

# Buckeye State Comes Back

*Breeding is on the upswing in Ohio*

BY TOM LAMARRA



Kim and Lori Williams at their Fair Winds Farm

JON ENGELHARDT

**KIM AND LORI WILLIAMS'** Fair Winds Farm has a long history of standing some of the top stallions in Ohio, including Honey Jay and, more recently, Mercer Mill, a 10-time leading sire in the state.

In 2013 the farm announced it would stand multiple graded stakes winner Kettle Corn (by Candy Ride) under a deal negotiated by Oracle Bloodstock. His initial fee of \$3,000 in 2014 was rather strong for Ohio, where the Thoroughbred breeding program had slumped for years as evidenced by the major indicators: foals, mares bred, stallions, and purse supplements.

Kim Williams, a member of the Ohio Thoroughbred Advi-

sory Committee, marketed Kettle Corn, who in his final season of racing at age 6 finished second in two grade I stakes—the Hollywood Gold Cup Handicap and TVG Pacific Classic Stakes—behind Game On Dude. The results have been good, but Williams tempers it with reality.

“I think he is as well received as he can be in Ohio right now,” he said. “It’s getting better, but not getting better very fast.”

Though it’s doubtful the Ohio Thoroughbred foal crop will ever approach the record numbers of the late 1980s, the increases over the past four years have been substantive for a

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CANADA ILLINOIS INDIANA IOWA MICHIGAN MINNESOTA NEBRASKA NORTH DAKOTA OHIO SOUTH DAKOTA WISCONSIN

state that suffered through decades of declines.

Money drives the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund, which this year is projected to total \$5.79 million in stakes and overnight purses, supplements, and broodmare and stallion awards. The figure is up more than \$200,000 from 2015 and higher than the \$5.78 million in 1990.

The program's proceeds bottomed out at \$1.82 million in 2010, the year before the Ohio legislature and Gov. John Kasich approved racetrack video lottery terminals. It took a few years for purse money to accrue from VLTs, but its impact, at least in terms of the breeding program, is evident.

The Ohio Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders reports there are about 60 stallions registered in the state this year, up from a low of 29 in 2011. The Ohio-registered foal crop in 2014 totaled almost 370, the largest since 420 in 2005, according to The Jockey Club.

Williams, who still stands Mercer Mill at his facility near Waynesville on a private basis, said Kettle Corn, who this year stands for \$2,500, got 29 mares his first year and 27 last year, "pretty big numbers for an Ohio stallion." He noted Sovereign Award winner Mobil, who stands for the same fee at Dr. George Sikora's Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm near Polk, Ohio, was bred to about 45 mares last year.

So the turnaround has begun.

"It has picked up quite a bit," Williams said. "We're kind of a boutique farm with high-end clients, and we've seen an increase. The biggest problem has been the mare pool because it had absolutely gotten down to almost nothing. Right now, we're all fighting for the same mares."

The Ohio State Racing Commission estimates more than 600 registered mares are "eligible to foal" in 2016. Williams and others believe the number needs to double for the foal crop to sustain growth.

"Trying to get mares to the stallions has been the most difficult thing for me," said Robin Murphy, who owns Poplar Creek Horse Center near Bethel, east of Cincinnati.

Poplar Creek is up to 12 stallions this year including Tidal Volume, the only son of national leading sire Tapit to stand in Ohio. He bred the most mares of any other Ohio stallion last year with



Kettle Corn, a son of Candy Ride, stands at Fair Winds

49; the average book in 2015 was eight from a pool of about 50 stallions.

"The number of mares and the quality of mares have increased (this year)," Murphy said. "I've had a lot of calls from people in Kentucky, Michigan, and West Virginia. Owners from nine different states have mares here at Poplar Creek. Some of my stallions aren't getting as many mares, but I'm figuring out what the public is interested in is whoever is fashionable."

Hand Ride Stables, located northwest of Columbus near Dublin, jumped into the stallion business this year. The farm has four including Maimonides, a Vindication horse who sold for \$4.6 million at the Keeneland September yearling sale in 2006.

Daniel Leader, who co-owns Hand Ride Stables with William Francis, said growth in the Ohio breeding program led the farm to add stallions.

"We could see the Ohio program was going to expand, and we thought we could deepen the pedigree pool here a little bit,"

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## 2015 LEADING SIRE IN CANADA

