



Irish Hill Century Farm has New York state's largest stallion roster

COMBINE AND CONQUER

Irish Hill Century and Dutchess Views find multiple benefits in merging their New York stallion operations

BY ERIC MITCHELL / SKIP DICKSTEIN PHOTOS

A DEAL COMBINING the New York stallion operations of Irish Hill Century Farm and Dutchess Views Farm came together quickly because the proposal simply made too much sense.

“We came to the conclusion we were running similar operations,” said Michael Lischin, who has owned and operated Dutchess Views in the Hudson Valley with his wife, Anya

Sheckley, for more than 20 years. “To man a breeding shed is expensive, and so we felt combining that would make us more competitive than we were on our own.”

In time for the 2018 breeding season, Dutchess Views’ stallions—Big Brown, Bellamy Road, and Heavy Breathing—were sent to Rick Burke’s Irish Hill, which is a five-minute drive from Saratoga Race Course. Frost Giant, who shares the same

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- Cumulative dirt earnings \$1,236,241
- Cumulative leading money earner
SW **BANKIT** (\$345,625)



FORTY TALES

\$3,000 LF

TOP 10 NY SIRE BY 2019 EARNINGS

- SP **TRANSISTOR** went 5 wide to win at Gulfstream Park on March 17
- Sired an **\$80,000** colt at OBS March
Sold to Bradley Thoroughbreds



TEUFLESBERG

\$5,000 LF

TOP 10 NY SIRE BY LIFETIME AVERAGE

- Earnings per starter \$58,580
- OBS March colt worked in 10.1 and
Sold for **\$80,000** to Three Diamonds Farm



2019 LEADING SIRES IN NEW YORK



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	BIG BROWN (05, Boundary), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$5,000	66/18	1/2	0/1	(Somelikeithotbrown, \$161,665)	\$672,923	*763	23	1.07	1.52
2	FROST GIANT (03, Giant's Causeway), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$2,500	52/12	1/1	1/1	(Frostie Anne, \$87,505)	\$543,797	*424	13	1.20	1.17
3	FREUD (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York	\$7,500	44/8	1/1	1/1	(Bavaro, \$105,500)	\$470,177	*1248	51	1.55	1.24
4	BELLAMY ROAD (02, Concerto), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$5,000	72/16	0/0	0/0	(Not Leaving, \$39,600)	\$460,278	*647	31	1.20	1.27
5	BUSTIN STONES (04, City Zip), Waldorf Farm	\$5,000	29/11	1/1	1/1	(Stonesintheroad, \$90,200)	\$457,411	200	8	1.31	1.37
6	MISSION IMPAZIBLE (07, Unbridled's Song), Sequel Stallions New York	\$7,500	39/5	1/1	0/1	(Espresso Shot, \$144,375)	\$405,808	180	5	1.29	1.10
