	<b>\$213,646</b>	165	4	0.84	1.14
15	<b>CHARITABLE MAN</b> (06, Lemon Drop Kid), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$3,500	12/5	0/0	0/0	(One More Time, \$83,632)	<b>\$210,812</b>	36	0	0.85	1.22
16	<b>ADMIRALTY ARCH</b> (00, Arch)	Died, 2012	8/4	0/0	0/0	(Little Big Sime, \$120,726)	<b>\$203,254</b>	15	0	0.75	0.41
17	<b>DENIS OF CORK</b> (05, Harlan's Holiday), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$3,500	17/8	0/0	0/0	(Wild Faith, \$30,122)	<b>\$187,032</b>	35	0	0.68	1.31
18	<b>FEAR THE CAPE</b> (01, Cape Town), Blue Spruce Farm	\$1,500	13/7	0/0	0/0	(Fearless Angel, \$63,600)	<b>\$186,420</b>	29	1	1.04	0.87
19	<b>REAL ESTATE</b> (04, High Yield), Flamingo Run Farm	Private	12/5	0/0	0/0	(Emblem's Estate, \$46,022)	<b>\$170,819</b>	27	0	0.65	0.86
20	<b>DEPUTY ROKEBY</b> (01, Deputy Minister), Blue Spruce Farm	\$1,000	10/4	0/0	0/0	(J. J.'s Local Law, \$33,298)	<b>\$148,190</b>	*33	0	0.59	0.85
21	<b>XCHANGER</b> (04, Exchange Rate), O'Sullivan Farms	\$500	13/6	0/0	0/0	(World Changer, \$37,993)	<b>\$139,886</b>	44	0	0.34	1.17
22	<b>GARNERED</b> (98, Holy Bull), Naylee Farm	\$1,000	16/5	0/0	0/0	(Sydney's Astral Hat, \$36,825)	<b>\$131,345</b>	79	0	0.66	0.74
23	<b>TIDAL WAVE</b> (00, Stormy Atlantic)	N/A	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Rip Current, \$76,095)	<b>\$131,019</b>	9	0	1.07	0.50
24	<b>MESOPOTAMIA</b> (93, Deputy Minister), Matilda Bay Farm	N/A	9/5	0/0	0/0	(Allegheny Shine, \$39,898)	<b>\$126,655</b>	106	2	0.71	0.98
25	<b>CIVILISATION</b> (98, Gone West), Naylee Farm	\$1,000	7/4	0/0	0/0	(Shenandoah Grand, \$72,150)	<b>\$116,591</b>	166	0	0.60	0.70
26	<b>GRAND RESERVE</b> (02, Theatrical), One Sparrow Farm	\$1,000	13/4	0/0	0/0	(Mighty Grand, \$42,360)	<b>\$101,121</b>	29	0	0.38	0.78



ELEN PONS

The breeding numbers are improving in Maryland; 751 mares were covered in 2014

partnership with Rick Porter and Vinery Farm.

Mike Pons said Country Life wanted to partner with major Kentucky farms that would then have a vested interest in the success of the stallions.

"I didn't want just a horse, somebody to ring a doorbell and leave him on my doorstep," he said. "I wanted somebody who loved the horse and who would put money up and their mares up to help us, and that's what they've done for us, which is a huge thing."

Mike Pons said that one of the strengths of the Maryland breeding in-

dustry is its relatively modest requirements to register a horse as a Maryland-bred.

