

DAY IN THE SUN



Girvin winning the grade 2 Louisiana Derby

LOU HODGES JR.

Eight new stallions make their way to Florida for 2019

BY EVAN HAMMONDS

THE FACTS AND FIGURES regarding the Thoroughbred breeding industry in Florida have been pretty much on par with those in the rest of the country. Following the Great Recession, the number of mares bred and the number of stallions standing in Central Florida have taken precipitous drops.

According to The Jockey Club Fact Book 5,430 mares were covered by 246 stallions in Florida in 2008. A decade later 1,993 mares were covered by 96 stallions. The percentage of mares covered in 2008 represented 9.6% of the North American crop while in 2018 that figure was only 6.3%.

However, with the addition of eight new stallions to the Sunshine State for the 2019 breeding season, business insid-

ers are hopeful the tide might be on its way in again. Optimism is a prerequisite in the Thoroughbred business.

“It might have picked up a little this year. It seems like we’ve booked more mares than at this time last year,” said Joe Barbazon of Pleasant Acres Stallions. “This year we have more early bookings than we’ve had in the last three or four years.”

And that’s a good sign, not only for Pleasant Acres but for others in Florida.

The O’Farrell family’s Ocala Stud has a long history of standing top stallions, and they are introducing three to the marketplace this year: the grade 1-winning Girvin (\$7,500), Awesome Slew (\$5,000), and Ami’s Flatter (\$3,500).

“Even though our numbers are down sharply...I think it was the biggest drop among the larger breeding states, we still have a pretty good pool of mares to go around,” said David O’Farrell. “We’ve been able to bring in a couple of new stallions, and business has been good. I don’t know if we are going to see an influx of new mares into Florida, but some of our

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2019 LEADING SIRES IN FLORIDA



