



WEST COAST

CALIFORNIA IDAHO NEVADA OREGON
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Welcome Addition

CTBA INTRODUCES NEW FINANCIAL BENEFITS FOR CALIFORNIA'S BREEDING INDUSTRY

By TRACY GANTZ

VAN A HORSE in California from the Oregon to Mexican borders and you'll travel about 800 miles, encountering only three active racetracks: Santa Anita Park, Los Alamitos Race Course, and Del Mar. The nearest out-of-state track is Turf Paradise in Phoenix, another 350 miles due east of the Los Angeles area.

Take an 800-mile van trip on the east side of the country and, depending on the route, you'll pass through several states that include Belmont Park, Aqueduct Racetrack, Saratoga Race Course, Monmouth Park, Parx Racing, Delaware Park, Laurel Park, Colonial Downs, Thistledown, Mahoning Valley Race Course, Belterra Park, Keeneland, Churchill Downs, Turfway Park, Ellis Park, Kentucky Downs, Charles Town, and Mountaineer.

California breeders rightfully consider themselves as existing on an island, one with

ALL SIRES LISTS ARE THROUGH NOV. 9

Advertisers' Index

California Thoroughbred Breeders
Association (www.ctba.com) 105

Rancho San Miguel 111
(www.ranchosanmiguel.net)



Bella Ciao, dam of Cal-bred stakes winner Max Ciao (pictured), was purchased in foal three years ago in Kentucky and relocated to California where she was bred back to an in-state sire. With the new mare program, a scenario like that will save breeders up to \$3,000 in transportation fees if their mare qualifies

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California Thoroughbred Breeders Association

Winter Mixed Sale

Breeding Stock • Two-Year Olds
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TUESDAY

2026

12:00 NOON,
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Email: Loretta@ctba.com OR
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**California Thoroughbred
Breeders Association**
201 Colorado Pl, Arcadia
CA 91007