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| Rank | Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands                    | 2016 Stud Fee Can\$ | Rnrs/ Wnrs | Stakes Wnrs/ Wns | Rstrct SW/ BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings)        | 2015 Earnings | Foals | Cumulative |           |            |
|------|--|---------------------|------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|
|      |  |                     |            |                  |                  |                                 |               |       | Stks Wnrs  | A-E Index | Comp Index |
| 1    | OLD FORESTER (01, Forestry), T. C. Westmeath Stud Farm                 | \$4,000             | 137/68     | 3/3              | 3/3              | (Goodoldhockeygame, \$222,611)  | \$3,260,220   | 313   | 10         | 1.44      | 1.60       |
| 2    | WHERE'S THE RING (99, Seeking the Gold), Colebrook Farms Stallion Stn. | \$3,000             | 107/59     | 2/2              | 2/2              | (Tahnee, \$128,823)             | \$2,517,374   | 307   | 8          | 1.35      | 1.41       |
| 3    | MILWAUKEE BREW (97, Wild Again), Adena Springs North                   | \$6,000             | 107/67     | 3/5              | 2/3              | (Kingsport, \$197,666)          | \$2,427,376   | *508  | 24         | 1.21      | 1.52       |
| 4    | GIANT GIZMO (04, Giant's Causeway), Adena Springs North                | \$5,000             | 58/35      | 3/7              | 3/3              | (Amis Gizmo, \$260,233)         | \$2,226,244   | 89    | 4          | 1.89      | 1.60       |
| 5    | SLIGO BAY (IRE) (98, Sadler's Wells), Adena Springs North              | \$7,500             | 90/39      | 1/2              | 0/1              | (Ol Winedrinker Who, \$190,676) | \$1,763,090   | *371  | 10         | 1.22      | 1.42       |
| 6    | BADGE OF SILVER (00, Silver Deputy), Colebrook Farms Stallion Station  | \$2,500             | 80/45      | 1/1              | 0/1              | (Bigger Picture, \$110,885)     | \$1,652,390   | *303  | 10         | 1.18      | 1.37       |
| 7    | SILENT NAME (JPN) (02, Sunday Silence), Adena Springs North            | \$7,500             | 66/26      | 2/3              | 0/2              | (Fanticola, \$300,420)          | \$1,585,538   | *237  | 12         | 1.46      | 1.25       |
| 8    | NIGON (01, Unbridled)  | Died, 2012          | 57/28      | 1/1              | 1/1              | (Seen It All Before, \$123,785) | \$1,556,589   | 177   | 6          | 1.86      | 1.15       |
| 9    | WILKO (02, Awesome Again), Adena Springs North                         | Private             | 58/34      | 2/5              | 0/2              | (Melmich, \$252,774)            | \$1,342,022   | *167  | 5          | 1.15      | 1.14       |
| 10   | STRUT THE STAGE (98, Theatrical), Iron Horse Equine                    | Private             | 34/15      | 1/2              | 0/1              | (Strut the Course, \$333,972)   | \$1,021,069   | 105   | 3          | 1.54      | 1.22       |
| 11   | WANDO (00, Langfuhr)   | Died, 2014          | 39/18      | 1/1              | 1/1              | (Shake Down Baby, \$119,533)    | \$1,006,901   | *153  | 3          | 1.19      | 1.12       |
| 12   | IMPERIALISM (01, Langfuhr), Esquirol Farms                             | \$2,500             | 66/31      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Miss Wilby, \$173,940)         | \$975,621     | 207   | 4          | 0.79      | 0.99       |
| 13   | BOLD EXECUTIVE (84, Bold Ruckus)                                       | Died, 2011          | 55/27      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Super Colerosa, \$77,799)      | \$959,007     | 805   | 45         | 1.61      | 1.28       |
| 14   | NORTH LIGHT (IRE) (01, Danehill), Adena Springs North                  | Private             | 62/29      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Artic North, \$77,583)         | \$887,639     | *326  | 8          | 1.03      | 1.54       |
| 15   | OMEGA CODE (00, Elusive Quality), Peaceful Valley Farms                | \$2,000             | 47/28      | 1/1              | 1/1              | (Zeta Zody, \$158,258)          | \$829,267     | 306   | 9          | 0.70      | 1.24       |
| 16   | ROSBERG (01, A.P. Indy)  | N/A                 | 49/31      | 4/5              | 0/4              | (Lady Rosberg, \$126,400)       | \$780,557     | 71    | 8          | 0.82      | 0.86       |
| 17   | KENTUCKY BEAR (05, Mr. Greeley), Curraghmore Farm                      | \$2,500             | 19/13      | 2/2              | 2/2              | (Bear's Pride, \$140,219)       | \$757,337     | 33    | 2          | 1.60      | 1.35       |
| 18   | SECOND IN COMMAND (00, Silver Deputy), Road's End Farm                 | \$2,000             | 42/28      | 2/3              | 0/2              | (Two Pump, \$70,560)            | \$706,789     | 75    | 5          | 0.78      | 0.79       |
| 19   | OLMODAVOR (99, A.P. Indy)  | N/A                 | 55/27      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Persuasive Paul, \$101,297)    | \$695,160     | *261  | 8          | 0.87      | 1.33       |