"There's no domiciling rules; there are no horse police here; you don't have to be here Oct. 1 to be a registered Maryland-bred," he said. "You have to foal here, and you've got either to be bookended—the foal has to be by a Maryland sire or (your mare has) to be bred back to be a registered Maryland-bred. In any other state—New York, Pennsylvania—you have to be there a minimum of 90 days, 120 days, six

*Continued on page 48*

## 2014 WEST VIRGINIA SIRES BY WINNERS

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Limehouse	113	72
Windsor Castle	81	45
Brother Derek	61	42
Lufikus	58	31
Bop	57	31
Fiber Sonde	23	17
Forest Grove	28	16
Reparations	39	15
Prized	23	13
Yarrow Brae	21	13
Medford	18	12
Peak Dancer	30	9
Ghostly Minister	22	8
During	18	8
Denis of Cork	17	8
Fear the Cape	13	7
Xchanger	13	6
Pride of Burkaan	19	5
Garnered	16	5
Charitable Man	12	5
Real Estate	12	5
Mesopotamia	9	5
Grand Reserve	13	4
Gunnarside	11	4
Deputy Rokeby	10	4
Green Goblin	9	4
Prints of Peace	9	4
Admiralty Arch	8	4
Civilisation	7	4
Country Only	14	3
On Eagles Wings	8	3
Castine	6	3
Classy E. T.	6	3
Stored	6	3
Evangelism	4	3

