

SOUTHWEST

ARIZONA ARKANSAS COLORADO KANSAS LOUISIANA
MISSOURI NEW MEXICO OKLAHOMA TEXAS

John and Elisabeth Hay bought the land that is now known as Marjorie Farms in 2023 and quickly launched their stallion operation by purchasing Creative Cause and Copper Bullet



Betting on Texas

MARJORIE FARMS IS GOING ALL IN ON BRINGING QUALITY STALLIONS TO THE LONE STAR STATE

By DENIS BLAKE

IF THE STATE OF TEXAS were a racehorse, its past performance lines would be filled with a mix of comments on both ends of the spectrum. Sometimes it seems like the state's racing and breeding industry has been left at the gate, while other times it has dug in gamely to compete. John and Elisabeth Hay are betting on the latter with the launch of Marjorie Farms in the central Texas tourist town of Fredericksburg.

ALL SIRES LISTS ARE THROUGH DEC. 31

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2024 LEADING SIRES IN ARIZONA

For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2024 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Srks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Lotsa Mischief (11, Into Mischief), Fleming Thoroughbred Farm	Private	67/34	0/0	0/0	(U Can Do U, \$121,173)	\$1,122,499	123	1	0.56	0.66
2	Rocky Bar (98, In Excess)	N/A	19/14	0/0	0/0	(Katar, \$87,358)	\$391,804	208	11	0.73	0.73
3	Ez Effort (09, In Excess), Fleming Thoroughbred Farm	Private	23/11	1/1	1/1	(Collusionist, \$84,838)	\$363,486	101	3	0.50	0.84
4	Uh Oh Bango (07, Top Hit)	N/A	13/7	0/0	0/0	(Mr Navigator, \$81,370)	\$291,402	50	2	0.83	1.02
5	Top Hit (98, Twining)	Died, 2021	8/1	0/0	0/0	(Hit Scene, \$89,650)	\$152,478	132	5	0.71	0.78
6	Bocephus (15, Medaglia d'Oro)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Don Juan Bubba, \$60,861)	\$60,861	9	0	0.72	0.82
7	Ez Dreamer (05, In Excess)	Died, 2020	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Tactical Attack, \$24,743)	\$41,688	65	1	0.45	0.77
8	Margie's Wildcat (01, Storm Cat)	N/A	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Hink's Paladin, \$9,610)	\$18,675	153	1	0.57	0.74
9	El Mirage (05, Cee's Tizzy)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Cap Greeley, \$8,256)	\$8,256	14	2	0.49	0.51