7	DESERT PARTY (06, Street Cry), Irish Hill Century Farm	\$3,000	38/11	0/0	0/0	(Aunt Babe, \$28,443)	\$299,163	235	6	0.95	1.36
8	CENTRAL BANKER (10, Speightstown), McMahon of Saratoga Tbreeds	\$7,500	32/5	0/0	0/0	(Intoxicologist, \$45,800)	\$286,875	106	2	1.23	1.24
9	COURAGEOUS CAT (06, Storm Cat), Questroyal North	\$2,500	50/7	0/0	0/0	(Carrera Cat, \$37,840)	\$198,540	209	5	0.98	1.12
10	FORTY TALES (10, Tale of the Cat), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	16/4	0/0	0/0	(Transistor, \$36,640)	\$178,436	*71	0	0.89	1.18
11	HONORABLE DILLON (10, Tapit), Rockridge Stud	\$4,000	16/3	0/0	0/0	(London House, \$68,200)	\$148,422	91	0	0.56	1.14
12	BOYS AT TOSCONOVA (08, Officer), Questroyal North	\$2,500	14/5	0/0	0/0	(Playinwiththeboys, \$34,875)	\$124,040	68	2	1.30	1.22
13	SOARING EMPIRE (07, Empire Maker)	Died, 2018	13/3	0/0	0/0	(The Big Lebanese, \$45,000)	\$123,952	63	0	0.96	1.11
14	ALPHA (09, Bernardini), Sequel Stallions New York	\$5,000	13/1	0/0	0/0	(Delta Gamma, \$21,650)	\$109,822	*64	0	0.52	1.59
15	MIRACLE MAN (02, Yankee Victor)	Died, 2015	2/2	0/0	0/0	(Jc's Shooting Star, \$47,300)	\$55,900	11	1	2.12	1.54
16	HEAVY BREATHING (09, Giant's Causeway)	N/A	9/1	0/0	0/0	(Sams Last Ghasp, \$21,250)	\$53,155	42	0	0.47	1.50
17	TEUFLESBERG (04, Johannesburg), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	17/0	0/0	0/0	(Devil's Flair, \$11,650)	\$52,835	143	4	1.29	1.10
18	BANK HEIST (07, Maria's Mon)	N/A	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Nice Bank, \$16,260)	\$50,726	70	1	0.93	1.32
19	A SHIN FORWARD (05, Forest Wildcat), Rockridge Stud	\$3,500	13/3	0/0	0/0	(Lord Ace, \$33,326)	\$44,776	28	0	0.43	0.76
20	GIANT SURPRISE (09, Giant's Causeway), Rockridge Stud	\$3,500	11/1	0/0	0/0	(Cause for Surprise, \$9,650)	\$41,259	82	2	1.70	1.25
21	DISCO RICO (97, Citidancer)	Died, 2014	8/1	0/0	0/0	(Captain Gaughen, \$10,660)	\$23,643	268	12	1.40	1.20
22	POLAR COORDINATE (09, North Light)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Needs No Ice, \$22,794)	\$22,794	4	0	0.26	0.80
23	MIDAS TOUCH (GB) (07, Galileo)	N/A	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Golden Loch, \$7,500)	\$20,748	*91	1	0.46	0.89
24	GRIFFINITE (98, Unbridled's Song)	Died, 2017	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Drive At Nite, \$17,100)	\$20,355	69	1	0.62	0.90
25	MR. SEKIGUCHI (03, Storm Cat)	N/A	5/0	0/0	0/0	(Pacific Image, \$6,500)	\$17,324	*98	2	0.96	1.16

