

# Down off the Saddle

*Curt and Rachael Bourque find peace at 5B Farm*

BY GARY McMILLEN / MARSHALL BLEVINS PHOTOS

**EVERYBODY HAS A SECRET** garden. It might be listening to the waves on a secluded beach. It might be a winter night next to the fireplace with a new book. It might be a remote trout stream tucked away in the mountains, or it might be as simple as a comfortable corner in a coffee shop.

For Curt Bourque and his wife, Rachael, it is a summer evening, looking out the kitchen window of their home at 5B Farm outside of Opelousas, La., and watching a group of inquisitive yearlings hugged up against the pasture fence.

“I can’t put it in exact words,” Curt Bourque (pronounced Bork) said, “but there is something about the peace and naturalness of this place that makes all the edginess just go away. I can get a horse in here that is all wound up and jumpy, then after they get off the trailer they look around, go to the stall, and the next morning you can see the difference in them. They are relaxed. It happens overnight.”

Sometimes a person has to create his own refuge. 5B Farm (named after the five members of the Bourque family) is Curt Bourque’s decided response to 26 years of the hustle and grind of race riding.

“I knew that I didn’t want to be a trainer,” he said. “I just couldn’t see myself jumping off a horse’s back one night and then jump right back the next morning into the long hours and stress of the track life.”

Bourque was one of the top jockeys in Louisiana. He won multiple graded stakes and ranked in the top 100 riders in the country in earnings



Curt and Rachael Bourque at their 5B Farm near Opelousas, La.

or number of wins four times. Aided by his position as the regular rider of Star Guitar, Bourque’s mounts earned \$46,713,861 over the course of his career. His résumé includes riding titles at Fair Grounds, Hawthorne, and Sportsman’s Park racetracks.

“When I was riding my whole lifestyle was ‘go, go, go’ and then ‘sleep, sleep, sleep,’” Bourque said. “But on this farm everything just slows down for me and falls back into a quiet zone. The pace just eases down.”

The pace went from the bright lights and big city to a gravel road lined with rusted mailboxes and untethered Shetland ponies in people’s front yards. For Curt Bourque, the idea of a horse farm was a waking dream and a transition into a new lifestyle. For his wife, who ran a successful business of weight-loss programs, it was a giant leap of faith. They sold two homes and applied all of their personal savings to buy the property.

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## 2016 LEADING SIRES IN LOUISIANA



For daily updated sire lists visit [BloodHorse.com](http://BloodHorse.com)