| 20   | SINGING SAINT (04, El Prado), Adena Springs North                      | Private             | 25/15      | 1/1              | 0/1              | (Harp N Halo, \$129,270)        | \$693,692     | *47   | 1          | 1.18      | 1.01       |
| 21   | FINALITY (99, Dehere), Red Rock Farm                                   | \$2,500             | 53/28      | 2/3              | 1/2              | (Arabella's Muse, \$90,802)     | \$680,057     | 239   | 14         | 0.64      | 0.76       |
| 22   | GOTCHA GOLD (03, Coronado's Quest), Strideawayacres                    | \$2,500             | 54/22      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Hows My Gold, \$55,970)        | \$646,239     | *102  | 0          | 0.81      | 1.39       |
| 23   | NOT BOURBON (05, Not Impossible), Colebrook Farms Stallion Station     | \$5,000             | 31/18      | 1/1              | 1/1              | (Conquest Strate Up, \$134,535) | \$641,595     | 45    | 1          | 1.09      | 1.33       |
| 24   | CAPE CANAVERAL (96, Mr. Prospector), Highfield Stock Farm              | \$3,000             | 55/33      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Queenoftheforest, \$61,220)    | \$597,332     | 412   | 20         | 1.01      | 1.21       |
| 25   | ¶ SOCIETY'S CHAIRMAN (03, Not Impossible), Shannondoe Farm             | \$5,000             | 7/3        | 3/7              | 2/3              | (Caren, \$340,818)              | \$555,365     | 17    | 3          | 4.74      | 1.11       |
| 26   | SAFFIR (02, Unbridled)   | N/A                 | 28/12      | 1/1              | 1/1              | (Galina Point, \$161,476)       | \$545,094     | 70    | 2          | 1.47      | 1.23       |
| 27   | BOLD N' FLASHY (89, Bold Ruckus), T. C. Westmeath Stud Farm            | \$2,500             | 25/12      | 2/2              | 1/2              | (Bold Thunder, \$122,605)       | \$521,330     | 340   | 16         | 1.31      | 1.21       |
| 28   | LEONNATUS ANTEAS (04, Stormy Atlantic), Colebrook Farms Stallion Stn.  | \$3,500             | 24/11      | 1/1              | 1/1              | (Born in a Breeze, \$148,457)   | \$519,774     | 55    | 2          | 1.12      | 1.21       |
| 29   | CAUSE TO BELIEVE (03, Maria's Mon), Road's End Farm                    | \$2,500             | 51/28      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (At the Ritz, \$33,348)         | \$426,880     | 92    | 4          | 0.52      | 0.84       |
| 30   | STORM VICTORY (00, Storm Cat), Klimes Farm                             | \$2,000             | 50/27      | 1/1              | 1/1              | (Power Corrupt, \$56,836)       | \$417,870     | 194   | 6          | 0.55      | 0.64       |
| 31   | FORMAL GOLD (93, Black Tie Affair), Esquirol Farms                     | \$1,500             | 44/23      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Tabled With Gold, \$49,133)    | \$406,597     | 509   | 17         | 1.03      | 1.27       |
| 32   | SMOOTH BID (02, Rubiano), Fieldstone Farms                             | Private             | 17/12      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (My Bid, \$87,693)              | \$386,324     | 40    | 0          | 1.19      | 0.92       |
| 33   | BEST OF THE BESTS (IRE) (97, Machiavellian)                            | N/A                 | 20/6       | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Danish Princess, \$102,902)    | \$366,224     | 294   | 3          | 0.74      | 0.97       |
| 34   | DOUBLE HONOR (95, Gone West), Esquirol Farms                           | \$2,500             | 43/13      | 1/1              | 0/1              | (Double Secret, \$93,439)       | \$355,393     | *601  | 17         | 1.02      | 1.15       |
| 35   | SKY CONQUEROR (02, Sky Classic), Curraghmore Farm                      | \$4,500             | 21/10      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Missile Threat, \$48,832)      | \$323,147     | 33    | 1          | 1.22      | 1.62       |
| 36   | PURE PRECISION (99, Montbrook), Fox Tower Farms                        | \$1,250             | 19/6       | 1/1              | 0/1              | (Tightend Touchdown, \$124,250) | \$318,476     | 162   | 3          | 1.11      | 1.00       |
| 37   | SUNGOLD (02, A.P. Indy), Flying Horse Farm                             | Private             | 18/11      | 1/1              | 1/1              | (Brass and Gold, \$59,108)      | \$316,322     | 38    | 4          | 0.67      | 0.97       |
| 38   | PEAKS AND VALLEYS (92, Mt. Livermore)                                  | Died, 2012          | 25/9       | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Mauna Kea, \$52,798)           | \$311,489     | 559   | 30         | 1.24      | 1.39       |
| 39   | HEAD CHOPPER (03, Mutakddim), Steve Owens                              | Private             | 5/3        | 1/2              | 1/1              | (London Tower, \$266,961)       | \$300,173     | 6     | 2          | 2.88      | 1.30       |
| 40   | STEPHANOTIS (93, Regal Classic), Canmor Farms                          | \$1,500             | 28/19      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Irish Romeo, \$29,563)         | \$296,450     | 305   | 12         | 0.68      | 0.84       |