WWW.CTBA.COM



2025 LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA

For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2025 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2025 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Collected (13, City Zip), Rancho San Miguel	\$7,500	187/98	6/8	1/6	(Mansetti, \$669,481)	\$6,313,542	345	20	1.13	1.42
2	Stay Thirsty (08, Bernardini), Lovacres Ranch	\$10,000	196/90	1/1	0/1	(Vodka Vodka, \$221,600)	\$3,459,136	*903	22	1.05	1.22
3	Grazen (06, Benchmark), Eclipse Thoroughbred Farm	\$6,000	112/54	5/6	4/5	(Lovesick Blues, \$398,000)	\$3,444,056	412	29	1.34	1.00
4	I'll Have Another (09, Flower Alley)	Pnsd	87/41	1/1	1/1	(Win Marvel, \$557,631)	\$2,515,375	491	6	1.02	1.05
5	Smiling Tiger (07, Hold That Tiger)	Died, 2024	144/61	1/2	1/1	(Grand Slam Smile, \$226,720)	\$2,316,748	527	13	0.87	0.95
6	Clubhouse Ride (08, Candy Ride), Legacy Ranch	\$7,500	101/50	0/0	0/0	(Kikuride, \$120,800)	\$2,221,637	267	7	1.12	0.91
7	Sir Prancealot (IRE) (10, Tamayuz), Rancho San Miguel	\$8,500	128/45	2/2	2/2	(Sir Rocket, \$164,316)	\$2,217,108	*711	17	1.03	0.92
8	Stanford (12, Malibu Moon), Harris Farms	\$4,000	103/59	1/3	1/1	(Book Smart, \$161,660)	\$2,056,060	262	2	0.69	0.85
9	Catholic Boy (15, More Than Ready), Harris Farms	\$6,000	114/48	1/1	0/1	(Smoken Boy, \$152,388)	\$1,873,756	185	2	0.71	1.59
10	Midnight Storm (11, Pioneerof the Nile), Milky Way Farm	\$4,000	96/48	0/0	0/0	(Reining Flowers, \$100,900)	\$1,769,163	234	5	0.87	1.04
11	Om (12, Munnings), Harris Farms	\$5,000	63/32	2/5	1/2	(Om N Joy, \$385,763)	\$1,729,420	135	2	0.73	1.01
12	Mr. Big (03, Dynaformer)	Died, 2024	60/26	2/4	1/2	(Big Hug, \$131,178)	\$1,129,385	238	12	1.13	0.88
13	Dads Caps (10, Discreet Cat), Barton Thoroughbreds	\$10,000	62/35	0/0	0/0	(No Cap, \$149,600)	\$1,081,701	131	2	0.64	0.79
14	Curlin to Mischief (11, Curlin)	Pnsd	43/23	1/1	1/1	(See Through It, \$178,054)	\$1,075,774	157	5	0.78	0.80
15	Danzing Candy (13, Twirling Candy)	N/A	72/23	0/0	0/0	(Danzingwith Maxine, \$121,520)	\$1,040,472	252	2	0.72	0.98
16	Majestic Harbor (08, Rockport Harbor)	Died, 2022	23/10	1/2	0/1	(Majestic Oops, \$492,775)	\$841,987	64	3	1.07	0.94
17	Jack Milton (10, War Front), Gray Farms	Private	39/15	1/2	1/1	(Riding Pretty, \$155,955)	\$825,028	178	6	0.96	1.05
18	Vronsky (99, Danzig)	Died	54/25	1/1	0/1	(Clovisconnection, \$92,000)	\$815,192	396	14	1.14	0.96
19	Cat Burglar (10, Unbridled's Song), Barton Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	45/22	1/1	0/1	(Cantcatchthiscat, \$64,400)	\$730,073	107	1	0.62	0.78
20	Pavel (14, Creative Cause), Ocean Breeze Ranch	\$4,000	32/11	0/0	0/0	(Canani, \$155,060)	\$595,952	42	1	0.85	1.21
21	Acclamation (06, Unusual Heat), Harris Farms	\$4,000	37/15	1/3	1/1	(Kings River Knight, \$206,000)	\$646,029	245	7	0.93	1.08
22	Jersey Town (06, Speightstown), Daehling Farms	\$3,000	23/12	1/1	0/1	(Regal Patriot, \$189,917)	\$550,692	*255	8	0.94	0.97