2024 LEADING SIRES IN ARKANSAS

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2024 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Srks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	American Freedom (13, Pulpit), Leadem Farm	\$2,500	148/72	1/1	0/1	(No Easy Days, \$196,742)	\$3,065,758	269	2	0.81	1.19
2	The Big Beast (11, Yes It's True), McDowell Farm	\$2,000	112/62	4/4	3/4	(Reef Runner, \$214,815)	\$3,049,084	260	10	0.98	1.11
3	Irish War Cry (14, Curlin), Leadem Farm	\$2,500	68/42	2/3	2/2	(Celtic Contender, \$234,805)	\$2,502,484	129	2	1.04	1.11
4	Mark Valeski (09, Proud Citizen), Lake Hamilton Equine Center	\$1,500	45/18	2/2	0/2	(Isolate, \$700,000)	\$1,793,661	146	5	1.26	1.09
5	Cinco Charlie (12, Indian Charlie)	N/A	83/38	1/1	1/1	(Dame Cinco, \$150,570)	\$1,773,363	203	4	0.77	0.91
6	Street Strategy (11, Street Sense), Lake Hamilton Equine Center	\$1,500	41/20	1/2	1/1	(Kantex, \$246,960)	\$1,462,607	91	3	0.98	0.80
7	Laurie's Rocket (09, Bluegrass Cat), Lake Hamilton Equine Center	\$1,000	17/7	1/1	1/1	(Lochmoor, \$293,875)	\$669,164	64	1	0.83	1.05
8	Gentlemen's Bet (09, Half Ours), McDowell Farm	\$1,250	20/9	1/1	1/1	(Bohemian Bo, \$254,586)	\$611,439	43	1	1.16	0.89
9	Double Irish (11, Tapit)	N/A	36/14	0/0	0/0	(Lassie My Girl, \$126,117)	\$597,755	100	1	0.79	0.92
10	Mo for the Money (13, Uncle Mo)	N/A	30/9	0/0	0/0	(Bettys Cash, \$180,642)	\$521,607	66	1	0.67	1.01
11	Texas Chrome (13, Grasshopper), Keene Thoroughbreds	\$1,500	19/7	0/0	0/0	(Chrome's Echo, \$114,719)	\$417,440	43	0	0.50	0.68
12	Zong (05, Unbridled's Song)	N/A	22/10	0/0	0/0	(Blessed Assurance, \$59,540)	\$363,662	109	0	0.62	0.96
13	Just a Coincidence (06, Forestry)	Died, 2020	11/6	0/0	0/0	(No Coincidences, \$70,083)	\$314,060	41	0	0.61	0.92
14	Brahms (97, Danzig)	N/A	13/4	0/0	0/0	(Brahms Image, \$108,224)	\$224,755	*719	13	1.01	1.09
15	Moonshine Mullin (08, Albert the Great)	N/A	16/5	0/0	0/0	(Hess, \$86,818)	\$214,513	62	0	0.41	0.77
16	Ordained (08, Pulpit), Starfish Stallions	\$1,500	21/5	0/0	0/0	(Outlaw Run, \$41,997)	\$170,562	88	1	0.40	0.76
17	Cyber Secret (09, Broken Vow)	Died, 2023	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Cybertown, \$116,296)	\$170,287	47	1	0.83	0.67
18	Five Iron (10, Sharp Humor)	N/A	10/7	0/0	0/0	(Blessed Vision, \$53,079)	\$155,926	32	0	0.44	0.45
19	Aikenite (07, Yes It's True)	Died, 2023	11/3	1/2	0/1	(Decoy, \$89,570)	\$150,577	88	1	0.81	1.03
20	Coil (08, Point Given)	N/A	6/3	1/1	0/1	(Prince Carlo, \$76,691)	\$139,778	169	2	0.75	1.04

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; † Indicates a first-crop sire

While Fredericksburg is known primarily for its wineries and German heritage, it also boasts a surprising and lengthy horse racing history. Hall of Fame trainer Max Hirsch, who conditioned the only two Texas-breds to win the Kentucky Derby in Middleground and Triple Crown winner Assault, was born there in 1880. The famous trainer got his start at nearby Morris Ranch, which was owned by noted breeder and owner Francis Morris, whose filly Ruthless won the first Belmont Stakes in 1867. The first organized horse races were held in Fredericksburg in 1881, and the Gillespie County Fairgrounds still has racing to this day as the last remainder of a once expansive Texas fair circuit. Now, the Hays are trying to write more history.

"I grew up going to the races at Ruidoso Downs," said John. "I was never in the horse business, but it was some-



Creative Cause entered stud in 2013 in Kentucky and relocated to Marjorie Farms last year. From his initial crop the son of Giant's Causeway sired Pavel, a grade 1 winner and millionaire

2024 LEADING SIRES IN COLORADO



For daily updated sire lists visit [BloodHorse.com](https://www.bloodhorse.com)

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2024 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Numaany (05, A.P. Indy)	N/A	17/7	0/0	0/0	(Emperorfthenorth, \$42,190)	\$149,406	67	2	0.61	0.74
2	Zip Quik (07, City Zip)	N/A	3/3	0/0	0/0	(Quicktrip Van, \$84,850)	\$147,604	73	0	0.30	0.73
3	Save Big Money (03, Storm Cat)	N/A	9/6	0/0	0/0	(I'm a Trumper, \$23,580)	\$95,523	163	3	0.59	0.83
4	Behold de Buy (08, E Dubai)	N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Donnas Final Word, \$21,380)	\$47,265	33	0	0.29	0.60
5	Grand Minstrel (05, Grand Slam)	N/A	3/3	0/0	0/0	(Walkin Talkin Bob, \$15,948)	\$35,956	111	0	0.31	0.57
6	Silver Saint (06, Silver Deputy)	N/A	2/2	0/0	0/0	(Silvers Last Dance, \$14,845)	\$26,529	54	1	0.30	0.39
7	Laughing Charlie (07, Indian Charlie)	N/A	2/0	0/0	0/0	(Ima Happy Dancer, \$2,141)	\$3,524	18	0	0.15	0.20
8	El Roblar (02, War Chant)	N/A	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Robthequeen, \$)	\$	65	1	0.33	0.53