Leader said. "We've had plenty of people out looking at the stallions and might have a few more (open houses). We feel the amount of money they're putting into the

program will attract a lot more breeders in general, and some serious breeders."

Leader and Francis has purchased mares to breed to their stallions, with a

plan to keep several to race in the state and sell some of the mares in foal in the hope they're bred back to Ohio stallions.

The Ohio breeding program is closely tied to the Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, the organization that contracts with racetracks on purses. Both the Thoroughbred and Standardbred breeding programs earn a quarterly percentage of revenue from four non-racetrack casinos in Ohio's largest cities, but the VLT purse percentage goes directly to the horsemen's group.

All Ohio-bred stakes are funded 35% from the OTRF and 65% from the horsemen's purse account; the OTRF will contribute about \$1.2 million, the same as in 2015.

The Ohio HBPA by contract contributes 10% of its VLT purse share to fund Ohio-bred races. This year horsemen will provide \$2.14 million, down from \$3.3 million last year when carryover funds from 2014 were added to the total.

This year there also will be \$427,000  
(continued on page 38)



COURTESY HAND RIDE STABLES

The Ohio-registered foal crop was nearly 370 in 2014

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## 2015 LEADING SIRE IN OHIO



| Rank | Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands                         | 2016 Stud Fee | Rnrs/ Wnrs | Stakes Wnrs/ Wns | Rstrct SW/ BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings)       | Cumulative         |       |           |           |            |
|------|---|---------------|------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|------------|
|      |   |               |            |                  |                  |                                | 2015 Earnings      | Foals | Stks Wnrs | A-E Index | Comp Index |
| 1    | <b>COWTOWN CAT</b> (04, Distorted Humor), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm        | \$2,500       | 87/47      | 2/4              | 0/2              | (Calgary Cat, \$206,770)       | <b>\$1,814,628</b> | 157   | 2         | 1.10      | 1.31       |
| 2    | <b>MOBIL</b> (00, Langfuhr), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm                     | \$2,500       | 36/16      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Obeah Woman, \$134,812)       | <b>\$862,924</b>   | *153  | 4         | 1.33      | 1.34       |
| 3    | <b>MAIMONIDES</b> (05, Vindication), Hand Ride Stables                      | \$2,500       | 52/24      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Fear, \$69,405)               | <b>\$774,088</b>   | 80    | 1         | 0.74      | 2.37       |
| 4    | <b>CITY WEEKEND</b> (02, Carson City), Meadow Springs                       | \$2,000       | 48/29      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Rockin Cityweekend, \$60,657) | <b>\$764,516</b>   | 91    | 1         | 0.74      | 0.94       |
| 5    | <b>INDY WIND</b> (02, A.P. Indy), Hand Ride Stables                         | \$2,000       | 30/14      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (A. P. Cino, \$110,430)        | <b>\$693,451</b>   | 60    | 1         | 1.10      | 1.08       |
| 6    | <b>ADDED EDGE</b> (00, Smart Strike), Raimonde Farms                        | \$1,500       | 56/25      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Sweetedge, \$46,091)          | <b>\$539,546</b>   | 146   | 6         | 0.74      | 0.79       |
| 7    | <b>KENTUCKY DANE</b> (00, Danehill), Raimonde Farms                         | \$1,000       | 10/4       | 1/1              | 1/1              | (Jac's Fact, \$303,996)        | <b>\$480,594</b>   | 21    | 2         | 1.32      | 0.46       |
| 8    | <b>MR. MABEE</b> (01, Storm Cat), Poplar Creek Horse Center                 | \$1,500       | 27/12      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (She Mabee Wild, \$67,117)     | <b>\$418,181</b>   | 61    | 0         | 0.66      | 0.86       |
| 9    | <b>MERCER MILL</b> (94, Forty Niner), Fair Winds Farm                       | Private       | 19/7       | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Ebby, \$90,294)               | <b>\$355,914</b>   | 222   | 15        | 0.70      | 0.90       |
| 10   | <b>KILLENAULE</b> (02, Fusaichi Pegasus)                                    | N/A           | 33/16      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Hesacutabove, \$51,237)       | <b>\$319,254</b>   | 88    | 0         | 0.50      | 0.85       |
| 11   | <b>KISS THE KID</b> (03, Lemon Drop Kid), Poplar Creek Horse Center         | \$2,500       | 15/8       | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Just Kidding, \$105,380)      | <b>\$305,256</b>   | 29    | 0         | 0.87      | 1.82       |
| 12   | <b>TROPICAL STORM</b> (00, Storm Cat)                                       | N/A           | 13/6       | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Hersilia, \$42,777)           | <b>\$176,145</b>   | *94   | 0         | 0.66      | 0.79       |
| 13   | <b>WESTERN PRIDE</b> (98, Way West), R.C. Cline Thoroughbred Farm           | \$1,500       | 20/10      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Go Bernie Go, \$30,848)       | <b>\$175,468</b>   | 99    | 0         | 0.62      | 0.94       |
| 14   | <b>BIG ATLANTIC</b> (02, Stormy Atlantic), Win Row Farm                     | \$1,200       | 7/4        | 0/0              | 0/0              | (My Pardner Cal, \$107,480)    | <b>\$174,275</b>   | 14    | 1         | 0.93      | 0.24       |
| 15   | <b>PARENTS' REWARD</b> (98, Mr. Prospector), Poplar Creek Horse Center      | \$1,000       | 8/2        | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Eightthehardway, \$61,230)    | <b>\$161,949</b>   | 53    | 3         | 0.88      | 0.79       |
| 16   | <b>SAINTS N' SINNERS</b> (00, Saint Ballado)                                | N/A           | 5/2        | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Deniro's Saint, \$121,500)    | <b>\$158,183</b>   | 22    | 1         | 1.05      | 0.21       |
| 17   | <b>LEELANAU</b> (99, Carson City), Hand Ride Stables                        | \$1,500       | 10/3       | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Showersofblessings, \$38,325) | <b>\$112,087</b>   | 135   | 0         | 0.41      | 0.81       |
| 18   | <b>MR. SILVER</b> (03, Concorde's Tune)                                     | Died          | 3/1        | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Blazing Charcoal, \$94,335)   | <b>\$107,611</b>   | 5     | 0         | 1.45      | 1.19       |
| 19   | <b>PACIFIC WAVES</b> (93, Seattle Slew)                                     | N/A           | 6/2        | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Johnny Longshot, \$33,589)    | <b>\$92,180</b>    | 76    | 4         | 0.76      | 0.89       |
| 20   | <b>HOSTILE TAKEOVER</b> (04, Dixie Union), Double D Farm Corp.              | \$1,500       | 9/3        | 0/0              | 0/0              | (He's Taken, \$47,953)         | <b>\$90,868</b>    | 10    | 0         | 0.45      | 1.07       |
| 21   | <b>NOON PROSPECT</b> (86, Mr. Prospector)                                   | N/A           | 8/3        | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Pistolannie, \$32,068)        | <b>\$87,677</b>    | 85    | 0         | 0.35      | 0.41       |
| 22   | <b>KING OF THE ROXY</b> (04, Littleexpectations), Poplar Creek Horse Center | \$1,000       | 5/4        | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Acute Band, \$23,381)         | <b>\$73,709</b>    | 8     | 0         | 0.45      | 0.89       |
| 23   | <b>PART THE WATERS</b> (94, Stalwart), Rocky Valley Training Center         | Private       | 8/4        | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Zenable, \$19,138)            | <b>\$66,054</b>    | 36    | 4         | 0.62      | 0.69       |
| 24   | <b>FRANCHISE PLAYER</b> (00, Sea Hero)                                      | N/A           | 7/0        | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Three Socks, \$17,988)        | <b>\$58,545</b>    | 7     | 0         | 0.53      | 1.09       |
| 25   | <b>AENEAS</b> (99, Capote), Poplar Creek Horse Center                       | \$1,000       | 12/4       | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Eddyco, \$11,871)             | <b>\$50,193</b>    | 86    | 0         | 0.29      | 0.82       |