23	Tamarando (11, Bertrand), Harris Farms	\$2,500	24/10	0/0	0/0	(Tam's Little Angel, \$104,720)	\$470,574	69	4	0.78	1.17
24	Graydar (09, Unbridled's Song), Milky Way Farm	\$3,000	37/14	0/0	0/0	(Graywing, \$155,400)	\$464,693	*386	7	0.85	1.20
25	Mrizek (13, Square Eddie)	Died, 2021	15/7	0/0	0/0	(Check's On the Way, \$124,100)	\$455,822	26	1	1.27	1.18
26	Ministers Wild Cat (00, Deputy Minister)	Pnsd	29/15	0/0	0/0	(Devil Among Us, \$67,740)	\$452,300	551	21	0.90	0.85
27	Tough Sunday (12, Grazen), Eclipse Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,500	9/6	1/1	1/1	(Shea Brennan, \$142,930)	\$406,713	15	2	1.91	1.11
28	Empire Way (09, Empire Maker)	N/A	13/8	1/1	1/1	(Empire's Fire, \$115,294)	\$405,277	170	3	0.66	0.87
29	Smokem (15, Union Rags), Lovacres Ranch	\$2,500	20/10	0/0	0/0	(One Smokin' Rita, \$97,098)	\$350,484	61	1	0.68	0.71
30	Conquest Farenheit (14, Scat Daddy), Hanson's River Ranch	\$3,000	23/10	0/0	0/0	(Liquid Spirit, \$66,280)	\$348,978	59	0	0.50	0.93
31	Richard's Kid (05, Lemon Drop Kid), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	29/8	0/0	0/0	(Brunchandcrunch, \$53,280)	\$348,302	153	0	0.77	0.82
32	Misremembered (06, Candy Ride)	Pnsd	31/15	0/0	0/0	(Don't Ju Forget, \$54,650)	\$342,763	208	9	0.82	1.02
33	Desert Code (04, E Dubai), Harris Farms	\$2,000	20/16	0/0	0/0	(Sanger, \$50,695)	\$334,277	192	4	0.79	0.97
34	Gig Harbor (08, City Zip), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	23/5	0/0	0/0	(Ballyvaughan Gig, \$78,848)	\$249,463	100	0	0.60	0.76
35	Far From Over (12, Blame)	Died, 2021	14/5	0/0	0/0	(Drop Um, \$100,450)	\$243,453	36	2	0.57	1.11
36	Point Piper (10, Giant's Causeway)	N/A	12/6	0/0	0/0	(Piper's Causeway, \$107,440)	\$229,767	20	0	0.54	0.69
37	Tom's Tribute (10, Lion Heart), Kingfisher Farms	\$2,500	18/7	0/0	0/0	(O K Rose, \$99,260)	\$223,051	97	1	0.59	0.78
38	Gallant Son (06, Malabar Gold), Daehling Farms	\$2,000	13/6	0/0	0/0	(Fast Buck, \$73,810)	\$218,248	41	1	0.81	0.63
39	Slew's Tiznow (05, Tiznow)	Pnsd	14/7	1/1	0/1	(Slew's Tiz Whiz, \$80,000)	\$208,290	196	8	0.78	0.86
40	Idiot Proof (04, Benchmark), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	26/3	0/0	0/0	(Shaun's Jazz, \$29,440)	\$205,788	172	2	0.90	0.86
41	Northern Causeway (08, Giant's Causeway), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	29/7	0/0	0/0	(Runkerry, \$45,566)	\$203,663	148	0	0.36	0.82
42	Unusual Heatwave (09, Unusual Heat), Eclipse Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,500	8/2	0/0	0/0	(Annan, \$146,020)	\$196,658	44	0	0.49	0.50
43	Gato Del Oro (14, Medaglia d'Oro), BG Thoroughbred Facility	\$1,000	17/7	0/0	0/0	(Dontellmewhattodo, \$43,700)	\$192,564	39	0	0.58	0.52
44	Big Bad Leroybrown (04, Wild Again)	N/A	15/6	1/1	0/1	(Elegant Boy, \$39,230)	\$183,185	52	1	0.73	1.07
45	¶ Listing (16, Square Eddie), Ocean Breeze Ranch	\$2,000	4/3	1/1	1/1	(Jasmina, \$86,060)	\$162,290	11	1	1.39	1.28