For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2019 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2019 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	ADIOS CHARLIE (08, Indian Charlie), Ocala Stud	\$3,000	55/17	0/0	0/0	(Patternrecognition, \$200,000)	\$741,150	195	7	1.56	1.25
2	SONGANDAPRAYER (98, Unbridled's Song)	Pnsd	78/22	0/0	0/0	(Titanium Pledge, \$32,500)	\$441,386	*1028	36	1.10	1.41
3	FIELD COMMISSION (05, Service Stripe), Solera Farm	\$2,500	29/10	1/1	0/1	(Drafted, \$160,000)	\$348,051	136	1	0.86	0.95
4	WITH DISTINCTION (01, Storm Cat)	N/A	47/8	1/1	0/1	(Well Defined, \$172,970)	\$347,394	*552	13	1.05	1.15
5	FIRST DUDE (07, Stephen Got Even), Double Diamond Farm	\$10,000	66/11	0/0	0/0	(Starr of Quality, \$59,800)	\$340,232	341	10	1.22	1.25
6	GONE ASTRAY (06, Dixie Union), Northwest Stud	\$4,500	40/13	0/0	0/0	(Jay's Way, \$50,800)	\$278,734	*222	9	1.00	1.12
7	WILDCAT HEIR (00, Forest Wildcat)	Died, 2015	77/12	0/0	0/0	(Pay Any Price, \$19,100)	\$262,324	*687	34	1.34	1.32
8	BRETHREN (08, Distorted Humor), Arindel Farm	\$7,500	46/9	1/1	0/1	(Mrs. Crews, \$33,600)	\$259,071	136	3	1.48	1.67
9	BIG DRAMA (06, Montbrook), Stonewall's Prestige Stallions	\$5,000	38/10	0/0	0/0	(Who's Your Drama, \$44,046)	\$240,568	216	4	0.90	1.29
10	TREASURE BEACH (GB) (08, Galileo), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$7,500	52/8	0/0	0/0	(Ambassador Jim, \$31,300)	\$237,225	*270	1	1.00	1.40
11	SOLDAT (08, War Front), Woodford Thoroughbreds	\$1,500	53/10	0/0	0/0	(B's Ten, \$34,400)	\$235,179	174	1	0.72	1.26
12	UNCAPTURED (10, Lion Heart), Ocala Stud	\$6,000	22/3	1/1	0/1	(Yes I Am Free, \$75,340)	\$212,277	98	4	1.00	1.20
13	OVERDRIVEN (09, Tale of the Cat)	Pnsd	33/6	0/0	0/0	(Arms Runner, \$35,751)	\$194,804	147	1	0.86	1.15
14	J P'S GUSTO (08, Successful Appeal), Bridlewood Farm	\$2,000	23/6	0/0	0/0	(Velocita Brillante, \$51,072)	\$185,583	89	2	0.97	1.08
15	AWESOME OF COURSE (00, Awesome Again), Ocala Stud	\$4,000	33/7	0/0	0/0	(Day by Day, \$30,940)	\$166,463	*245	10	1.38	1.32
16	HIGH COTTON (03, Dixie Union)	Pnsd	55/11	0/0	0/0	(Classic Cotton, \$17,520)	\$156,970	*398	11	0.96	1.24
17	EXCLUSIVE QUALITY (03, Elusive Quality), Journeyman Stallions	\$1,500	38/9	0/0	0/0	(Malandrina, \$19,200)	\$147,290	344	7	0.91	1.06
18	PROSPECTIVE (09, Malibu Moon), Ocala Stud	\$3,000	32/9	0/0	0/0	(Prospective Belle, \$20,225)	\$134,957	103	3	1.03	1.15
19	RATTLESNAKE BRIDGE (08, Tapit), Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds	\$7,500	32/6	0/0	0/0	(Celebrate, \$17,300)	\$123,851	104	0	0.48	1.06
20	DRILL (09, Lawyer Ron), Get Away Farm	\$4,500	23/5	0/0	0/0	(Destiny Over Fate, \$31,872)	\$123,460	63	1	0.92	1.09
21	HE'S HAD ENOUGH (10, Tapit), Woodford Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	32/3	0/0	0/0	(He's Smokin Hot, \$28,640)	\$108,506	111	0	0.54	1.45
22	GREATNESS (09, Mr. Prospector), Stonewall's Prestige Stallions	\$1,750	14/6	0/0	0/0	(Lady's Island, \$33,450)	\$100,400	*261	7	1.30	1.00
23	WINSLOW HOMER (07, Unbridled's Song), Journeyman Stallions	\$2,500	19/4	0/0	0/0	(Juju's Specialgirl, \$29,600)	\$98,135	58	0	0.77	1.06
24	HANDSOME MIKE (09, Scat Daddy), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$4,000	22/2	0/0	0/0	(Here Comes Jackie, \$25,800)	\$88,812	77	0	0.61	0.83
25	IN SUMMATION (03, Put It Back), Ocala Stud	\$2,500	20/4	0/0	0/0	(Tearless, \$15,870)	\$62,104	*226	5	0.92	1.32
26	WROTE (IRE) (09, High Chaparral)	N/A	13/1	0/0	0/0	(Brenda's G L P, \$18,300)	\$57,226	*55	0	0.54	0.92
27	HELLO BROADWAY (06, Broken Vow), Ups and Downs Farm	\$3,000	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Harryhee, \$32,490)	\$56,456	31	1	1.05	0.80
28	FLASHSTORM (04, Storm Cat), Northwest Stud	\$2,500	12/2	0/0	0/0	(Flashndynamite, \$19,200)	\$46,303	102	3	0.95	0.98
29	GARY D (07, Successful Appeal)	N/A	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Midtown Rose, \$37,150)	\$38,923	12	0	0.97	1.14
30	THOREAU (08, Gone West), Ocala Jockey Club	\$1,500	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Music Babe, \$24,780)	\$37,669	22	0	0.44	1.23
31	HEAR NO EVIL (00, Carson City), Ocala Stud	\$2,500	11/2	0/0	0/0	(Maranatha, \$13,950)	\$35,170	131	8	1.47	1.44
32	TELLING (04, A.P. Indy), Stonewall's Prestige Stallions	\$2,000	12/1	0/0	0/0	(Tell Me a Story, \$22,980)	\$32,315	49	0	0.65	1.26
33	DOCTOR PEACH (07, Tiznow)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Precocious Peach, \$26,400)	\$31,960	6	0	0.85	1.11
34	IQBAAL (06, Medaglia d'Oro)	N/A	6/3	0/0	0/0	(Johnny Ray, \$12,095)	\$31,475	26	0	1.00	1.17
35	REWARD THE CAT (09, Good Reward), Buena Vista Farm	\$1,000	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Stronger Kat, \$28,200)	\$28,554	10	0	0.68	0.92



ANNE M. EBERHARDT

Awesome Slew winning the seven-furlong Commonwealth Stakes (G3) at Keeneland

young stallions are really popular, and there is strong demand for some of them.

"We just listed Girvin's book as 'full' last week," O'Farrell reported. "The first mare we bred to him has been reported in foal, so we have some big news there. I've had a few folks express that normally they would send their mares to Kentucky, but because Girvin came to Florida, they are happy to stay home.

"He's also getting a lot of support from his ownership, Brad Grady's Grand Oaks and Airdrie Stud. We'll support him heavily ourselves. There were limited seasons to sell; nevertheless, demand has been incredible."