(continued from page 36)

available in purse supplements for Ohio-registered horses, including those for state-bred runners that finish first, second, or third in open company.

"We've been putting a lot of money into purses, but we've also been cautious," Williams said. "We took a little different ap-

proach than we had in the past. We went back to the Ohio HBPA and the OTBO and said, 'Tell us what you want and put it in writing.' Everybody likes the supplements. They have been huge."

The Ohio-bred stakes schedule will be valued at \$3.45 million, which includes \$750,000 for five Best of Ohio champion-

ship races. The divisional championships will be held for the first time at Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley Race Course Nov. 29.

Mahoning Valley, which opened in late 2014 and is owned by Penn National Gaming, replaced Beulah Park near Columbus. The track, located just west of Youngstown, races from late November through April, and by the numbers has been an important part of Ohio's gradual comeback.

In 2011 Beulah Park paid \$4.61 million in purses over 119 programs, according to The Jockey Club Information Systems. Mahoning Valley in 2015 paid \$9.89 million over 100 racing days.

"I think we've found a nice niche on the simulcast calendar; wagering is up year-over-year, and our on-track business is exceeding expectations," PNGI vice president of racing Chris McErlean said. "It was painful getting to the final outcome (by transferring the Beulah Park license and building a new facility with VLTs), but everybody who has gone there would say it's the right size for that market.

"We've been happy with the operation. We'll have the Best of Ohio there for the first time this year, and that will be a nice way to show off the facilities."



Tapit's son Tidal Volume, being shown at Poplar Creek Horse Center

JUN ENGELHARDT

#### Special Note For Sire Lists:

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in the states featured in this section (stallions that are dead or exported prior to 2011 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through December 31 2015. As supplied to Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., include adjusted money from Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Adjusted earnings are put on par with average North American earnings from the previous year. For example, the average North American purse in 2014 is \$21,617 or 45% of the 2014 average purse in Japan. To put earnings on par, all Japanese progeny earnings are multiplied by 45% before being credited to a sire's progeny earnings. Hong Kong earnings are adjusted by 19%; Singapore by 54%. 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.