ownership group as Big Brown, was relocated to Irish Hill from Keane Stud. The merger gave Irish Hill the state's largest stallion roster, which also includes Desert Party, Market Rally, Superstrella, Zivo, War Dancer, and Weekend Hideaway.

A Las Vegas poker dealer could not

have more cleanly divided the partners' responsibilities.

Lischin and Sheckley took over marketing, selling seasons, and handling all the invoices and payments from stallion shareholders and breeders. The book-keeping duties are substantial, with Bel-

lamy Road alone supported by 100 shareholders. Without the burden of the administrative work, Burke and his stallion manager Bill Leak could focus on running the breeding shed, foaling mares (Burke has a night watchman but he's there for every foaling), and prepping for sales.

"It is a huge pressure off me, and I can now focus on the day-to-day stuff," said Burke, who was born and raised on Irish Hill and is the fifth generation of his family to manage its 400-plus acres near the community of Stillwater. "When you are trying to do both, there is so much. I used to do all that at the end of the day, sitting down at 9 o'clock at night and going through all the emails. Now I don't have to do that."

The merger has produced other benefits as well.

Along with combining stallion rosters, Irish Hill and Dutchess Views have broadened their base of regional clients.

Irish Hill has a predominantly Saratoga-based clientele and draws heavily from horsemen in the Finger Lakes region because Saratoga is three hours away versus



Irish Hill Century Farm's Rick Burke

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 March 10, 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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2019 LEADING SIRES IN PENNSYLVANIA



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2019 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2019 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	JUMP START (99, A.P. Indy), Northview PA	\$10,000	87/15	0/0	0/0	(Thiscatcanjump, \$51,520)	\$721,891	*1405	47	1.42	1.29
2	WARRIOR'S REWARD (06, Medaglia d'Oro), WynOaks Farm	\$4,500	105/21	0/0	0/0	(Shelley Ann, \$35,200)	\$576,391	*505	16	1.08	1.36
3	EL PADRINO (09, Pulpit)	Died, 2017	31/7	0/0	0/0	(Promised Storm, \$93,240)	\$371,404	146	1	1.38	1.27
4	SMARTY JONES (01, Elusive Quality), Equistar Training and Breeding	\$3,500	31/9	1/1	0/1	(Ujjayi, \$56,875)	\$290,596	*748	27	1.43	1.77
5	DUBLIN (07, Afleet Alex), Mohns Hill Farm	Private	31/8	0/0	0/0	(Dublin Green, \$33,000)	\$236,858	175	2	1.06	1.18
6	WEIGELIA (01, Safety's Mark), WynOaks Farm	\$3,500	29/5	0/0	0/0	(Chasing My Halo, \$43,364)	\$200,124	*127	7	1.49	1.02
7	FLASHBACK (10, Tapit), Diamond B Farm	\$3,500	28/6	0/0	0/0	(Owning, \$26,400)	\$159,569	140	0	0.79	1.32
8	MAD FLATTER (05, Flatter)	Died, 2016	15/5	0/0	0/0	(Glowing Star, \$39,527)	\$133,250	48	0	0.83	1.34
9	CROWN OF THORNS (05, Repent), Equistar Training and Breeding	\$2,000	17/6	0/0	0/0	(Crown and Sugar, \$27,990)	\$132,305	55	1	0.86	1.07
10	FAIRBANKS (03, Giant's Causeway)	Pnsd	19/4	0/0	0/0	(Tiz Fair, \$38,890)	\$120,401	229	3	1.05	1.21
11	UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN (07, Limehouse), Diamond B Farm	\$4,500	8/3	0/0	0/0	(Midnightcharly, \$63,240)	\$112,899	38	2	2.14	0.82
12	TALENT SEARCH (03, Catienus), Diamond B Farm	\$2,500	21/4	0/0	0/0	(Cardcounter, \$28,900)	\$106,757	*158	2	1.01	1.20
13	BULLSBAY (04, Tiznow), Northview PA	\$3,000	15/2	0/0	0/0	(Disco Express, \$17,955)	\$79,730	85	3	1.29	1.22
14	WINCHILL (08, Tapit)	N/A	3/2	0/0	0/0	(You Must Chill, \$29,440)	\$62,550	21	0	0.59	1.34
15	CAL NATION (08, Distorted Humor), Kingfisher Lane Farm	\$2,500	14/1	0/0	0/0	(Bro Your Killingme, \$13,680)	\$59,741	49	0	1.01	1.19
16	LORD SHANAKILL (06, Speightstown), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$3,500	24/5	0/0	0/0	(Motarafa, \$10,664)	\$59,327	201	3	1.12	0.92
17	ALBERT THE GREAT (97, Go for Gin)	Pnsd	10/3	0/0	0/0	(Can He Shine, \$16,918)	\$57,626	*412	9	1.11	1.11
18	MEDALLIST (01, Touch Gold), Northview PA	\$2,000	8/0	0/0	0/0	(Winning the Medal, \$20,398)	\$42,561	204	7	1.26	1.32
19	RIMROD (00, Danzig), Castle Rock Farm	\$1,500	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Girl Powder, \$18,950)	\$39,004	112	2	1.27	1.14
20	POWER BY FAR (95, Power of Mind), Castle Rock Farm	\$1,500	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Not in the Mood, \$37,240)	\$37,240	114	2	1.26	1.16
21	WELL SPELLED (09, Spellbinder), Godstone Farm	\$1,500	3/2	0/0	0/0	(El Pistolero, \$19,512)	\$31,989	24	1	0.63	0.99
22	REFLECT TIMES (JPN) (05, French Deputy)	N/A	5/2	0/0	0/0	(You Tell Me, \$12,560)	\$29,879	26	0	0.78	0.30
23	CITY SHARPSTER (99, Carson City), Woodvale Farm	\$500	10/1	0/0	0/0	(Vanidosa, \$10,424)	\$28,324	66	0	0.72	0.70
24	IL VILLANO (09, Pollard's Vision), Xanthus Farms	\$1,500	3/1	0/0	0/0	(G Double, \$20,410)	\$26,046	9	0	0.49	0.48
25	WISEMAN'S FERRY (99, Hennessy)	Died, 2015	6/1	0/0	0/0	(Wise Mac, \$9,780)	\$22,673	*308	6	1.59	1.05