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

real estate prices that have been turning horse farms into housing tracts or boutique wineries for decades. The California Thoroughbred Breeders Association board of directors decided to add new financial incentives onto the existing California-bred incentive program to help California breeders and CTBA members cope with high prices and much fewer racing opportunities than their counterparts east of the Mississippi.

Each of the new programs is designed to mitigate some of the costs of breeding and raising a horse to racing age. Beginning with mares bred in 2026, the foal incentive program will award \$1,000 for each foal of 2027 and beyond, when registered



California Thoroughbred Breeders Association president Doug Burge

with The Jockey Club and registered as a California-bred, with a 25-foal cap per breeder. The \$100 Cal-bred registration fee will be waived for foals born in 2025-27. Breeders who purchase in-foal mares at out-of-state auctions that cost \$20,000 or more and are 12 years old and younger will be eligible to receive up to \$3,000 in transportation expense reimbursement, with a limit of five mares per breeder per year.

"This is a significant addition to the current program," said Doug Burge, president of the CTBA. "Currently, we reward success—breeders awards, stallion awards, owners awards, maiden bonus, all the restricted purses. What this does is reward production, which is what we really need right now."

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2025 LEADING SIRES IN OREGON

For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2025 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2025 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Harbor the Gold (01, Seeking the Gold)	Died	35/19	0/0	0/0	(Henry the Hank, \$37,560)	\$372,708	479	27	0.59	0.68
2	Dynamic Impact (11, Tiznow), Bar C Racing Stables	\$1,500	9/6	0/0	0/0	(Miss Dynamic, \$41,588)	\$133,286	32	2	0.50	0.88
3	Rise Up (11, Rockport Harbor), Ruah Ranch	\$2,000	11/4	1/1	0/1	(Blackberry Jam, \$30,735)	\$90,739	23	1	0.37	0.33
4	Giacomo (02, Holy Bull)	N/A	8/5	0/0	0/0	(Rocky Bay Rae, \$16,350)	\$55,307	*401	10	0.90	1.00
5	¶ Jess Mo (17, Uncle Mo), Bar C Racing Stables	\$1,500	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Fred Mo, \$15,755)	\$26,340	6	0	0.23	0.80
6	Sixthirteen (04, Dixie Union)	N/A	5/3	0/0	0/0	(Rodeo Rose, \$12,138)	\$24,852	77	0	0.32	0.56
7	¶ Raging Tiger (15, Giant's Causeway), Oakhurst Thoroughbreds	\$1,000	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Diva in Motion, \$15,263)	\$15,263	5	0	0.52	0.41
8	Al Faatik (09, Invador)	N/A	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Yankee Pankee, \$9,582)	\$9,582	12	0	0.05	0.09
9	Slew's Saga (02, Seattle Slew)	N/A	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Saxon Saga, \$6,108)	\$6,108	38	1	0.36	0.66
10	Why Not Be Perfect (07, Whywhywhy), Keizer Equestrian Center	\$750	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Why Not Mayzee, \$)	\$	34	0	0.07	0.38

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

The loss of Golden Gate Fields in Northern California, followed in quick succession by the Northern California fair circuit, has been difficult for all breeders.

"We didn't have the option to take anything other than action at this point," said Justin Oldfield, chairperson of the CTBA and owner with his wife, Julia, of Daehling Ranch in Northern California. "In my opinion, we are probably at the most critical time this industry has faced in terms of challenges to the breeding industry."

Oldfield noted that the CTBA board unanimously approved these new programs.

"The people we're focused on are the small breeders because they're the ones who make up the backbone of the industry in California," he said. "I've got a client on our farm with quite a few broodmares, and he bred one last year. Those are the people that we need to protect and we need to encourage to breed."

Ironically, the opportunity for these new programs came about because of California's high real estate prices.

In the 1950s, the CTBA was renting office space on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood. The organization in January 1957 moved to its current spot on Colorado Place in Arcadia. That road parallels Santa Anita's backside parking lot, which sits between the seven-furlong chute and the top of the hillside turf course.

The large ranch-style office that the CTBA built at one time housed the executive offices, accounting, a horse sales company complete with people



Breeder and consignor Stormy Hull, pictured at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton California Fall Yearling Sale, is among those glad to see the arrival of the new incentives. One of the breeder's success stories is California Diamond (left), a state-bred champion

who compiled pedigrees and catalog information by hand, California-bred registration personnel, and an entire staff that produced a monthly magazine and an annual stallion register. The building's large central room was devoted to the Carleton F. Burke Memorial Library, open to the public.

Changing technologies have

curtailed many of those departments. Today the CTBA focuses on Cal-bred registration, promotion, and overseeing the incentive program with a much smaller staff. The board decided that the prudent use of resources was to sell the land and the building and ultimately rent much smaller space.