# 2015 LEADING SIRES IN ILLINOIS

Go to [BloodHorse.com](http://BloodHorse.com) for daily updated sire lists

| Rank | Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands               | 2016 Stud Fee | Rnrs/ Wnrs | Stakes Wnrs/ Wns | Rstrct SW/ BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings)       | Cumulative    |       |           |           |            |
|------|---|---------------|------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-------|-----------|-----------|------------|
|      |   |               |            |                  |                  |                                | 2015 Earnings | Foals | Stks Wnrs | A-E Index | Comp Index |
| 1    | ROAD RULER (02, Unbridled's Song), JB Stables                     | \$2,000       | 37/22      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Armando's Star, \$88,566)     | \$667,767     | 75    | 0         | 0.94      | 0.81       |
| 2    | CHEROKEE RAP (01, Cherokee Run)                                   | Died, 2012    | 38/27      | 1/1              | 1/1              | (Rocket Professor, \$75,927)   | \$625,035     | 79    | 3         | 0.99      | 1.08       |
| 3    | CASHEL CASTLE (99, Silver Ghost), Hill 'N Dale Farm               | \$1,000       | 21/12      | 1/1              | 1/1              | (Puntsville, \$107,160)        | \$526,134     | 101   | 2         | 0.91      | 1.00       |
| 4    | STRAIGHT LINE (02, Boundary), Fairberry Farm                      | Private       | 21/14      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Streamline, \$85,276)         | \$455,059     | 43    | 0         | 0.76      | 1.21       |
| 5    | INDY SNOW (GB) (01, A.P. Indy), Hondo Ranch                       | Private       | 15/12      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Gyp Rope, \$43,765)           | \$314,788     | 36    | 1         | 1.20      | 0.84       |
| 6    | ALLUVIAL (02, Forestry), Casey Thoroughbred Farm                  | Private       | 31/16      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Smoke Em Charlie, \$42,119)   | \$288,740     | 128   | 0         | 0.50      | 0.90       |
| 7    | THREE HOUR NAP (02, Afternoon Deelites), Oak Tree Farm            | \$1,000       | 13/11      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Runningfromthefeds, \$51,486) | \$288,522     | 21    | 0         | 0.91      | 1.18       |
| 8    | EL MEDWAR (04, Elusive Quality), Hondo Ranch                      | Private       | 9/7        | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Enchanted Facts, \$48,263)    | \$194,180     | 13    | 0         | 0.76      | 1.25       |
| 9    | BEN BULBEN (02, Pioneering), Ben Bulben Farm                      | \$1,000       | 12/4       | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Ballyjamesduff, \$45,441)     | \$147,607     | 38    | 0         | 0.74      | 0.85       |
| 10   | BRAVE 'N AWAY (00, Skip Away)                                     | N/A           | 16/7       | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Mightylee, \$25,110)          | \$121,804     | 38    | 0         | 0.45      | 0.59       |
| 11   | COUNTRY BE GOLD (97, Summer Squall), Cutsinger's Stallion Station | \$500         | 9/5        | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Right Squall, \$41,510)       | \$114,291     | 58    | 0         | 0.59      | 1.12       |
| 12   | POWERFUL GOER (94, Easy Goer)                                     | N/A           | 3/1        | 0/0              | 0/0              | (So Good to Go, \$68,408)      | \$96,322      | 58    | 1         | 0.72      | 0.93       |

Thoroughbred purses in Ohio earn 9% to 10.5% of net VLT revenue, depending on the contract horse men have with the track. The Ohio HBPA has 10-year deals with Mahoning Valley and ThistleDown Racino near Cleveland; thus far, it has been unable to reach an agreement with Belterra Park Gaming near Cincinnati, so by law the minimum of 9% of VLT revenue is paid to the purse account.

Overall purse growth in a five-year period has been substantial, according to TJCIS statistics.

In 2011 for 321 racing programs, the three Ohio tracks paid \$14,358,417 in total purses. Last year for 293 days of racing, purses totaled \$32,024,413; the increase was 123%. Combined average daily purses were up 114.3% from \$44,730 to \$109,298.

On the breeding side, the Ohio State Racing Commission, on the recommendation of the advisory committee, adjusted the rules for broodmare and stallion



Robin Murphy, with a Tidal Volume foal

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Bringing Thoroughbred Racing Back to the Mainstream And the Best Bloodlines Back to Ohio

New for 2016



### SUNS OUT GUNS OUT

Empire Maker - Angel Arch, by Smart Strike

- \$325,000 West Point Thoroughbred purchase
- Won \$327,451, on-the-board in 19 of 26 starts, incl. Grade 2 Breeders' Cup Marathon

Fee \$2,000 LFSN



### INDY WIND

A.P. Indy - Zagora, by Kingmambo

- Multiple Graded-placed, 5-time SW of \$392,900
- Posted 110 Beyer Speed
- A.P. INDY son with 10% Stakes Horses/Rnrs

Fee \$2,000 LFSN



### LEELANAU

Carson City - Kris's Intention, by Kris S.

- Record-Setting Graded Churchill Downs SW second time out at two!!!
- CARSON CITY-line of Leading Sire CITY ZIP

Fee \$1,500 LFSN



### MAIMONIDES

Vindication - Silvery Swan, by Silver Deputy

- #2 Leading Sire in Ohio in 2016...with about half the number of runners as the leader
- Proven sire of multiple Stakes Winner BREWING (\$207,267) and multiple winner XIXIXI (AMERICAN PHAROAH's half-brother).