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# 2014 LEADING SIRE 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	<b>NOT FOR LOVE</b> (90, Mr. Prospector), Northview Stallion Station	\$15,000	113/60	7/9	4/7	(Steady N Love, \$169,225)	<b>\$3,275,016</b>	888	79	1.71	1.45
2	<b>ORIENTATE</b> (98, Mt. Livermore), Northview Stallion Station	\$5,000	136/79	2/2	1/2	(Declassify, \$192,500)	<b>\$2,375,680</b>	*736	40	1.30	1.75
3	<b>LION HEARTED</b> (96, Storm Cat), Northview Stallion Station	\$2,500	94/45	1/1	1/1	(Spotted Heart, \$122,470)	<b>\$1,752,966</b>	*577	21	1.22	1.30
4	<b>DANCE WITH RAVENS</b> (02, A.P. Indy), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,000	89/49	1/1	1/1	(Dancing Roy, \$89,180)	<b>\$1,704,384</b>	303	10	1.18	1.48
5	<b>GIACOMO</b> (02, Holy Bull), Heritage Stallions	\$3,500	106/48	2/2	1/2	(Classic Giacroll, \$207,060)	<b>\$1,700,144</b>	*259	15	1.12	1.28
6	<b>PETIONVILLE</b> (92, Seeking the Gold), Murmur Farm	\$5,000	75/43	3/4	1/3	(Caribbean Cowboy, \$141,356)	<b>\$1,527,211</b>	*661	49	1.33	1.28
7	<b>GREAT NOTION</b> (00, Elusive Quality), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,500	49/23	3/3	2/3	(Talk Show Man, \$162,211)	<b>\$1,431,016</b>	162	11	1.60	1.22
8	<b>LOUIS QUATORZE</b> (93, Sovereign Dancer), Murmur Farm	\$2,500	59/23	1/3	0/1	(Ribo Bobo, \$238,167)	<b>\$1,342,935</b>	*945	24	1.15	1.34
9	<b>OUTFLANKER</b> (94, Danzig), Shamrock Farm	\$3,000	56/29	2/2	1/2	(Joint Custody, \$91,425)	<b>\$1,261,699</b>	*506	24	1.40	1.15
10	<b>SCIPION</b> (02, A.P. Indy), Murmur Farm	\$2,500	50/30	1/2	1/1	(Speed Is Life, \$117,670)	<b>\$1,081,719</b>	97	3	1.14	1.05
11	<b>ROCK SLIDE</b> (98, A.P. Indy), Shamrock Farm	\$2,000	53/26	1/1	0/1	(Rockinontheater, \$89,095)	<b>\$938,338</b>	251	8	1.02	1.21
12	<b>TWO PUNCH</b> (83, Mr. Prospector)	Died, 2011	57/23	0/0	0/0	(Coco Punch, \$110,457)	<b>\$863,615</b>	*1103	56	1.42	1.40
13	<b>GATORS N BEARS</b> (00, Stormy Atlantic)	Died, 2012	40/15	2/2	1/2	(Bear Access, \$103,860)	<b>\$771,159</b>	150	6	1.05	1.19
14	<b>CHEROKEE'S BOY</b> (00, Citidancer), Murmur Farm	\$2,000	30/18	0/0	0/0	(Imanindianoutlaw, \$81,568)	<b>\$688,052</b>	83	1	1.20	1.05
15	<b>SHOWING UP</b> (03, Strategic Mission)	N/A	43/17	1/1	0/1	(Hey Bud, \$56,628)	<b>\$493,211</b>	*100	3	0.70	1.48
16	<b>GREEK SUN</b> (01, Danzig), Marathon Farm	Private	15/8	0/0	0/0	(Exclusively Greek, \$73,168)	<b>\$384,111</b>	32	0	1.00	1.16
17	<b>STREET MAGICIAN</b> (04, Street Cry), Heritage Stallions	\$3,000	15/5	2/2	2/2	(Rockin Jojo, \$101,050)	<b>\$288,567</b>	36	2	0.93	1.18
18	<b>RUSH BAY</b> (02, Cozzene)	Died, 2012	14/6	0/0	0/0	(Pearl Bay, \$111,100)	<b>\$206,154</b>	18	0	0.72	1.12
19	<b>GO FOR GIN</b> (91, Cormorant)	Pnsd	18/5	0/0	0/0	(Donna's Girl, \$47,552)	<b>\$193,243</b>	*400	14	1.24	1.40
20	<b>MOJAVE MOON</b> (96, Mr. Prospector), Bonita Farm	Private	8/3	1/0	0/1	(Mo Bagels, \$95,894)	<b>\$165,352</b>	188	5	0.82	1.17
21	<b>M EIGHTY</b> (99, Lite the Fuse), Shamrock Farm	Private	5/5	0/0	0/0	(Italian Delight, \$45,660)	<b>\$159,718</b>	13	0	1.33	0.89
22	<b>LA REINE'S TERMS</b> (95, Private Terms), Glade Valley Farms	\$1,000	6/2	0/0	0/0	(La Reine's Wager, \$64,990)	<b>\$100,810</b>	22	0	0.56	1.30
23	<b>FLEET FOOT</b> (98, Gone West), William's Grove Farm	Private	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Looking for Lucky, \$28,910)	<b>\$38,850</b>	50	0	0.63	1.01
24	<b>MR. SHOPLIFTER</b> (99, Devil's Bag)	N/A	4/1	0/0	0/0	(El Pichon, \$22,094)	<b>\$35,220</b>	20	0	0.39	0.82
25	<b>NARRATIVE (IRE)</b> (98, Sadler's Wells), Willow Oaks Farm	Private	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Perfect Partner, \$30,362)	<b>\$31,862</b>	*83	0	0.83	0.85
26	<b>SELL THE FARM</b> (94, Kipper Kelly)	N/A	3/0	0/0	0/0	(Sweet Sophie, \$15,555)	<b>\$23,287</b>	4	0	0.17	0.23
27	<b>PURPLE PASSION</b> (94, Northern Raja)	Died, 2012	2/1	0/0	0/0	(License to Cary, \$16,990)	<b>\$21,298</b>	57	0	0.81	0.74
28	<b>PULVERIZING</b> (86, Well Decorated)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(My African Nurses, \$21,068)	<b>\$21,068</b>	27	0	0.69	0.87
29	<b>YADA BOY</b> (01, Pentelicus)	N/A	2/0	0/0	0/0	(Yada Deee, \$10,595)	<b>\$13,869</b>	8	0	0.33	0.18
30	<b>UNBRIDLED MATE</b> (00, Unbridled's Song), Royal Wux Farm	\$1,500	4/0	0/0	0/0	(Jo Way Java, \$8,210)	<b>\$10,190</b>	13	0	0.21	0.56

## 2014 MARYLAND SIRE BY STAKES WINNERS

Sire	Stakes Winners	Stakes Wins
Not For Love	7	9
Petionville	3	4
Great Notion	3	3
Gators N Bears	2	2
Giacomo	2	2
Orientate	2	2
Outflanker	2	2
Street Magician	2	2
Louis Quatorze	1	3
Scipion	1	2

Continued from page 44

months, year-round, whatever, to be included in the program.