"We sold our building, which was

2025 LEADING SIRES IN WASHINGTON

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2025 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2025 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Alternation (08, Distorted Humor), Blue Ribbon Farm	\$3,500	72/35	1/1	1/1	(Chicory Blaze, \$224,000)	\$2,093,669	*324	11	1.13	1.17
2	Conveyance (07, Indian Charlie)	Died, 2023	32/19	0/0	0/0	(Lunar Module, \$106,864)	\$681,841	140	5	1.00	0.97
3	Coast Guard (05, Stormy Atlantic), El Dorado Farms	\$2,500	33/21	1/1	0/1	(Coastal Jazz, \$94,830)	\$635,263	147	9	0.54	0.54
4	Barkley (13, Munnings), El Dorado Farms	\$2,500	15/8	1/1	0/1	(Saleen G T, \$80,340)	\$228,095	32	1	0.46	0.47
5	Raised a Secret (10, Songandaprayer)	N/A	13/6	0/0	0/0	(Secret Zipper, \$79,440)	\$167,059	32	1	0.36	0.61
6	Nationhood (02, Cherokee Run)	Died, 2020	10/6	0/0	0/0	(Lonesome Boy, \$45,350)	\$132,892	90	4	0.46	0.61
7	Private Gold (00, Seeking the Gold), El Dorado Farms	\$1,500	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Boss Like Beth, \$81,490)	\$91,833	198	4	0.48	0.55
8	Gold Aly (06, Medaglia d'Oro)	N/A	6/3	0/0	0/0	(Terry's Boy, \$22,200)	\$55,597	28	0	0.43	0.51
9	Running Tap (08, Tapit)	N/A	9/2	0/0	0/0	(Its Kraken Time, \$28,160)	\$54,214	29	0	0.22	0.37
10	Gold Rush Dancer (13, Private Gold), Blue Ribbon Farm	\$1,500	6/0	0/0	0/0	(Mister Midas, \$10,852)	\$31,021	22	1	0.31	0.56
11	Rallying Cry (04, War Chant)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Libby's Gambit, \$29,696)	\$30,696	57	0	0.25	0.49
12	Houseofroyalhearts (02, Chester House)	N/A	2/2	0/0	0/0	(Aliceshouseofheart, \$15,875)	\$30,590	35	0	0.40	0.42
13	War Power (06, Pulpit), Frances Long	Private	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Pistol Power, \$11,798)	\$22,903	36	1	0.36	0.39
14	Mr. Rancho Vista (05, Northern Afleet)	N/A	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Peg's Choice, \$15,210)	\$17,941	11	0	0.39	0.46

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

worth quite a bit of money," Oldfield said. "We came into some cash, and being responsible and judicious for the membership, we felt it was good use of the funds to put it toward encouraging people to breed in this state."

Burge said that the proceeds are being used like an endowment, with funds invested so that members can benefit from generated income for many years to come. He also pointed out the importance of Cal-breds to field size at Santa Anita, Del Mar, and Los Alamitos.

"We're making up nearly 50% of the fields," Burge said. "We need to make sure that the foal crop going forward can continue to support racing."

Pete Parrella, who with his wife, Evelyn, owns Legacy Ranch in Northern California, is a past chairperson of the CTBA and continues to sit on the board of directors.

"Our goal is the breeding side of it," Parrella said. "We're the production line for horses going to the races. If we don't take care of the breeding side of it, then the production will decrease and that's going to cause a major problem in California. Anything that we can do to help the ranches and the breeding industry, I'm all in favor of it."

Parrella pointed out the difficulties of rising prices at the farm level, from employee costs to the price of hay and shavings.

"Some of these people have four or five mares and didn't breed any of them," he said. "We've got to get



Pete Parrella and his wife, Evelyn, own Legacy Ranch in Northern California

"WE TYPICALLY BUY OLDER MARES BECAUSE THOSE ARE THE ONES WE CAN AFFORD. MAYBE WE'D BUY A YOUNGER MARE NOW BECAUSE SHE'D BE \$3,000 CHEAPER. IT'S GREAT FOR THE STALLION OWNERS TO GET THE MARES OUT HERE."

—DAR HANSON OF HANSON'S RIVER RANCH

those people back in the game and say, 'We've got some incentives for you, some things that we hope will offset some of the costs.' Hopefully, those people will get back into it.