2024 LEADING SIRES IN LOUISIANA

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2024 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Exaggerator (13, Curlin), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	176/96	1/3	0/1	(Skippylongstocking, \$1,498,800)	\$5,227,708	*660	10	0.79	1.39
2	Unified (13, Candy Ride), LACER	\$3,500	168/89	1/1	0/1	(Seeking Unity, \$191,890)	\$4,472,458	322	5	0.93	1.20
3	Star Guitar (05, Quiet American), Clear Creek Stud	\$7,500	120/64	8/16	4/8	(Ova Charged, \$489,795)	\$4,185,662	322	18	1.00	0.97
4	Hoppertunity (11, Any Given Saturday), Shady Oaks Stud Farm	\$3,000	117/55	1/1	1/1	(Pachelbel, \$188,054)	\$3,190,842	199	3	0.78	1.25
5	Gormley (14, Malibu Moon)	N/A	152/68	2/4	2/2	(Bron and Brow, \$137,240)	\$3,015,174	309	6	0.79	1.07
6	El Deal (12, Munnings)	N/A	63/34	2/7	1/2	(Free Like a Girl, \$1,039,400)	\$2,460,953	102	4	1.14	0.88
7	Coal Front (14, Stay Thirsty), Red River Farms	\$2,000	58/27	4/5	1/4	(Haulin Ice, \$447,350)	\$2,437,631	77	5	1.22	0.93
8	Carpe Diem (12, Giant's Causeway), LACER	\$3,500	111/54	1/2	0/1	(Kinza, \$180,500)	\$2,428,686	*421	12	1.00	1.51
9	Half Ours (03, Unbridled's Song)	Died, 2021	82/38	2/3	2/2	(Geaux Sugar, \$171,830)	\$1,439,934	*644	28	0.86	1.04
10	Custom for Carlos (06, More Than Ready), Clear Creek Stud	\$3,000	82/36	0/0	0/0	(Cajun Ninja, \$111,081)	\$1,359,340	403	7	0.68	0.95
11	Secret Circle (09, Eddington), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	38/24	0/0	0/0	(Everyoneloveslinda, \$174,200)	\$1,185,607	116	4	1.10	0.93
12	Mo Tom (13, Uncle Mo)	N/A	41/17	4/4	4/4	(Dixie Farmer, \$151,000)	\$1,086,620	82	5	0.88	1.01
13	Country Day (06, Speightstown), Peach Lane Farms	\$2,500	60/32	0/0	0/0	(Copter, \$93,315)	\$958,766	202	4	0.84	0.85
14	Clearly Now (10, Horse Greeley), Clear Creek Stud	\$3,000	28/18	2/2	2/2	(Clearly a Test, \$181,850)	\$830,835	58	2	0.80	1.03
15	Daaher (04, Awesome Again)	N/A	37/18	0/0	0/0	(Saint Gabriel, \$141,150)	\$776,340	219	11	1.15	1.05
16	¶ Aurelius Maximus (16, Pioneer of the Nile)	N/A	18/6	3/7	3/3	(Secret Faith, \$367,022)	\$723,628	40	3	1.30	0.80
17	Iron Fist (12, Tapit), Whispering Oaks Farm	\$3,500	36/17	1/1	1/1	(Brian's Iron Mike, \$117,430)	\$720,866	54	3	0.79	0.82
18	Catalina Red (12, Munnings), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	17/8	0/0	0/0	(Pacifcislandtime, \$133,110)	\$674,937	38	0	0.87	0.83
19	Apriority (07, Grand Slam), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	34/16	0/0	0/0	(Miss Priority, \$147,240)	\$621,587	131	2	0.66	0.75
20	My Pal Charlie (05, Indian Charlie), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	25/9	1/1	1/1	(Sharp Charlie, \$115,330)	\$541,010	234	3	0.70	0.89

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; ¶ Indicates a first-crop sire

thing that I found to be really fun.”