"The guys in Kentucky can ship up, foal their mares, and bring them back to the stallions they have here. What will happen is, when those babies get sold or whatever happens, they'll all come back here to race because the money's too good."

Breeder Barbara Wheeler, who operates farms in both Maryland and Pennsylvania with her husband, Chip, believes Maryland needs to be careful about not having a domicile rule because out-of-state broodmare owners could take advantage without truly supporting the industry other than



Northview Stallion Station's Richard Golden through the stallions.

"Pennsylvania had it (no domicile rule) at the onset of its gaming involvement," Wheeler said. "People would foal out and literally put them right on the trailer and send them back home. I don't know anybody who did that, personally, but that's why they have the domicile requirement."

"Maryland has to protect those funds for people who are truly supporting its



The breeding shed at Northview Stallion Station

program. The last thing it should want is to have its money taken away from someone in Kentucky or Louisiana because they foaled in Maryland. That would be a hard pill to swallow."

Mike Pons, though, said the mare boarding business has been coming back at Country Life, and he's heard the same thing from Murmur Farm and Bonita Farm.

Bowman, meantime, partnered with his son, Brooke, and Louis Meryman, to open Heritage Stallions near Chesapeake City in 2014, on part of the property of the old Windfields Farm, where Northern Dancer and Halo once stood.

Heritage stands Despite the Odds,



## D' FUNNYBONE

By *D'wildcat* • \$2,500 LF  
Five-time GSW, 1st crop yearlings  
for \$90,000, \$85,000, etc.



## GIANT SURPRISE

By *Giant's Causeway* • \$2,500 LF  
Impressive Saratoga debut winner.  
1st crop yearlings to \$55,000.



## HONORABLE DILLON

By *Tapit* • \$5,000 LF  
Hutcheson S.-G2 winner in 2013  
by Leading Sire TAPIT

# STALLIONS 2015



## POSSE

By *Silver Deputy* • \$5,000 LF  
Perennial Leading Sire in NY,  
Eight 2014 SWs, including FOUR 2YOs



## SOARING EMPIRE

By *Empire Maker* • \$3,500 LF  
Won/placed in Six Graded stakes.  
Family of VERRAZANO, etc.



## TRINNIBERG

By *Teuflesberg* • \$7,500 LF  
Eclipse Champion Sprinter  
Won Breeders' Cup Sprint-G1, etc.



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# 2014 LEADING SIRES IN NEW JERSEY

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	2014 Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>DEFERRE</b> (92, Deputy Minister), Wainford Stud	\$2,000	46/23	1/1	1/1	(Maybe Tonight, \$125,590)	<b>\$972,524</b>	*575	23	1.24	1.18
2	<b>DON SIX</b> (00, Wild Escapade), Greenfields Farm	Private	31/17	0/0	0/0	(Saucy Don, \$87,665)	<b>\$624,407</b>	72	2	1.19	1.21
3	<b>HEY CHUB</b> (00, Carson City), Joe-Dan Farm	\$2,000	10/9	0/0	0/0	(Chubbianna, \$116,300)	<b>\$458,710</b>	17	0	2.01	1.70
4	<b>MO MON</b> (98, Maria's Mon)	Died, 2011	33/10	0/0	0/0	(Mo Didn't Know, \$49,691)	<b>\$379,424</b>	122	3	0.74	1.15
5	<b>UNBRIDLED JET</b> (96, Unbridled)	Died, 2011	17/8	1/1	1/1	(O K Lefty, \$94,266)	<b>\$348,391</b>	*257	10	1.04	1.22
6	<b>PARK AVENUE BALL</b> (02, Citidancer), Colonial Farms	\$1,000	16/8	0/0	0/0	(Park Avenue Appeal, \$50,390)	<b>\$232,479</b>	32	0	0.66	1.35
7	<b>CABLE BOY</b> (04, Jump Start), Colonial Farms	\$1,000	6/2	0/0	0/0	(She's Hot Wired, \$106,736)	<b>\$200,407</b>	11	0	1.14	0.98
8	<b>PRIVATE INTERVIEW</b> (92, Nureyev), Colonial Farms	\$1,000	13/4	0/0	0/0	(Lakota Brave, \$41,324)	<b>\$155,906</b>	222	4	1.08	1.22
9	<b>COZY DELL</b> (97, Cozzene), Hidden Acres 4-D Farm	\$500	2/2	0/0	0/0	(Kylie's Cozy Kid, \$88,675)	<b>\$135,525</b>	8	0	1.71	0.90