"I think the Cal-bred horses are going to become more valuable as time goes on because supply is going to be short and demand will increase. We're buying and breeding as many mares as we can."

Board members emphasized that these programs are just the start. They will monitor breeders' reactions to gauge possible improvements and changes.

Adrian Gonzalez, a board member and secretary of the CTBA, breeds and markets many Cal-breds. He has been the driving force behind standing such stallions as Sir Prancealot, Danzing Candy, and Eight Rings in the state.

"Adrian is the one who kind of thought up the idea of paying for the shipping program," Oldfield said, "to encourage bringing higher-quality mares out to California to further the quality of the Cal-breds in the state."

Gonzalez patterned the idea off of Del Mar and Santa Anita's successful Ship & Win program. Owners and trainers who bring new horses into the California racing circuit benefit from a bonus program. Santa Anita has publicized examples such as Public Assembly, who began her racing career in New York and Kentucky, sold at the 2024 Keeneland Horses of Racing Age Sale, collected Ship & Win bonuses for her new owners, and became a graded stakes winner.

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									BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index	
1	Chips All In (09, North Light), Ranwell Equine Center	\$1,000	2/0	0/0	0/0	(Tmt All Inclusive, \$8,130)	\$13,280	6	0	0.16	0.46	
2	Trojan Nation (13, Street Cry)	N/A	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Warring Thunder, \$10,500)	\$13,020	19	0	0.13	0.64	
3	Finnegans Wake (09, Powerscourt), Wolfpaw Stables	\$1,500	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Luvtheoneurwith, \$10,058)	\$12,784	18	0	0.45	1.10	

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

“The two new programs go hand in hand,” Gonzalez said. “One is to help try to subsidize the current mare population. I call it the Ship & Win for the mares. We have an aging and shrinking broodmare population here. We really needed to make some sort of an incentive to help promote acquiring new broodmares and essentially upgrading the stock.”

Gonzalez saw the racetracks quantifying how much revenue the Ship & Win horses were generating. He reasoned that each Ship & Win horse can only make so many starts, whereas broodmares could contribute even more.

“If you bring a broodmare to California, she’s essentially going to produce an exponential amount of starts through her offspring,” he said.

The travel reimbursement is not payable until after the mare is bred back to a California stallion, which Gonzalez said will “help contribute to the whole food chain of the California breeding industry—the boarding farms, the stallions, all of it.”

Gonzalez echoed others’ concern about breeders deciding not to breed their mares.

“We are at a really crucial point in California,” he said.

When Gonzalez asked breeders what would help them, he said the reaction was positive about the travel reimbursement to bring in new mares. But they also wanted incentives for people who already have mares in California. The hope is that the foal and broodmare programs will work together.

“One is going to help incentivize the current broodmare band and then the other is to help incentivize people wanting to add broodmares,” Gonzalez said. “I hope this will become a really popular program for us.”

The existing Cal-bred program



CTBA board member and secretary Adrian Gonzalez had the notion to pattern the incentive program after the popular Ship & Win program, offered by Santa Anita Park and Del Mar

was designed decades ago to encourage bringing mares into the state, and breeders already take advantage of it. CTBA board member Terry Lovingier did it with Bella Ciao, the dam of 2025

I’m Smokin Stakes winner Max Ciao, a Cal-bred son of Maxfield.

Lovingier bought Bella Ciao, carrying Max Ciao, for \$165,000 at the 2022 Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale. He foaled Max Ciao in California, where the colt could be registered a Cal-bred as long as the mare was bred back to a California sire. Lovingier stands leading California sire Stay Thirsty, and Bella Ciao has produced foals by that stallion since then.

The new mare program is designed to encourage the purchase of better and younger mares, with the five-mare annual cap so that small-scale breeders can benefit. The \$3,000 shipping expenses will not be paid until the mare has been bred to a California stallion.