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2017 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2016 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	HALF OURS (03, Unbridled's Song), Clear Creek Stud	\$5,000	135/67	6/6	5/6	(Smittys Cougar, \$205,295)	\$2,760,516	*345	16	1.03	1.22
2	SONGANDPRAYER (98, Unbridled's Song), The Stallion Station @ Copper Crowne	\$4,500	153/78	0/0	0/0	(Navy Hymn, \$157,627)	\$2,610,817	*920	34	1.14	1.46
3	CLOSING ARGUMENT (02, Successful Appeal), Whispering Oaks Farm	\$4,000	84/39	2/3	1/2	(Smack Smack, \$427,366)	\$1,863,277	*427	17	1.23	1.16
4	D*WILDCAT (98, Forest Wildcat), Whispering Oaks Farm	\$3,500	90/54	2/3	1/2	(Guns Loaded, \$161,337)	\$1,836,047	*410	15	1.36	1.24
5	COURT VISION (05, Gulch), Acadiana Equine@Copper Crowne	\$3,500	86/35	3/5	2/3	(King and His Court, \$242,981)	\$1,774,679	125	3	1.08	1.61
6	YANKEE GENTLEMAN (99, Storm Cat), Le Mesa Stallions	\$3,500	112/59	2/3	2/2	(Icy Gentleman, \$138,000)	\$1,699,965	*496	20	1.11	1.20
7	MASS MEDIA (01, Touch Gold), Red River Farms	\$1,500	80/44	0/0	0/0	(Littlemissbusiness, \$128,750)	\$1,479,987	*194	4	1.08	1.04
8	CUSTOM FOR CARLOS (06, More Than Ready), Clear Creek Stud	\$3,500	61/36	3/4	3/3	(Big World, \$133,000)	\$1,263,086	86	3	0.93	1.09
9	MY PAL CHARLIE (05, Indian Charlie), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	68/33	1/1	1/1	(Chases Dixie Belle, \$87,300)	\$1,146,146	122	2	0.82	1.14
10	RUN PRODUCTION (00, Saint Ballado), Whispering Oaks Farm	\$2,500	75/37	0/0	0/0	(Red Production, \$79,410)	\$999,725	191	7	1.08	0.98
11	GOOD AND TOUGH (95, Carson City)	Died, 2012	45/17	1/1	1/1	(Tough Jeans, \$157,200)	\$957,604	*462	14	1.10	1.11
12	FOREFATHERS (04, Gone West), Red River Farms	\$2,000	79/45	0/0	0/0	(Over Yonder, \$58,150)	\$950,494	149	1	0.62	1.12
13	SUN KING (02, Charismatic)	N/A	68/30	1/1	0/1	(Bold Cait, \$88,800)	\$949,676	270	2	0.70	1.00
14	LONE STAR SPECIAL (05, Malabar Gold)	N/A	22/12	2/5	1/2	(Mobile Bay, \$302,150)	\$871,443	47	3	1.61	1.11
15	TENPINS (98, Smart Strike), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	70/32	0/0	0/0	(Who Datawaki, \$68,250)	\$868,004	*358	8	0.89	1.06

"Curt kept saying that he had a vision, but all I saw was a dump," Rachael recalled with a giggle. "It felt like jumping off a cliff. We had one mare, a Jeep, and a two-horse trailer. Looking back it wasn't much of a beginning, but, in our minds, we thought we had grabbed the gold ring."

As "Exhibit A," Rachael pulls out a photo album of the property they purchased from a commune of Eco-survivalists who were living off the land. The black-and-white photos show piles of trash, weeds, tangles of cheap tallow trees, and rubber tires.

There is no instruction manual on how to start and build a horse farm. The early

days of 5B Farm resembled re-fried confusion.

"Everybody was doing something different," Rachael remembered. "The kids were working on the fences, and Curt and I each had separate burn piles going at once. There was black smoke everywhere. The neighbors must have thought we were crazy."

There were mistakes and makeovers. Progress was more important than perfection. 5B Farm today is a clean, attractive, and efficient horse farm. The terrain is on an elevated plateau that provides excellent drainage. There is a valley pasture

for the babies to run and ramble. There are three barns and a covered round pen.

"I went into this with the idea that I knew some things about how to break a horse," Curt said. "As far as the construction—we had to do some things twice, but it all came together. It works for us but most important of all is that it works for the horses."

A few of Bourque's improvisations border on genius. In the interest of tranquility, he keeps the tractor and heavy equipment away from the horse barns. The half-mile training track is a considerable distance from the barns.

"We are not in a hurry here," Curt explained. "I like a nice long walk from the training track back to the barn so they can cool down. By the time a baby gets back to the barn he or she can get all that ram-bunctious stuff and kicking up out of their system."

For the farm that started in 2009, the white-knuckle time is over. Business is picking up and 5B Farm is beginning to get some recognition. Orange Grove Farm, Norman Stables, and Evelyn Benoit's Brittllyn Stable are regular clients that send Bourque their yearlings. Curt touches every horse that comes in and begins the baby steps for the babies on the driving line. The young ones learn to stop, change directions, turn, and develop trust and control.

(continued on page 48)



At 5B 'everything slows down for me,' according to Curt Bourque



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JOCKAMO'S SONG (\$191,064, '16 Costa Rising S., 2nd LACD Sprint S.), ROCK N SAKE

(12-5-2-2, \$157,975, '16 A.L. "Red" Erwin S.), QUEEN OLIVIA(6-2-2-1, '16 Elge Raspberry S.), and '16 2YO Louisiana Futurity Winner JACK SNIPE'S.