Fee \$2,500 LFSN

## 2015 LEADING SIRES IN IOWA

Go to [BloodHorse.com](http://BloodHorse.com) for daily updated sire lists

| Rank | Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands                  | 2016 Stud Fee | Rnrs/ Wnrs | Stakes Wnrs/ Wns | Rstrct SW/ BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings)       | 2015 Earnings    | Foals | Cumulative |           |            |
|------|--|---------------|------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|
|      |  |               |            |                  |                  |                                |                  |       | Stks Wnrs  | A-E Index | Comp Index |
| 1    | <b>SHORE BREEZE</b> (98, Danzig), Iowa State University Horse Farm   | \$1,000       | 39/25      | 1/1              | 1/1              | (Creative Art, \$104,354)      | <b>\$634,879</b> | 173   | 2          | 0.81      | 0.74       |
| 2    | <b>STORM AND A HALF</b> (97, Storm Cat)                              | N/A           | 41/20      | 2/2              | 2/2              | (We Be Stormin, \$88,800)      | <b>\$496,173</b> | 442   | 19         | 0.78      | 0.95       |
| 3    | <b>WOKE UP DREAMIN</b> (00, Holy Bull), Madison County Thoroughbreds | \$2,000       | 24/12      | 2/2              | 2/2              | (Dreamin, \$69,816)            | <b>\$383,713</b> | 139   | 4          | 0.77      | 0.92       |
| 4    | <b>HEART OF THE STORM</b> (04, Storm Cat), McClintock Equine Station | Private       | 27/12      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Franky and Jane, \$45,007)    | <b>\$332,115</b> | 55    | 0          | 0.66      | 0.87       |
| 5    | <b>COLORFUL TOUR</b> (99, Tour d'Or)                                 | N/A           | 11/6       | 0/0              | 0/0              | (I Tour, \$67,444)             | <b>\$212,222</b> | 20    | 0          | 0.76      | 1.02       |
| 6    | <b>WILD GOLD</b> (90, Wild Again)                                    | N/A           | 19/11      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Do It, \$35,056)              | <b>\$211,966</b> | 247   | 3          | 0.76      | 0.85       |
| 7    | <b>AUTONOMY (IRE)</b> (97, Doyoun)                                   | N/A           | 2/2        | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Kims Star, \$116,143)         | <b>\$144,466</b> | 9     | 0          | 1.03      | 0.02       |
| 8    | <b>WINTER GLITTER</b> (97, A.P. Indy)                                | N/A           | 13/7       | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Lively's Last Ride, \$39,065) | <b>\$108,085</b> | 110   | 0          | 0.48      | 0.82       |
| 9    | <b>JAFMIL</b> (08, Distorted Humor), Robson Thoroughbreds            | Private       | 5/2        | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Approximator, \$67,297)       | <b>\$103,336</b> | 10    | 0          | 0.97      | 1.54       |
| 10   | <b>BRAVO BULL</b> (97, Holy Bull)                                    | Died, 2012    | 11/6       | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Zack's Billie, \$20,807)      | <b>\$93,606</b>  | 58    | 3          | 0.58      | 0.66       |



JON ENGELHARDT

The Ohio State Racing Commission estimates more than 600 mares are 'eligible to foal' in 2016

awards, which this year are estimated at \$1.56 million and \$230,000, respectively.

Broodmare and stallion awards will be paid to the breeders of horses that finish first, second, or third in any eligible race, with 15% of purse earnings for broodmares and 10% for stallions.

"This has been part of my thought process," Williams said. "We like to see the broodmare awards increase. We've had a lot of discussions about it. I wasn't too keen on tweaking the percentage for stallions just yet, but Ohio is a really good place to put a sire with some pedigree."

Ohio has a dual Thoroughbred breeding program. An accredited horse is one from a mare that is domiciled in the state at the time of conception and remains in Ohio continuously through foaling; it also must be sired by an Ohio stallion. A registered horse is one that is either from a mare that enters the state before foaling and remains in the state continuously through foaling, or one that is produced

## Indiana- A Good Program Getting Even Better!

## Top Ten Indiana Sire of 2015



## For Irish Road and Star Cat:

Special consideration for Stakes-Winning and Stakes-Producing Mares, and Multiple Mare Discounts

**IRISH ROAD** - Private

Unbridled's Song - Twin Propeller by Known Fact  
2015 Winners incl. SPW **Irish Nuggets** (\$120,591), 4 wins by 18 lengths, on-the-board in 7 of 9 starts incl. Churchill's \$100,000 Debutante S.; SPW **Mani Income**; allowance winners **MAJOR HIGHWAY** (\$435,541, 9 wins by nearly 25 lengths), **IT'S TIME TO LAUGH** (\$184,164, 8 wins), **MISO BAD** (\$124,187, 3 wins), etc.