A chance meeting with Jimmy Clanin, now the bloodstock manager for the farm, eventually led to John claiming his first horse, and now less than a decade later he and his wife own and stand two of the most accomplished stallions in the state: grade 1-winning millionaire Creative Cause and grade 2-winning Copper Bullet.

The Hays bought what was formerly known as Eureka Thoroughbred Farms in 2023 and brought in Creative Cause for the 2024 breeding season. Copper Bullet joined the roster for the 2025 season.

“One of the things we were looking for was precocious speed but also versatility, and Creative Cause really encapsulates the versatility that Texas needs,” said Clanin. “He can give you anything from a 2-year-old that can go 4½ furlongs to a graded stakes turf router. He ran in the Triple Crown



Copper Bullet previously stood in Kentucky and is new to the Texas stallion roster this year. The now 10-year-old son of More Than Ready ranked 10th in North America as a first-crop sire in 2023

races and was a juvenile graded stakes winner, and that plays really well in the Texas market.”

With a stud fee of \$6,000, the son of Giant's Causeway is the highest-priced

stallion in the state, and his \$3.97 million in progeny earnings for 2024 easily topped the Texas sires list. The stallion's lifetime progeny earnings of nearly \$40 million also stands out in the Southwest.

Hay said Creative Cause was enthusiastically received by breeders in the region.

“We had a number of covers of mares who were not from Texas and have shipped around the country and even abroad,” he said about the stallion who won the Norfolk Stakes (G1) as a 2-year-old and earned grade 1 placings in the Preakness Stakes, Santa Anita Derby, Del Mar Futurity, and Breeders' Cup Juvenile.

That strong reception helped give the Hays the impetus to add Copper Bullet, who was actually coming back to Texas after getting his early training at Keith and Marilyn Asmussen's Asmussen Horse Center in Laredo.

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2024 LEADING SIRES IN NEW MEXICO



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2024 Earnings	Cumulative			
								2024 Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Marking (12, Bernardini), A & A Ranch	\$7,500	68/38	3/3	2/3	(Marking Canyon, \$219,588)	\$2,739,772	120	12	1.26	1.17
2	Attila's Storm (02, Forest Wildcat)	Died, 2021	64/32	1/1	1/1	(Henry On the Run, \$132,820)	\$1,682,523	400	28	0.96	0.78
3	Justin Phillip (08, First Samurai)	N/A	32/16	0/0	0/0	(Just Might, \$181,455)	\$719,709	227	8	0.93	1.01
4	Sway Away (08, Afleet Alex)	N/A	18/10	0/0	0/0	(Let Him Be, \$294,100)	\$717,756	49	2	0.93	0.74
5	We Miss Artie (11, Artie Schiller)	N/A	27/14	0/0	0/0	(Off Ramp, \$131,447)	\$597,098	87	4	1.08	1.23
6	Holy Lute (10, Midnight Lute), Hidden Acres	\$1,000	7/4	1/2	1/1	(Holy Hank, \$283,921)	\$591,204	12	3	1.75	0.65
7	Abstraction (10, Pulpit), Doubletree Farm	\$3,500	32/13	0/0	0/0	(Miss Fluffy, \$64,352)	\$550,323	129	1	0.62	0.92
8	Comfort (12, Indian Charlie), Double Tree Farm	\$3,000	23/13	1/1	1/1	(The Smooch, \$138,632)	\$509,067	57	1	0.71	0.69
9	Shame On Charlie (04, Indian Charlie)	N/A	27/10	0/0	0/0	(B Bold Charlie, \$112,860)	\$506,251	76	8	0.96	0.66
10	Mr. Trieste (01, Old Trieste)	N/A	10/5	1/1	1/1	(Corrina Corrina, \$358,290)	\$482,098	67	2	0.88	0.74
11	Sporting Chance (15, Tiznow), A & A Ranch	\$5,000	26/12	2/2	2/2	(Tap Rock, \$135,140)	\$465,040	42	2	0.47	1.27
12	Diabolical (03, Artax)	Pnsd	10/5	0/0	0/0	(Community Leader, \$270,000)	\$439,401	189	16	0.90	0.94
13	Kentucky Wildcat (16, Tapit), Hunter Creek Farms	\$2,500	10/5	1/1	1/1	(Honky Tonk Honey, \$209,625)	\$433,451	22	1	1.05	0.63
14	Moro Tap (10, Tapit)	Died, 2023	32/11	1/1	1/1	(Tap the Dot, \$72,284)	\$394,098	*139	2	0.53	0.78
15	Laugh Track (09, Distorted Humor)	N/A	35/14	0/0	0/0	(Our Time to Shine, \$49,180)	\$383,245	154	1	0.43	0.94