Girvin, raced by Grady, is a son of Tale of Ekati—Catch the Moon, by Malibu Moon, bred in Kentucky by Bob Austin and John Witte. He earned more than \$1.6 million

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 2015 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through February 24, 2019. As supplied to *BloodHorse* by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., lists 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 2018 is \$23,755 or 50% of the 2018 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 15%; Singapore by 66%. Current year stakes winners include all Northern Hemisphere black-type stakes results from all available countries. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners include all countries.

*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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CHITU

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Florida's #1 yearling sire
by average in 2018



New in 2019

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by Medaglia d'Oro • \$2,500 S&N

Bullet son of leading sire
Medaglia d'Oro

Beautiful physical: \$775,000
yearling at Fasig-Tipton Saratoga



TDN Value Sire

VALIANT MINISTER

by Candy Ride (Arg) • \$3,000 S&N

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in 2018 by mares bred

\$680,000 record-setting sales topper
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COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Turf sprint star Bucchero, by Kantharos, stands at Pleasant Acres Stallions

from a 4-3-0 mark in 10 starts.

His signature scores came in the Risen Star Stakes (G2) and the TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby (G2) while on the Triple Crown trail at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots, and the betfair.com Haskell Invitational Stakes (G1) in the summer of 2017.

Florida breeders should be familiar with Awesome Slew, who was bred and raced by Charlotte Weber's Live Oak operation. By Awesome Again, 6-year-old Awesome Slew is out of the stakes-winning Slewfoundmoney, a daughter of Seeking the Gold—Borodislew, by Seattle Slew. A multiple grade 2 winner, Borodislew is the dam of two graded winners.

Awesome Slew was at his best around one turn. As a 4-year-old, he rattled off wins in Keeneland's seven-furlong Commonwealth Stakes (G3) and Churchill Downs' one-mile Ack Ack Stakes (G3), and he placed in five graded events, including the Las Vegas Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1).

"Awesome Slew has a really deep pedigree," O'Farrell said. "He was very consistent, very sound, and very fast. A lot of the bookings come as the season goes on, and he's just now starting to pick up momentum. He's got more size than a lot of Awesome Agains. You have to pass the 'looks test' in today's world."

Ami's Flatter is a son of Flatter out of Galloping Ami, who is also the dam of Canadian champion Amis Gizmo and the stakes-winning Aragorn Ami. Ami's Flatter also won Keeneland's Commonwealth,

and at 3 placed in the Tampa Bay Derby (G2) and Besilu Stables Florida Derby (G1).

"It's a running family," O'Farrell added. "I wouldn't label any of these horses as sprinters. Ami's Flatter was at his best going that middle distance. It shows versatility, and that is what breeders want. He's just a big, strong horse. It's like he's made of solid oak; he has a big hip and a big shoulder."

Ami's Flatter earned \$536,931 in a 17-start career.

Two new faces are on hand at Joe and Helen Barbazon's Pleasant Acres Stallions near Morriston.

At \$5,000 is Bucchero, one of the top turf sprinters in the game over the

last few years.

An 11-time winner, Bucchero won seven stakes, including back-to-back runnings of Keeneland's Woodford Stakes Presented by Keeneland Select (G2T). The all-time leading Indiana-bred by money won also placed in a pair of graded turf sprints on his way to earnings of \$947,936.

Bucchero is a son of Kantharos, who started his career in Florida with a fee of \$5,000 and now stands at John Sikura's Hill 'n' Dale Farms near Lexington for \$20,000. The sire of 25 stakes winners, Kantharos' 2018 yearlings averaged \$56,413.

"He's by Kantharos, who is as hot as can be right now," said Barbazon. "He may stand in Kentucky, but he's hot down here (in Florida). Bucchero is a beautiful, flashy horse. He's well put together. He fills the eye."

Bucchero is out of the General Meeting mare Meetmeontime.

Barbazon notes he already has 100 mares booked to him and wouldn't be surprised to see Bucchero's book reach 125 by season's end.

"Bucchero will get some quality mares... I know that because I'm breeding four or five of my best mares to him," Barbazon said.

Long On Value (Value Plus—Long Message, by Orientate) had a long career on the track. He made 32 starts in six seasons in training and was much more successful as he got older.