2017 FEE: \$4,500 LF Sept. 1st of year bred or \$5,000 LFSN Nominated to Breeders' Cup

Sire of  
JACK SNIPE'S  
'16 Louisiana Futurity  
Winner



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More Than Ready-Meadow Oaks, by Meadowlake

LOUISIANA'S LEADING FRESHMAN SIRE OF 2015

LEADING SECOND-CROP SIRE Among Stallions Standing in Louisiana for 2016

LEADING TWO-YEAR-OLD SIRE Among Stallions Standing in Louisiana for 2016

THREE 2016 STAKES WINNERS

GRADE 3 SW BIG WORLD, winner of the 2016 Louisiana Champions Day Ladies, and Magnolia S.

- TWO 2016 JUVENILE STAKES WINNERS

IVANA'S WISH, winner of the 2016 LACD Lassie and

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Juvenile Stakes Performer Run Away Ralph, 2nd in '16 Louisiana Futurity

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Sire of  
Run Away Ralph  
2nd Place in  
'16 Louisiana Futurity



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## 2016 LEADING SIRES IN TEXAS



For daily updated sire lists  
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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2017 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2016 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>TOO MUCH BLING</b> (03, Rubiano), Valor Farm	\$4,500	84/46	6/9	3/6	(Bling On the Music, \$153,082)	<b>\$1,654,908</b>	189	22	1.17	1.10
2	<b>GRASSHOPPER</b> (04, Dixie Union), Valor Farm	\$3,500	49/24	2/6	1/2	(Texas Chrome, \$660,245)	<b>\$1,393,997</b>	77	2	1.00	0.96
3	<b>VALID EXPECTATIONS</b> (93, Valid Appeal)	Died, 2015	51/37	3/5	2/3	(Ivan Fallunovalot, \$323,898)	<b>\$1,174,344</b>	657	41	1.21	1.14
4	<b>CONGAREE</b> (98, Arazi), Valor Farm	\$3,000	62/23	0/0	0/0	(Saluda, \$97,145)	<b>\$912,622</b>	*366	13	1.29	1.41
5	<b>INTIMIDATOR</b> (01, Gone West)	N/A	55/24	1/1	0/1	(Country Candy, \$119,780)	<b>\$677,732</b>	188	6	0.58	0.77
6	<b>MY GOLDEN SONG</b> (03, Unbridled's Song), Valor Farm	\$4,000	40/18	2/2	2/2	(C C's Song, \$74,410)	<b>\$665,764</b>	96	8	1.07	1.01
7	<b>STONESIDER</b> (03, Giant's Causeway), Valor Farm	\$3,000	46/18	0/0	0/0	(Big Gally's Answer, \$80,050)	<b>\$605,088</b>	*190	4	1.11	1.21
8	<b>EARLY FLYER</b> (98, Gilded Time), Valor Farm	\$2,500	62/27	1/2	1/1	(Bravura, \$75,000)	<b>\$562,049</b>	259	16	0.79	0.92
9	<b>LUNARPAL</b> (02, Successful Appeal)	N/A	23/14	0/0	0/0	(Wanda's Bentley, \$66,818)	<b>\$476,187</b>	112	2	0.82	0.94
10	<b>GAFF</b> (02, Maria's Mon), Seguin Horse Center	\$1,500	26/17	0/0	0/0	(Neverending, \$76,020)	<b>\$418,454</b>	79	0	0.68	1.01

(continued from page 46)

"Everything just started snowballing," Curt said. "Clients started showing up. Now we have a lot to do and plenty of time to do it in."

"When you start messing with those babies on the drive line and you see the light go on, that's the moment when everything pays off," Curt continued. "They are learning with you, and you are learning with them. When a horse leaves here they are broke and ready to gallop and breeze; then you know that all your efforts made sense."