a five-hour drive to reach the Hudson Valley stud farms. Dutchess Views' location near Pine Plains, however, has been doing business with owners and breeders from New York City, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

"It has given us a bigger audience, and we have been able to do better selling seasons," Lischin said. "We board for some people who leave everything up to us, so now we make the breeding plans and then send the mares (to Irish Hill) for a period of time and bring them back when they are 15 or 30 days in foal. If it was another farm, we probably wouldn't do that; we would just breed and return. The logistics worked out great."

The bigger stallion roster gives those clients more options.

"It is very competitive in New York to stand stallions in the \$2,500-\$7,500 range, where we are," Lischin said. "But if you have nine stallions, one of those is likely to fit, depending on the breeder's goals."

"Cost-wise, it's easier," he continued. "With one phone call, we might get three mares, and we can do discounts across the board. For example, the breeder might want to breed one mare to Big Brown, one to Bellamy Road, and one to Frost Giant."

Because Irish Hill is a larger farm



Michael Lischin is the owner/operator of Dutchess Views Farm

(Dutchess Views sits on about 100 acres), the partnership is better able to attract out-of-state breeders looking to take advantage of the New York-bred program.

"We still board mares for clients and we're always packed with horses," Lischin said. "Now we can send horses to Irish Hill whereas before we might have run out of space."

"We'll get people who want to drop a foal in New York that is by a Kentucky stallion and maybe they have not complied with the residency rule because it was a late de-

cision," Lischin continued. "Now they can go to a bigger farm where the horses are well cared for and have a selection of stallions to breed back to."

The Irish Hill & Dutchess Views-branded stallion roster gained immediate cachet, as well, with three of its stallions ranked among the top five New York stallions in 2018.

Bellamy Road has been runner-up to Sequel Stallions New York's Freud on the state's leading general sires list for three consecutive years. A 17-year-old son of Concerto, Bellamy Road led the New York sires standings by number of winners last year with 87 and was second to Freud by number of black-type stakes winners with five. Bellamy Road's top performer in 2018 was grade 1 winner Diversify, who beat Mind Your Biscuits by 3/4 lengths in the Whitney Stakes (G1) and won the Suburban Stakes (G2).

Frost Giant ranked third among the leading New York sires by progeny earnings last year and was represented by four black-type stakes winners. Big Brown ranked fifth and was represented by three black-type stakes winners. Also included among the top 10 sires was Desert Party in the seventh spot.

So far in 2019 Big Brown's runners have been quickest out of the box. The dual clas-

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Average Earnings Index **2.14**
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LIFETIME PROGENY STATS:

\$80,791 AVERAGE EARNINGS/STARTER

21% STAKES HORSES FROM STARTERS

74% WINNERS FROM STARTERS

2018: HIGHEST AVERAGE EARNINGS
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2019 LEADING SIRES IN MARYLAND



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	FRIESAN FIRE (06, A.P. Indy), Country Life Farm	\$4,000	51/12	1/1	0/1	(Call Paul, \$87,420)	\$435,017	217	5	1.22	1.26
2	GREAT NOTION (00, Elusive Quality), Northview Stallion Station	\$5,000	37/12	0/0	0/0	(Rein Supreme, \$52,632)	\$409,478	327	21	1.53	1.22
3	NOT FOR LOVE (90, Mr. Prospector)	Died	34/10	0/0	0/0	(Clubman, \$68,172)	\$353,441	975	81	1.65	1.43
4	FREEDOM CHILD (10, Malibu Moon), Country Life Farm	\$2,500	20/6	0/0	0/0	(Ja's Malibu, \$45,000)	\$241,825	63	2	1.43	1.37
5	REDEEMED (08, Include), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,000	23/6	0/0	0/0	(Saint Main Event, \$39,480)	\$200,686	92	0	1.05	1.06
6	OUTFLANKER (94, Danzig), Shamrock Farm	\$2,500	19/6	0/0	0/0	(Nick Papagiorgio, \$32,539)	\$170,479	*567	21	1.33	1.12
7	STREET MAGICIAN (04, Street Cry), Legacy Farm Stallions Standing at Roland Farm	\$3,000	20/5	0/0	0/0	(A Great Time, \$26,900)	\$159,091	134	3	1.13	1.30
8	ORIENTATE (98, Mt. Livermore)	Pnsd	27/7	0/0	0/0	(Sonic Boom E Jet, \$29,806)	\$140,975	*844	32	1.23	1.58
9	BANDBOX (08, Tapit), Northview Stallion Station	\$2,500	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Baptize the Boy, \$42,960)	\$118,303	55	1	1.18	1.27
10	SEVILLE (GER) (08, Galileo)	Died	11/1	1/1	0/1	(Las Setas, \$89,640)	\$106,307	*133	1	0.47	1.28
11	DESPITE THE ODDS (06, Speightstown)	N/A	15/4	0/0	0/0	(Bagels and Lox, \$26,169)	\$106,260	61	0	0.94	1.24
12	ETCHED (05, Forestry)	N/A	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Tattooed, \$64,077)	\$96,643	50	1	0.90	1.04
13	BUFFUM (08, Bernardini), Northview Stallion Station	\$2,500	5/4	0/0	0/0	(Stormin Hongkong, \$39,354)	\$93,459	22	2	1.74	1.10
14	TRITAP (09, Tapit)	Died, 2016	12/2	0/0	0/0	(Tri Try Colors, \$25,677)	\$89,548	40	1	1.43	1.45
15	SUPER NINETY NINE (10, Pulpit), Country Life Farm	\$3,000	12/1	0/0	0/0	(Little Miss Raelyn, \$23,712)	\$78,126	53	0	0.52	1.39
16	PETIONVILLE (92, Seeking the Gold)	N/A	20/3	0/0	0/0	(Cardio Cowboy, \$22,664)	\$78,036	*752	42	1.26	1.26
17	NICANOR (06, Dynaformer)	N/A	9/4	0/0	0/0	(Lngtermrelationship, \$20,660)	\$65,985	44	0	0.51	1.03
18	LION HEARTED (96, Storm Cat)	Died	12/2	0/0	0/0	(Tricky Lion, \$35,145)	\$65,783	*624	18	1.16	1.26
19	LOUIS QUATORZE (93, Sovereign Dancer)	Pnsd	10/2	0/0	0/0	(Kosher Contract, \$21,207)	\$65,468	*991	21	1.14	1.30
20	SCIPION (02, A.P. Indy), Murmur Farm	\$2,500	9/2	0/0	0/0	(In Arrears, \$24,450)	\$63,341	145	3	1.05	1.06

sic-winning 14-year-old son of Boundary sits atop the New York sires standings due to his Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve (G1) hopeful Somelikeithotbrown, who won the Jeff Ruby Steaks (G3) March 9 at Turfway Park. Bred in New York by Hot Pink Stables and Sand Dollar Stables, the colt is being raced by Sand Dollar with Skychai Racing. Somelikeithotbrown has compiled a 3-2-1 record from seven starts, which include a third in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1T) and seconds in the Pilgrim Stakes (G3T) and With Anticipation Stakes (G3T).

Trained by Mike Maker, Somelikeithotbrown will be aimed next for Keeneland's April 6 Toyota Blue Grass Stakes (G2).

Frost Giant is second on the New York sires list this year by progeny earnings

through March 12 and is the third-leading sire by winners with 12, which include black-type stakes winner Frostie Anne.

Bellamy Road is ranked third on the New York sires list to date and continues cranking out winners. He ranks a close second in this category with 17 winners through March 13 behind Big Brown's 19.