ANNIE M. EBERHARDT

Grade 1 winner Long On Value made 32 starts



AMIRA'S PRINCE

Teofilo (IRE) / Twice The Ease (GB), By Green Desert

AS DE TREBOL

Tapit / Adelphi, By Danzig

BEAU CHOIX

Elusive Quality / Belle Cherie, By Belong to Me

BUCCHERO

Kantharos / Meetmeontime, By General Meeting

HANDSOME MIKE

Scat Daddy / Classic Strike, By Smart Strike



**THE
FINEST IN**

Florida

LEARN

Galileo (IRE) / Kentucky Warbler (IRE), By Spinning World

LONG ON VALUE

Value Plus - Long Message by Orientate

NEOLITHIC

Harlan's Holiday / Swingit, By Victory Gallop

RIDE ON CURLIN

Curlin / Magical Ride, By Storm Cat

TREASURE BEACH

Galileo (IRE) / Honorine (IRE), By Mark of Esteem (IRE)



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LAUREN KING/COGLIANESE PHOTOS

Shades of Night, by General Quarters, stands at Stonewall's Prestige Stallions

A winner of Santa Anita's Twilight Derby (G2T) on the Breeders' Cup undercard in 2014, he later traveled to Dubai to run second in the Al Quoz Sprint Sponsored by Azizi Developments and capped his racing days with a third-place effort in the Ricoh Woodbine Mile Stakes (G1T) and a win in Woodbine's Highlander Stakes (G1T).

"He's a big, grand-looking horse. We love him because he's such a good-looking specimen," Barbazon said. "He's got a good shoulder and a good hip on him. We'll breed some mares to him. I know he's not really a big commercial horse, but he was a racehorse. If you are looking to breed a racehorse, he's somebody you ought to look at.

"Any horse that can win a million dollars and can win a grade 1 is OK in my book."

Long On Value earned \$1,136,253.

At Bridlewood, Tunwoo will set up shop at \$2,500. Bred by Charles Chu and raced by his Baoma Corporation, Tunwoo made only one start for Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert.

A \$775,000 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga select yearling sale RNA, Tunwoo "was working like a superstar before he got injured," Baffert said. "He's a great looking horse by the right sire."

By Medaglia d'Oro, Tunwoo is out of the A.P. Indy mare Sea Gift. A winner in her lone start in England, Sea Gift is from the Newgate Stud Farm program and is also the dam of the Chus' Chitu (by Henny Hughes), who won the 2014 Sunland Derby (G3) and placed in the Malibu

2019 FLORIDA SIRES BY WINNERS

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Songandaprayer	80	24
Adios Charlie	59	18
Wildcat Heir	79	13
First Dude	68	13
Gone Astray	41	13
Big Drama	39	12
Soldat	56	11
High Cotton	55	11
Brethren	50	11
Field Commission	29	11
Treasure Beach (GB)	58	9
With Distinction	48	9
Exclusive Quality	40	9
Prospective	33	9
Awesome of Course	35	8
Overdriven	35	7
Rattlesnake Bridge	34	7
J P's Gusto	25	7
Drill	24	7
Greatness	14	6
Winslow Homer	20	5
In Summation	20	4

Stakes (G1) later that year. Chitu stands at Bridlewood for \$4,500.

Medaglia d'Oro is a top commercial sire, with a 2018 average yearling price of \$445,683. He stands at Darley near Lexington and commands a 2019 stud fee of \$200,000.

Also on the Florida roster for 2019 is Arindel Farm's Wait, a striking gray son of Distorted Humor out of the farm's champion 3-year-old filly Wait a While. Wait was a two-time winner, with the pair of wins coming at Gulfstream Park as a 3-year-old in 2017.

Distorted Humor, the sire of 162 stakes winners, is proving to be a rising sire of sires based on the success of his sons Jimmy Creed and Maclean's Music. The latter is the sire of Cloud Computing, winner of the 2017 Preakness Stakes (G1). Another son of Distorted Humor, Alternation, is the sire of Serengeti Empress, winner of the Feb. 16 Rachel Alexandra Stakes (G2).

Wait a While, by Maria's Mon (sire of two Kentucky Derby winners in Monarchs and Super Saver), earned her Eclipse Award in 2006 off graded stakes scores on both dirt and turf, including the American Oaks Invitational Stakes (G1T).

At Stonewall's Prestige Stallions, Shades of Night will stand for \$1,000. A winner from seven starts, Shades of Night is a son of General Quarters out of the Giant's Causeway mare Whitepark Bay.

General Quarters, by Sky Mesa, earned more than \$1.2 million for owner/trainer Thomas McCarthy, who claimed the colt for \$20,000 out of his debut in May 2008. At 3 General Quarters won the Toyota Blue Grass Stakes (G1) and the following year added the Woodford Reserve Turf Classic Stakes (G1T). General Quarters stood at Stonewall Farm during his first two seasons before shipping to Crestwood Farm in Kentucky. He now stands in Turkey. His most important runner is Signalman, winner of last fall's Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes (G2), who also ran third in the Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1).

Whitepark Bay is out of a half sister to grade 3 winner Stradivinsky (by Stravinsky). Shades of Night's third dam, Lubicon, was champion 3-year-old filly in Canada in 1990. **BH**