Benoit is one of those regular clients that bring horses to 5B Farm.

"The two things that I most admire about Curt is that he has reached out and

given older, retired jockeys an opportunity to work on the farm," Benoit said, "plus I respect how he has made the operation a family affair."

The Bourques go to the 2-year-old sales together. Curt looks for horses that he would want to ride. Rachael has become a student of pedigree and brings her experience of physical fitness training to the party.

"When judging body-builders in competition you want both shoulders to match and the rear end and the neck have to look connected and fit together," Rachael noted. "It's the same with horses. At least that's how I taught myself."

"At all the sales we have been to so far—her picks have been outperforming mine," Curt admitted while dining on a little humble pie.

The karmic gene pool aligned for Curt and Rachael to meet and later marry. From different perspectives each of their families had interests in horse racing. Curt has two brothers that are or were journeyman jockeys. His aunt once owned and operated Coteau Downs, which was one of those rough and tumble bush tracks.

Every Sunday, Curt was hanging out with kids such as Shane Sellers and Calvin Borel, pulling branches off oak trees and using them for whips. Curt's father (Wilfred) was not into the horses but offered skillful advice.

"My dad told me the only thing you can learn on the bush tracks was to bust out of the gate and whip and go," Curt recalled. "My dad never met a stranger. He was polite to everyone. I never saw him drunk. He kept a steady job and made raising his family the focus of his life."

Rachael's family tree was adorned with uninformed \$2 bettors that simply enjoyed the excitement of the game. At the age of 8 her Uncle Cotton taught her how to read the *Racing Form*.

Curt recalled one of his first visits to Rachael's home.

"It was on a Super Bowl Sunday and they were all watching a claiming race

(continued on page 52)



LYNN ROBERTS

Bourque on Brittlyn Stables' Star Guitar in 2009

**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 2012 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through December 31, 2016. As supplied to BloodHorse 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 2015 is \$21,782 or 50% of the 2015 average purse in Japan. To put earnings on par, all Japanese progeny earnings are multiplied by 50% before being credited to a sire's progeny earnings. Hong Kong earnings are adjusted by 17%; Singapore by 57%. 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.



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## CONGAREE

*Arazi – Mari's Sheba, by Mari's Book*

2017 FEE: \$3,000

## CROSSBOW

*Bernardini – Forest Heiress,  
by Forest Wildcat*

2017 FEE: \$2,000



## EARLY FLYER

*Gilded Time – Bistra, by Classic Go Go*

2017 FEE: \$2,500

## GRASSHOPPER

*Dixie Union – Grass Skirt,  
by Mr. Prospector*

2017 FEE: \$3,500



## MY GOLDEN SONG

*Unbridled's Song –  
Golden Par, by Gold Meridian*

2017 FEE: \$4,000

## STONESIDER

*Giant's Causeway –  
Added Gold, by Gilded Time*

2017 FEE: \$3,000



## TOO MUCH BLING

*Rubiano – Rose Colored Lady,  
by Formal Dinner*

2017 FEE: \$4,500

Bee Silva

Billy Miller



VALOR  
FARM

Douglas Scharbauer  
Ken Carson, General Manager  
Donny Denton, Farm Manager • David Unnerstall, Attending Veterinarian



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## 2016 LEADING SIRE IN OKLAHOMA