“We were trying to figure out how can we help people who want to invest in buying a new mare and bring her to California,” Gonzalez said. “I had advocated for a little bit lower purchase price. We’ve bought a whole slew of graded



Graded stakes winner Public Assembly, with co-owner Bing Bush, is a Ship & Win program success story

stakes producers for less than that price. But we needed to set it somewhere.”

Stormy Hull, who is based in Washington, tries to take advantage of many state incentive programs. He bred Cal-bred champion California Diamond and frequently sells yearlings in California. Though he finds the loss of Northern California racing devastating to the state’s program, he applauds the creation of these incentives.

“I think it’s wonderful that they’re trying to think outside the box,” Hull said. “Any incentives have to be good.”

Hull said he wishes the \$20,000 limit on broodmares were lower.

“Incentivize it for everyone,” he said. “You’re giving the rich more money. I might buy a \$10,000 broodmare who could become the Broodmare of the Year in California. I paid \$5,000 for California Diamond’s mom.”

Hull pointed to the loss of the Northern California circuit as a major reason many mares have been taken out of production in the state.

“I know a woman in Northern California who has five mares and had four or five yearlings. She didn’t even put them in the (California yearling) sale. She said, ‘I’m going to sell them as show horses. I can probably get just as much money.’ So there are five Cal-breds that are not in the race program.”

Dar Hanson runs Hanson’s River Ranch in Kingsburg, Calif., raising



Terry Lovingier stands leading California sire Stay Thirsty at his Lovacres Ranch

Thoroughbreds and Quarter Horses. His primary business is assisted reproduction such as embryo transfers and frozen semen in Quarter Horse reiners, cutters, and other disciplines.

Hanson owns about 16 Thoroughbred mares and sells their offspring as yearlings both north and south. With the demise of the northern circuit, the Northern California yearling sale has also disappeared. While Hanson always hopes his sale horses can be competitive at Santa Anita and Del Mar, in the past some have ended up in Northern California and these days are off to Arizona, Washington, and other places out of state.

“I was happy that CTBA was going to try something,” Hanson said. “They got

together and decided as a group that these are the things they want to try, and I’m all for it.”

He has bought in-foal mares in Kentucky and brought them to California, and he said that the new broodmare incentive might influence how he does that.

“We typically buy older mares because those are the ones we can afford,” he said. “Maybe we’d buy a younger mare now because she’d be \$3,000 cheaper. It’s great for the stallion owners to get the mares out here.”

Both Hanson and Hull noted that a strength of the existing Cal-bred program is that mares must be bred back to California stallions to qualify their California-foaled offspring by out-of-state sires as Cal-breds.

Hanson praised the CTBA for starting conservatively and investing most of the windfall funds to sustain incentives in the future. His only suggestion would be to reward stallion owners for registered Cal-bred foals instead of the mare owners.

“To me it felt like it would have a better chance of the money staying in the industry,” Hanson said. “It would go to the people we need to keep stallions in California.”

The current program rewards successful stallions via stallion awards, but those aren’t paid until after the foal earns purse money, several years later.

While it will take at least one breeding cycle to determine the success of these new programs, Burge said that the immediate reaction has been very positive. Many people have been asking for details, and The Jockey Club asked Burge to speak about it at a workshop for state breeders groups.

“We need to let everybody know that we’re being aggressive here,” Burge said. “We had a windfall with the sale of the building. We want to be very creative in how we can incentivize people to continue to breed horses and to continue to bring better bloodstock in the state and continue investing in breeding in California.” **BH**

“WE’RE THE PRODUCTION LINE FOR HORSES GOING TO THE RACES. IF WE DON’T TAKE CARE OF THE BREEDING SIDE OF IT, THEN THE PRODUCTION WILL DECREASE AND THAT’S GOING TO CAUSE A MAJOR PROBLEM IN CALIFORNIA. ANYTHING THAT WE CAN DO TO HELP THE RANCHES AND THE BREEDING INDUSTRY, I’M ALL IN FAVOR OF IT.”

—PETE PARRELLA OF LEGACY RANCH

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