Such high-profile success goes a long way toward enticing New York breeders to support New York stallions instead of shipping to Kentucky. The New York-bred program allows breeders to use Kentucky stallions each year, provided the mare is a year-round New York resident and is back in the state within 90 days after her last cover date in Kentucky and delivers the resulting foal in New York. A foal by an out-of-state stallion can also become a regis-

tered New York-bred if it is born in-state, if the mare remains in New York for at least 90 days after foaling, and if she is bred back to a registered New York stallion.

"Most of our clients breed to race, and with Big Brown, Bellamy Road, and Frost Giant doing so well and with the incentives being offered on War Dancer, more are choosing to stay here because of the breeders awards," Burke said. "People want better stallions in New York, but they are not willing to give up the breeders' awards, which are only 15% on an out-of-state stallion."



Irish Hill Century Farm, a few minutes from Saratoga, spreads out over 400 acres



Halters of the farms' nine stallions

For a New York-sired, New York-bred winner in-state, the breeder receives 30% of the purse.

Lischin agreed with Burke that New York needs higher-quality commercial stallions.

“The New York market has moved up and quality sells. The top of the market is strong, but as you get into the middle, the market is weak,” Lischin said. “A \$20,000 stallion would do great here because you are following the overall trend toward quality, and you are taking advantage of the New York program. We don’t have the mares, but we have the program and the stallion awards. This would give higher-end people a breed-back horse. I think you would sell as many seasons as you’d want.”

The Irish Hill & Dutchess Views partnership has been pursuing a stallion of this quality and recently thought they were going to land one in the \$15,000-\$20,000 stud fee range, but the deal fell apart. Lischin said they’ll keep swinging because



Big Brown is New York’s leading sire of 2019

New York’s stallion awards of 10% on progeny earnings from first- through third-place are lucrative.

“Kentucky is the top of the stallion market, but after that this is the best place to

raise horses. I can’t imagine trying to do this somewhere else,” Lischin said.

The Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund reported nearly \$2.62 million in awards was paid to New York stallion owners in 2018, with the top five farms and stallion syndicates averaging \$353,249 in awards. The average stallion owner award in 2018 among all New York stallions was \$52,329.

Aside from the benefits of New York’s incentive programs, Burke and Lischin said their partnership has created a one-stop shop for breeders.

“We can handle everything from when a mare arrives to get bred through the foaling, raising, and to the point where the foal is going to a sale or to a training center to get started,” Lischin said.

If a foal is heading for a yearling sale, then Burke and Leak, who has extensive experience with yearlings, offer sales prep services as well.

“We use Vinery as our consignor, but



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we do all the prep, which is all hands-on,” Burke said.

The heart of his program is a lot of hand-walking and some round pen work that builds muscle and stamina for the rigors of an auction. The yearlings gradually work up to 50-minute sessions of power-walking, which covers about two miles.

“They can show all day and not get tired. They come out of the stall with their heads up; they show well and never get upset,” Burke said.

Last year Irish Hill prepped a colt by Mircromange out of Sakura Ballerina, which became the sire’s highest-priced yearling when J.J. Crupi went to \$130,000 on behalf of owner Mike Repole at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale of preferred New York-bred yearlings. In 2017 Irish Hill prepped a Maclean’s Music colt out of My Canary that sold for \$275,000 and just missed being that sale’s top seller.

Other services available to clients include Sheckley’s Hammertown Insurance



Irish Hill Century Farm is a full-service Thoroughbred operation; Bellamy Road, right, is a perennial top sire



Agency. Lischin, who is an attorney, can provide assistance, too, with partnership and syndication agreements.

“We’re in Saratoga, which is becoming the hub of breeding in New York, and we’re full-service,” said Burke. “Anya can help clients with insurance. We can help them

with their mating plans, and we have all the stallions here.”

“I’ve been in the business a long time, so I’ve seen the good, the bad, and the ugly,” Lischin added. “This has been good. You have to deal with people you respect and trust. That is the best part of this deal.” **BH**

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