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2017 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2016 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>WILBURN</b> (08, Bernardini), River Oaks Farms	\$2,500	124/64	2/2	1/2	(Ohio Gold, \$178,580)	<b>\$2,187,519</b>	*198	3	0.72	1.16
2	<b>POLLARD'S VISION</b> (01, Carson City), Mighty Acres	\$3,000	98/54	1/1	0/1	(Eye Luv Lulu, \$152,747)	<b>\$2,186,925</b>	*683	18	1.28	1.20
3	<b>LATENT HEAT</b> (03, Maria's Mon), River Oaks Farms	\$3,500	105/64	2/2	1/2	(Rocket Heat, \$147,565)	<b>\$1,782,212</b>	*311	5	0.91	1.10
4	<b>NOTIONAL</b> (04, In Excess), Rockin' Z Ranch	\$2,500	125/61	1/1	1/1	(Victor Jara, \$108,761)	<b>\$1,765,757</b>	272	6	0.84	1.14
5	<b>CACTUS RIDGE</b> (01, Hennessy)	Pnsd	74/39	4/5	1/4	(Steel Cut, \$226,550)	<b>\$1,735,185</b>	*450	23	1.26	1.05
6	<b>MAGNA GRADUATE</b> (02, Honor Grades), Rockin' Z Ranch	\$2,500	85/46	0/0	0/0	(Approvethismessage, \$77,400)	<b>\$1,565,998</b>	*205	6	0.98	1.09
7	<b>READ THE FOOTNOTES</b> (01, Smoke Glacken), River Oaks Farms	\$3,500	70/41	1/1	1/1	(Literata, \$198,800)	<b>\$1,532,831</b>	*310	17	1.34	1.18
8	<b>DON'T GET MAD</b> (02, Stephen Got Even)	Died, 2013	59/36	1/2	1/1	(Tuff Kid, \$108,560)	<b>\$1,257,123</b>	*166	7	1.15	0.95
9	<b>MR. NIGHTLINGER</b> (04, Indian Charlie), Mighty Acres	\$2,000	77/42	1/1	1/1	(Hallelujah Hit, \$88,173)	<b>\$991,575</b>	140	2	0.60	0.88
10	<b>AMERICAN LION</b> (07, Tiznow), River Oaks Farms	\$1,000	71/31	0/0	0/0	(Extinct Charm, \$175,680)	<b>\$964,108</b>	*127	1	0.73	1.11
11	<b>KIPLING</b> (96, Gulch), Mighty Acres	\$2,000	59/21	0/0	0/0	(Seeyouatthedisco, \$87,115)	<b>\$906,812</b>	327	9	1.03	0.90
12	<b>EUROEARS</b> (04, Langfuhr), JEH Stallion Station-Oklahoma Division	\$1,500	33/21	2/3	2/2	(Euro K Shotgun, \$152,245)	<b>\$819,716</b>	60	2	0.99	0.88
13	<b>SAVE BIG MONEY</b> (03, Storm Cat), Mighty Acres	\$2,000	45/22	0/0	0/0	(Mimi's Money, \$99,739)	<b>\$723,516</b>	86	1	0.75	1.01
14	<b>ORATORY</b> (02, Pulpit)	Died	47/21	1/1	1/1	(He's So Zazzy, \$92,909)	<b>\$704,972</b>	*194	4	1.17	1.13
15	<b>TACTICAL CAT</b> (96, Storm Cat), Raywood Farm	\$1,000	49/27	0/0	0/0	(By Golly Its a Cat, \$58,005)	<b>\$624,756</b>	585	24	1.02	1.20
16	<b>SERVICE STRIPE</b> (91, Deputy Minister), Caines Stallion Station	\$1,000	23/13	0/0	0/0	(Chaparella, \$76,246)	<b>\$471,546</b>	383	18	1.15	1.00
17	<b>LUCKY LIONEL</b> (93, Mt. Livermore)	N/A	22/14	0/0	0/0	(Hot Hand, \$67,891)	<b>\$419,783</b>	360	9	1.12	1.20
18	<b>LIQUOR CABINET (IRE)</b> (01, Hennessy), Oklahoma Equine	\$1,000	27/13	0/0	0/0	(Hide the Hooch, \$84,599)	<b>\$394,880</b>	75	1	0.62	0.89
19	<b>CHITZOZ</b> (05, Forest Wildcat), River Oaks Farms	\$2,000	20/9	1/1	1/1	(Okie Diva, \$99,586)	<b>\$344,880</b>	32	1	0.59	0.87