Giacomo, Plan, Street Magician, Tritap, and Seville, who is the first Galileo stallion in the state.

Bowman, 72, has spent his life working in Maryland, and was a former partner at Northview Stallion Station, the leading stud farm in the state.

When Northview expanded into Pennsylvania in 2007, Bowman was at pains to say they weren't abandoning Maryland, just taking advantage of a business opportunity.

"It made sense, business-wise, because Maryland was in dire straits," he said. "So, I'd be lying to say I disagreed with the move, because that wouldn't be true, but I was torn because of my affinity for the state of Maryland and everything I had invested in. I didn't care how successful Pennsylvania was; I didn't want Maryland to lose at the expense of any other state."

Like Country Life, Heritage is launching stallions in partnership: Street Magician and Despite the Odds with Larry Johnson, and Plan and Giacomo with Adena Springs. Bowman has his highest hopes for Seville, who won or placed in group I races in four different countries.

Heritage is syndicating the stallion, selling 40 shares for \$15,000 apiece.

"I can't remember the last time anybody fully syndicated a horse in the state of Maryland," Bowman said. "Since we announced that we were getting a son of Galileo, there have been four of them coming to Kentucky. I think we accurately gauged the pulse of the people. We've still got to do some convincing."

Bowman doesn't expect a return to the glory days of Northern Dancer and Native Dancer,



Not For Love, perennial leading sire in Maryland

COURTESY NORTHVIEW STALLION STATION

but he believes strongly enough in the industry to take a shot with Heritage.

"How disingenuous would it be for me to head up a task force to create a new wave of enthusiasm in Maryland and sort of turn my back on it myself?" he asked.

If the momentum continues, as expected, several issues are in the offing: One is whether the racing programs at Laurel Park and Pimlico should include races restricted to Maryland-breds. Presently, the only restricted events are Maryland Bred Fund stakes races and the sire stakes of the Maryland Million.

"It is quite obvious how Maryland's larger purses are attracting more and more horses from other states," said Richard Golden, president of Northview, which stands the venerable 25-year-old Not For Love, Maryland's all-time leading sire. "Our objective should be to stay focused on keeping as

much of this Maryland-created purse money and bonus money in the state of Maryland through restricted races."

Another issue is whether a regional program should be developed.

Discussions are under way among various tracks' managements, after years of stops and starts, to create a Mid-Atlantic racing circuit. Stronach Group COO Tim Ritvo suggested the possibility last November when he announced the replacement of Maryland Jockey Club president Tom Chuckas with Sal Sinatra.

"I think the next step is once they get a circuit for the racing opportunities, then they start a breeders' incentive circuit so you have Mid-Atlantic breds," Goodall said. **BH**



Heritage Stallions opened its breeding shed in 2014

LYDIA WILLIAMS PHOTOS

# MUSKET MAN

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MONEY EARNER BY  
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IN 2014

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MUSKET MAN

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