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; ¶ Indicates a first-crop sire

“He is an absolute speed specimen,” Clanin said about the Saratoga Special Stakes (G2) winner who’s had two crops to race after starting his stallion career in Kentucky and will stand for \$4,000 in Texas. “He’s a humongous, strong horse. We got the versatility when we got Creative Cause, and for the second stallion we were looking for dirt speed. People in Texas are usually looking for six- to eight-furlong horses that can cover that ground fast.”

The Hays believe they have two of the top stallions in the region, as well as the perfect property to breed and raise Thoroughbreds.

“Elisabeth and I are both in the real estate business and have a number of clients and contacts who are in the ranching business,” said Hay. “She’s primarily involved in luxury and high-end ranch properties for people with horses. We live in Fredericksburg, close to the farm, and have always admired the property and thought it would be neat to own. So when it came up for sale, we bought it. We were lucky enough to have Bill and Joan (Tracy) stay on.”

Although the Hays did not purchase any of the horses from the former Eureka property, they did retain the husband-and-wife team of Bill and Joan

**“WE UNDERSTAND
WHAT BEING A GOOD
NEIGHBOR AND GOOD
STEWARD OF THE
LAND IS, SO WE ARE
TRYING TO DO THAT.
WE WANT TO BE
A MARE CARE
FACILITY WHERE YOU
CAN BRING YOUR MARE
AND KNOW WHAT IT’S
GOING TO COST. YOU
WON’T HAVE TO SHIP
AROUND BECAUSE
WE DO EVERYTHING
FROM THE FOALING
TO THE VET WORK TO
SALES PREP.”**

—JOHN HAY

Tracy as farm managers for the 136 acres located on the main highway to the capital city of Austin.

A state as big as Texas has a more

diverse landscape than some entire countries, and the rolling countryside of Fredericksburg might not be what some think is typically Texan.

“The Hill Country has a lot of parallels to Kentucky horse country,” said Hay. “We have all of these vineyards, distilleries, and breweries. And then we have this horse property situated in the middle of that, and it’s kind of like how horse country and bourbon country are mixed together in Kentucky. We welcome people to come by the farm for informal tours, and we want to continue to expand that.”

While the Hays are operating the farm as a business venture, they said one of the most rewarding things about being first-time horse farm owners is the family aspect, which is even reflected in the name.

“I’m a lawyer, so the first thing I did was try to find a name that wasn’t trademarked, and we ran through about a dozen names, but Marjorie Farms always stood out,” he said. “Marjorie was my grandmother, and some of my best memories were of going to Ruidoso with her and her enjoyment of the races.”

The Hays’ two children are also enjoying the new venture.