## MIGHTY ACRES 2017 STALLION ROSTER



CHAD SCHUMER

### DEN'S LEGACY

Medaglia d'Oro – Sunshine Song, by War Chant  
 GRADE 1 TWO-YEAR-OLD PERFORMER  
 GSW of \$692,917  
 OKLAHOMA'S FIRST SON OF MEDAGLIA D'ORO  
 2017 FEE: \$2,500 LIVE FOAL

### Also Standing:

**KIPLING** \$2,000 Live Foal  
 Gulch – Weekend Storm, by Storm Bird  
 Ranked Among The Top Ten Oklahoma Stallions  
 SIRE OF GRADE I BREEDERS' CUP MILE WINNER KIP DEVILLE

### MR. NIGHTLINGER

Indian Charlie – Timely Quarrel, by Time for a Change  
 TOP TEN ACTIVE OKLAHOMA SIRE  
 BY THE SIRE OF LEADING SIRE UNCLE MO  
 Sire of 12% Juvenile Stakes Performers  
 2017 FEE: \$2,000 LIVE FOAL



**POLLARD'S VISION** \$3,000 Live Foal  
 Carson City – Etats Unis, by Dixieland Band  
 ECLIPSE CHAMPION SIRE • OKLAHOMA'S LEADING 2016 SIRE

**SAVE BIG MONEY** \$2,000 Live Foal  
 Storm Cat – Tomisue's Delight, by A.P. Indy  
 THIRD LEADING SIRE BY 2016 OKLAHOMA-BRED EARNINGS

**THE VISUALISER** \$2,000 Live Foal  
 Giant's Causeway – Smokey Mirage, by Holy Bull  
 A LEADING FOURTH-CROP SIRE IN OKLAHOMA



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NEW TO NEW MEXICO FOR 2017

# SWAY AWAY

Multiple Grade 2-Performer

By American Classic Champion AFLEET ALEX

## THROWING OUTSTANDING FOALS

First Foals 2YOS in 2017,

First Two Starters = First Two Winners,

Winners by 11 1/2 Lengths and 2 Lengths!!!



### SWAY AWAY

(Afleet Alex – Seattle Shimmer, by Seattle Slew)

- **At 2**, a winner on his debut & 2nd in Del Mar's **Grade 2** Best Pal Stakes.
- **At 3**, defeated **Grade 1** winner **SAHARA SKY**, 2nd in Santa Anita's **Grade 2** San Vicente Stakes, on-the-board in the \$1,000,000 **Grade 1** Arkansas Derby.
- **At 4**, 2nd in Santa Anita's **Grade 2** San Carlos Stakes defeating **AMAZOMBIE**, **Grade 1** Breeders' Cup Sprint winner and Eclipse Champion Male Sprinter.
- *Recorded Beyer Speed Figures of 101 in the San Vicente & 103 in the San Carlos.*



Nominated to:



**2017 FEE: \$1,500 TREATY LIVE FOAL**

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## 2016 LEADING SIRES IN NEW MEXICO