**STAR CAT** - Fee \$2500

Storm Cat - Ashado, by Saint Ballado  
2015 Winners incl. **ANGEL CHOIR** (\$112,599), Indiana-bred back-to-back Belmont winner by 2 & 2 1/2 lengths; **PURRPURRPURR** (\$87,943), 6 wins by over 25 lengths, on-the-board in \$85,000 Indiana Stallion S.; **ATHENA STAR**, 4 1/4 -length allowance winner

## Top Five Indiana 3rd Crop Sire in 2015

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# 2015 LEADING SIRES IN INDIANA

Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

| Rank | Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands                       | 2016 Stud Fee | Rnrs/ Wnrs | Stakes Wnrs/ Wns | Rstrct SW/ BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings)    | 2015 Earnings    | Foals | Cumulative |           |            |
|------|---|---------------|------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|
|      |   |               |            |                  |                  |                             |                  |       | Stks Wnrs  | A-E Index | Comp Index |
| 1    | <b>STRONG CONTENDER</b> (03, Maria's Mon), R Star Stallions               | \$3,000       | 42/15      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Miss Da Point, \$116,800)  | <b>\$649,527</b> | *146  | 5          | 1.02      | 1.16       |
| 2    | <b>CHIEF SEATTLE</b> (97, Seattle Slew)                                   | Died, 2011    | 33/23      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Seattle Lights, \$47,985)  | <b>\$591,384</b> | *431  | 9          | 1.12      | 1.29       |
| 3    | <b>LANTANA MOB</b> (05, Posse), Southern Indiana Equine                   | \$5,000       | 25/9       | 2/3              | 2/2              | (Daddy Justice, \$192,130)  | <b>\$564,560</b> | 34    | 3          | 1.12      | 1.03       |
| 4    | <b>UNBRIDLED EXPRESS</b> (04, Unbridled's Song), Swiftly Farms            | \$2,000       | 12/10      | 1/2              | 1/1              | (Derby Express, \$172,289)  | <b>\$550,026</b> | 16    | 3          | 1.90      | 1.28       |
| 5    | <b>PASS RUSH</b> (99, Crown Ambassador), Swiftly Farms                    | \$2,500       | 31/17      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (I Like Beer, \$100,705)    | <b>\$516,850</b> | 84    | 5          | 1.15      | 1.05       |
| 6    | <b>DESERT WARRIOR</b> (00, Deputy Minister)                               | Died, 2015    | 38/12      | 1/1              | 1/1              | (Frisky Warrior, \$107,255) | <b>\$514,311</b> | *275  | 1          | 0.85      | 0.97       |
| 7    | <b>ELUSIVE BLUFF</b> (06, Elusive Quality), Southern Indiana Equine       | \$1,500       | 15/8       | 2/3              | 0/2              | (C. Zee, \$180,070)         | <b>\$443,626</b> | 33    | 2          | 1.44      | 0.92       |
| 8    | <b>MONBA</b> (05, Maria's Mon), Nicks Farm                                | \$2,000       | 34/11      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Bright Monba, \$56,894)    | <b>\$428,173</b> | 57    | 0          | 0.58      | 1.40       |
| 9    | <b>DEPUTY STORM</b> (01, Forestry), R Star Stallions                      | \$1,500       | 24/12      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Jrock, \$43,585)           | <b>\$400,674</b> | 83    | 2          | 0.98      | 1.25       |
| 10   | <b>STRONG HOPE</b> (00, Grand Slam), Midwest Equine & Veterinary Hospital | \$1,800       | 36/11      | 0/0              | 0/0              | (Hattaash, \$54,943)        | <b>\$352,048</b> | 320   | 4          | 0.93      | 1.69       |

in Ohio by a mare shipped into the state to foal and be bred back to an Ohio stallion.

Under the Ohio-registered rules, a mare can be bred to a Kentucky stallion, for instance, and foal in Ohio to qualify.

Murphy and others believe the deadline of Aug. 15 for a mare to be in the state to qualify for the Ohio program is too early and that an October or early November deadline would facilitate growth in the mare population.

"I do understand it's also about protecting the accredited program, but people don't like the deadline because the average foal is born in March or April and a lot of them aren't weaned by Aug. 15," Murphy said. "A lot of the mares would have to come up here with babies. And there are pros and cons with bringing mares here after the (fall sales in Kentucky)."

Unlike the Standardbred breeding business, which allows for artificial insemination and puts most of its Ohio-bred funds into sire stakes held over an about-six-month period each year, the Thoroughbred program is geared more toward mares and the economic development benefits of having them in the state for long periods of time.

"We probably could have 100 horses here if we allowed the mares to foal and then leave," Williams said, "but we want to cater to year-round boarders."

Some of the Ohio program's provisions are works in progress, which is to be expected as it evolves to accommodate changes in the industry. But one thing is certain: There is a lot more interest in breeding in Ohio than there was only five years ago.

"The program is catching on," Murphy said. "I keep getting more calls from people who have been in the business a lot longer with better mares in neighboring states. I expect more calls next year. There are people who always breed in Kentucky who are now breeding to stallions here." **BH**

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