“They both like the horses,” said Hay. “My daughter has taken to



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2024 LEADING SIRES IN OKLAHOMA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2024 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Always Dreaming (14, Bodemeister), River Oaks Farms	Died, 2024	149/72	4/6	1/4	(Saudi Crown, \$2,253,900)	\$5,334,702	258	5	1.07	1.41
2	Flat Out (06, Flatter), Mighty Acres	\$3,000	132/69	4/5	2/4	(Ambitiously Placed, \$162,190)	\$3,527,746	567	22	1.06	1.05
3	Code West (10, Lemon Drop Kid), WestWin Farms	\$3,000	41/21	3/4	2/3	(Miss Code West, \$250,240)	\$1,158,264	68	3	0.84	0.70
4	Cowtown Cat (04, Distorted Humor), Kirton Farms	\$1,500	36/24	0/0	0/0	(Lofty Cowtown, \$86,354)	\$1,016,017	281	6	1.10	1.11
5	Caleb's Posse (08, Posse), River Oaks Farms	\$1,000	45/25	0/0	0/0	(Okie Smoke, \$88,281)	\$922,492	*191	4	0.93	0.95
6	Den's Legacy (10, Medaglia d'Oro), Mighty Acres	\$2,000	45/19	0/0	0/0	(Kiss and Tell, \$58,147)	\$614,684	94	3	0.72	0.83
7	Euroears (04, Langfuhr)	N/A	24/15	0/0	0/0	(Low Euro Cat, \$69,827)	\$548,411	220	5	0.75	0.78
8	Magna Graduate (02, Honor Grades)	N/A	25/13	1/2	1/1	(Doudoudouwanadance, \$113,463)	\$513,121	*286	11	0.88	0.94
9	Wilburn (08, Bernardini), River Oaks Farms	\$2,000	29/12	0/0	0/0	(That's Our Vision, \$84,175)	\$463,271	*383	9	0.71	1.01
10	Shakin It Up (10, Midnight Lute)	Died, 2024	33/13	0/0	0/0	(Free Soul, \$89,405)	\$458,766	*187	2	0.66	1.05
11	Excaper (09, Exchange Rate), River Oaks Farms	\$2,000	22/11	0/0	0/0	(Good Swimmer, \$64,383)	\$429,099	59	0	0.48	0.83
12	Da Stoops (03, Distorted Humor), Laura Atkinson	\$1,250	23/10	0/0	0/0	(He's All Ears, \$65,967)	\$312,130	*139	1	0.88	0.99
13	Xixixi (11, Maimonides)	N/A	9/7	0/0	0/0	(Bunny Bonus, \$97,406)	\$290,544	29	0	0.81	0.80
14	Black Bear (10, Midnight Lute)	N/A	8/6	1/1	1/1	(Afternoon Diva, \$82,931)	\$271,280	14	1	1.06	0.99
15	Maimonides (05, Vindication)	N/A	17/8	0/0	0/0	(Brown Town, \$53,940)	\$247,795	*148	1	0.68	1.48

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; ¶ Indicates a first-crop sire



Left to right, John Hay with farm manager Bill Tracy, and bloodstock manager Jimmy Clanin

riding, and my son likes for the yearlings to chew on his hair. So that's a big part of it for us. It's an opportunity to build a generational family business on an iconic Texas property."

Even though the property was already an operating breeding facility when the Hays bought it, they have put their own stamp on it with a number of improvements.

"We started with a lot of little projects," said Tracy, who has been at the property with his wife for about 15 years. "We redid all the stalls, put new floors in, and are working on the water

systems. Some of the things were 20-plus years old, so there's always ongoing projects.

"We have a training track here that has not been used for 12 years, so that's another item on the list," added Tracy, who also mentioned they have worked on fertilizing and improving the pastures. "You can't do it all in a day, but when we have time we work on improving the property."

The Hays have two quality stallions and one of the premier Thoroughbred facilities in the state, but why Texas?

"We believe in the horse racing busi-

ness in Texas, despite all the challenges in the last decade," said Hay. "Purses have grown and should continue to grow. The ranching and horse business is an integral part of Texas' history. With neighboring states having purses supplemented by outside things, we believe Texas will follow that model in the next decade or hopefully sooner."

Purses in Texas dropped precipitously in the 2000s and then were mostly stagnant during the 2010s before bouncing back in 2020 thanks to a bill that directed a portion of sales tax on horse feed, tack, and other horse-related products into purses and enhancements to Texas racing and breeding.

Even so, without account wagering or additional gaming at the state's tracks, and the lack of outgoing simulcasts due to the legal disagreements between the Texas Racing Commission and the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority, the future of the industry in the state is somewhat murky.

Hay, Tracy, and Clanin are also working to dispel the notion that some might see Texas breeding operations as second-tier.