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2017 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2016 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	ATTILA'S STORM (02, Forest Wildcat), A & A Ranch	\$4,000	70/39	4/4	4/4	(Another Brother, \$157,031)	\$1,463,307	165	16	1.25	0.77
2	DIABOLICAL (03, Artax), A & A Ranch	\$6,000	72/43	0/0	0/0	(Diabolical Dame, \$125,320)	\$1,174,374	125	8	0.94	0.93
3	SOUTHWESTERN HEAT (04, Gone West), A & A Ranch	\$2,500	43/23	0/0	0/0	(Bryn's Fancy Pants, \$138,100)	\$668,388	*68	2	0.73	0.93
4	THE WAY HOME (04, Giant's Causeway), Doubletree Farm	\$2,500	39/23	1/2	1/1	(Ignored, \$162,399)	\$642,167	106	5	0.87	0.98
5	DESERT GOD (91, Fappiano)	Pnsd	23/11	0/0	0/0	(Zasha, \$155,835)	\$579,627	259	25	1.47	0.75
6	QUINTON'S GOLD (97, Carson City), Doubletree Farm	\$5,000	40/19	2/2	2/2	(Jonesey Who, \$71,990)	\$574,591	119	10	1.32	0.88
7	WEATHER WARNING (04, Storm Cat)	N/A	43/21	0/0	0/0	(Weather Dodger, \$71,307)	\$530,273	*137	4	1.00	1.02
8	ROLL HENNESSY ROLL (00, Hennessy), A & A Ranch	\$3,500	32/12	0/0	0/0	(Happy Hennessy, \$148,770)	\$431,786	139	10	0.98	0.99
9	FUSAICHI ZENON (JPN) (97, Sunday Silence), Weatherly Horse Farms	\$2,000	21/13	1/1	1/1	(Not My Note, \$175,439)	\$422,171	96	4	0.76	0.85
10	RIGHT RIGGER (06, Unbridled's Song), Hunter Creek Farms	\$3,500	7/3	2/2	2/2	(Ten Penny Cents, \$175,360)	\$344,332	8	3	2.38	0.89

(continued from page 48)

at Beulah Park. All they knew was that a horse had a leg on each corner."

Today Curt Bourque's smile lights up the barn but he was not always a happy camper. The 49-year-old's storyline is a far cry from any PG-13-rated fairy tale. His struggle with weight was a daily regimen of torture. He was sullen, withdrawn, and prone to bouts of anger. Drugs and alcohol had him on a downward spiral.

About the same time as the devastation of Hurricane Katrina ravaged Louisiana, Bourque hit rock bottom.

When you find yourself in a hole, it's time to stop digging. Bourque went into rehab for 30 days.

"I was a dressed up garbage can," Bourque said of his decision to go into recovery. "I was sick and tired of being sick and tired."

Exiting rehab, an ex-heroin addict that was a counselor advised Bourque to sign into a halfway home, otherwise he would cycle back to his old ways.

"I knew that I had to stop doing things my way," Bourque admitted. "All I wanted was to be clean and sober."

Recovery would prove to be a long, uphill haul. Bourque stayed in the halfway house for 11 months. He describes the first three months as the toughest period.

"There were 13 guys in there and I would go to the meetings. At first I didn't want to hear all that stuff about God's will and all those AA slogans," he said. "It was going over my head and I was embarrassed to open up and ask questions. My biggest problem was that I was so full of bullshit that I couldn't twist my mouth to tell the truth."

Sometimes the miracle is only five minutes away. Bourque surrendered to the program when he heard in a meeting that alcoholism and drug abuse were diseases and not a moral issue.

"The day that I came to accept that I had a disease is when I got better," Bourque said. "Lying and manipulation is all part

of the disease. Awareness of that fact was my first step."

Awareness has continued to serve Bourque through the ups and downs of managing a horse farm. At first he was caught up in the experience of changing his life and regaining his health. Now the reality has set in that he is running a business.

"It's still fun but now I go to bed at night and think about the economy and how to keep the payroll going," he said. "Sometimes you don't know where the next horse is coming from and you begin to worry. But my dad always told me that when one door closes, two doors open up."

It's approaching sunset at 5B Farm and Curt and Rachael are having friends and family over for a crawfish boil. Bella the dog is sleeping on the driveway next to a plastic fire truck. The grandchildren are playing hide and seek.

"This farm has slowed me down," Bourque said. "It's not about ripping and running here and there like a scared jack-rabbit anymore. I can enjoy moments like this with the family. I guess you can say I'm starting and living the second chapter of my life."

Next to Bourque's feet are two 50-pound sacks of live crawfish. He lifts the lid off the huge aluminum pot. Stepping back momentarily from the steam, Bourque begins stirring celery, corn, sausage, potatoes, and cayenne pepper into the boiling mix. In this neck of the woods, everyone has a secret recipe. **BH**

Gary McMillen is a freelance writer based in New Orleans.



Bourque does some early work with a horse in the covered round pen