"We take it personally that the Texas market is not held in the esteem that we think it should be," said Clanin. "We are

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2024 LEADING SIRES IN TEXAS

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	BT SWnrs/Wns	Rstrct SW/BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2024 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Creative Cause (09, Giant's Causeway), Marjorie Farms	\$6,000	138/70	5/5	2/5	(Runaldo, \$199,295)	\$3,974,712	*609	27	1.08	1.38
2	Competitive Edge (12, Super Saver), Valor Farm	\$5,000	100/50	5/5	1/5	(Shesalittle Edgy, \$179,550)	\$2,843,334	*391	13	1.25	1.13
3	Too Much Bling (03, Rubiano)	Pnsd	64/36	5/6	5/5	(Hush It Honey, \$180,550)	\$2,127,899	405	35	0.94	0.97
4	Mr Speaker (11, Pulpit), Forks of the Paluxy	\$5,000	64/28	4/4	2/4	(Three Technique, \$279,600)	\$1,647,643	*379	12	0.96	1.15
5	Copper Bullet (15, More Than Ready), Marjorie Farms	\$4,000	36/19	2/4	0/2	(Copper Tax, \$269,000)	\$1,081,735	51	2	1.11	1.47
6	Poseidon's Warrior (08, Speightstown), Equine Partners Veterinary Services	\$2,500	41/14	0/0	0/0	(Swing Oil, \$78,463)	\$680,942	*268	5	0.96	1.01
7	My Golden Song (03, Unbridled's Song)	Died, 2022	33/13	1/1	1/1	(Imaluckycharm, \$116,893)	\$568,820	231	19	0.89	0.94
8	Early Flyer (98, Gilded Time)	Pnsd	16/7	0/0	0/0	(Hezakoolkat, \$106,630)	\$274,581	339	19	0.71	0.86
9	Keep Up (07, Unbridled's Song), Eureka Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,000	10/4	0/0	0/0	(Ruby Cantu, \$55,620)	\$209,507	53	0	0.54	1.22
10	Latent Heat (03, Maria's Mon)	N/A	18/5	0/0	0/0	(Just Chillin, \$50,027)	\$195,003	*399	8	0.81	1.02
11	Mr. Besilu (09, A.P. Indy)	N/A	10/4	0/0	0/0	(Sonny Bob, \$40,761)	\$144,138	52	0	0.46	0.82
12	Congaree (98, Arazi)	Died, 2020	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Runningwscissors, \$88,638)	\$139,679	*427	14	1.15	1.27
13	The Hunk (07, Speightstown), Eureka Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,000	13/3	0/0	0/0	(Phunk, \$34,144)	\$100,109	48	1	0.50	0.80
14	Redeemed (08, Include)	N/A	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Going to the Lead, \$33,125)	\$98,834	119	2	0.94	1.08
15	Spellbinder (01, Tale of the Cat)	Died, 2021	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Supersecretweapon, \$72,072)	\$74,380	45	1	0.88	1.07

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; ¶ Indicates a first-crop sire



Hay (left) and Tracy with Creative Cause. Tracy, along with his wife, Joan, have been with Marjorie Farms since its start. They previously managed operations at Eureka Thoroughbred Farms, the property that was acquired by the Hays and renamed

neighbor and good steward of the land is, so we are trying to do that," he said. "We want to be a mare care facility where you can bring your mare and know what it's going to cost. You won't have to ship around because we do everything from the foaling to the vet work to sales prep."

Hay also hopes his farm can help showcase the industry in a state with a rich horse heritage, and down the road he'd like to offer something more than just informal tours.

"You shouldn't have to go to Kentucky for that kind of thing," he said. "Hopefully regional farms like ours can be places like that for people to interact with horses."

"We've had people come by and thank us for not turning it into another winery," added Tracy. "They drive by and say, 'Man, look at all the horses out there.'"

Owning and operating a horse farm is obviously a challenge, but the Hays are loving the experience after their first full year and looking forward to many more.

"We are going to take this next year off on acquiring stallions, which means we will probably buy one," said Hay with a laugh. "We are happy with the stallions we have now and looking forward to seeing the growth of our farm." **BH**

doing what we can to change that."

"There's a right way to do things, and that's how we do it on the farm," added Hay. "We aren't going to cut corners. It is what I believe will set us apart in the next 10 years to be the leading farm in Texas and the Southwest.

"We have a good band of broodmares, and we are focused on improving that and bringing quality mares to Texas," he added.

The farm's plan entails selling most of their foals at auction as yearlings or 2-year-olds, although they do anticipate keeping a small number to race.

Hay said he is thankful to have the decades of experience that Clanin and Tracy bring to the table, but he's far from a hands-off owner and is driven to make a name for Marjorie Farms, as both a horse facility and a part of the local community.

"We understand what being a good

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