

SOUTHWEST

ARIZONA ARKANSAS COLORADO KANSAS LOUISIANA
MISSOURI NEW MEXICO OKLAHOMA TEXAS



Grade 1-placed Airoforce, a son of Colonel John, is among the six stallions standing at Caines Stallion Station in Oklahoma

Steady Sooner

ELLEN CAINES FOLLOWED HER HEART AND IS STILL GOING STRONG WITH CAINES STALLION STATION AFTER NEARLY THREE DECADES

By DENIS BLAKE

E LLEN CAINES HAS been a part of the Thoroughbred breeding scene in Oklahoma for long enough that it's hard to say when Caines Stallion Station officially started, but its roots were planted in 1985 and then it branched into Thoroughbreds in the late 1990s. Over the decades, Caines, with her late husband, Conrad, better known as Connie, has been a mainstay in the Sooner State and stood dozens of stallions while focusing on the accredited Oklahoma-bred program and selling at auctions in the region. Caines has also developed a reputation as someone who can get foals out of problem mares.

ALL SIRES LISTS ARE THROUGH DEC. 31, 2025

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2025 LEADING SIRES IN ARIZONA

For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2026 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2025		Cumulative		
							Earnings	Foals	BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Lotsa Mischief (11, Into Mischief), Fleming Thoroughbred Farm	Private	68/38	2/2	2/2	(Time to Fly, \$183,429)	\$1,223,004	152	3	0.55	0.64
2	Uh Oh Bango (07, Top Hit), Triple AAA Ranch	Private	14/10	1/1	1/1	(Go Sparky, \$49,425)	\$267,622	57	3	0.81	0.99
3	Ez Effort (09, In Excess), Fleming Thoroughbred Farm	Private	17/7	0/0	0/0	(Brumbodoppelganger, \$36,379)	\$195,350	111	3	0.49	0.82
4	Rocky Bar (98, In Excess)	N/A	14/7	0/0	0/0	(Katar, \$33,327)	\$193,394	210	11	0.72	0.72
5	Top Hit (98, Twining)	Died, 2021	6/4	0/0	0/0	(Top Review, \$19,618)	\$68,642	132	5	0.70	0.77
6	Bocephus (15, Medaglia d'Oro)	N/A	5/2	0/0	0/0	(J Double E P, \$27,050)	\$42,908	11	0	0.44	0.76
7	¶ Arizona Moon (13, Macho Uno), Fleming Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,500	4/0	0/0	0/0	(Pi Time, \$7,795)	\$12,929	11	0	0.10	0.36
8	Distorted Reality (04, Distorted Humor)	N/A	2/0	0/0	0/0	(Distorted Louv, \$9,696)	\$9,836	128	1	0.40	0.74
9	El Mirage (05, Cee's Tizzy)	N/A	2/0	0/0	0/0	(Chino Mirage, \$7,311)	\$7,723	14	2	0.46	0.49
10	¶ Per Capita (16, Tapit)	N/A	2/0	0/0	0/0	(Three P's, \$5,254)	\$6,358	17	0	0.10	0.64
11	Margie's Wildcat (01, Storm Cat)	N/A	3/0	0/0	0/0	(Hink's Paladin, \$1,360)	\$2,635	155	1	0.57	0.73

2025 LEADING SIRES IN ARKANSAS

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2026 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2025		Cumulative		
							Earnings	Foals	BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	American Freedom (13, Pulpit), Leadem Farm	\$2,500	123/68	0/0	0/0	(No Easy Days, \$120,090)	\$2,692,026	280	2	0.80	1.20
2	The Big Beast (11, Yes It's True), McDowell Farm	\$2,000	80/44	2/3	1/2	(Reef Runner, \$378,065)	\$2,380,983	267	11	0.98	1.10
3	Irish War Cry (14, Curlin), Leadem Farm	\$2,500	73/39	0/0	0/0	(Green Eyed Monster, \$168,422)	\$2,355,039	159	2	1.04	1.09
4	Echo Town (17, Speightstown), Leadem Farm	\$3,500	72/43	1/2	0/1	(Echo Sound, \$194,250)	\$1,813,182	*105	2	0.96	1.13
5	Cinco Charlie (12, Indian Charlie)	N/A	77/37	1/1	1/1	(Carmel Rose, \$98,216)	\$1,565,185	227	5	0.75	0.92
6	Street Strategy (11, Street Sense), Lake Hamilton Equine Center	\$1,500	51/25	0/0	0/0	(Punchy Girl, \$182,994)	\$1,478,568	116	3	0.95	0.79
7	Mark Valeski (09, Proud Citizen)	N/A	53/17	0/0	0/0	(Zippy Mark, \$89,859)	\$693,645	169	5	1.12	1.06
8	Gentlemen's Bet (09, Half Ours), McDowell Farm	\$1,250	28/13	0/0	0/0	(She's a Dreamer, \$155,889)	\$657,457	58	1	1.00	0.86
9	Double Irish (11, Tapit)	N/A	25/10	1/1	1/1	(Lassie My Girl, \$149,133)	\$464,811	104	2	0.76	0.90
10	Mo for the Money (13, Uncle Mo)	N/A	27/10	0/0	0/0	(Paramount Paycheck, \$67,500)	\$389,880	70	1	0.62	1.02
11	Zong (05, Unbridled's Song)	N/A	23/8	0/0	0/0	(Blessed Assurance, \$85,830)	\$323,980	115	0	0.60	0.95
12	Texas Chrome (13, Grasshopper), Keene Thoroughbreds	\$1,500	15/8	0/0	0/0	(Texas Sequoia, \$65,170)	\$286,771	48	0	0.52	0.66
13	Petrov (14, Flatter), Lake Hamilton Equine Center	\$1,000	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Gettinby, \$179,084)	\$273,534	20	0	0.79	0.88
14	Cutting Humor (16, First Samurai), McDowell Farm	\$1,500	18/5	0/0	0/0	(Basile, \$57,910)	\$231,045	27	0	0.39	0.83
15	Laurie's Rocket (09, Bluegrass Cat), Lake Hamilton Equine Center	\$1,000	10/4	0/0	0/0	(Lochmoor, \$63,003)	\$214,053	67	1	0.82	1.03
16	Tarpy's Surprise (10, Into Mischief)	Died, 2020	2/2	0/0	0/0	(Al's Romeo, \$200,995)	\$211,878	7	0	1.13	0.01
17	Just a Coincidence (06, Forestry)	Died, 2020	10/6	0/0	0/0	(Justa Streak, \$48,615)	\$208,829	41	0	0.61	0.89
18	Moonshine Mullin (08, Albert the Great)	N/A	12/5	0/0	0/0	(Hess, \$81,262)	\$170,435	62	0	0.41	0.78
19	Aikenite (07, Yes It's True)	Died, 2023	8/3	0/0	0/0	(Golly Holly, \$92,758)	\$166,291	93	1	0.81	1.03
20	Cyber Secret (09, Broken Vow)	Died, 2023	6/3	0/0	0/0	(Cybertown, \$142,158)	\$162,490	49	1	0.84	0.66
21	Coil (08, Point Given)	N/A	4/3	0/0	0/0	(Principe Carlo, \$70,992)	\$158,668	169	2	0.76	1.02
22	Ordained (08, Pulpit)	N/A	14/5	0/0	0/0	(L. A. Diamond, \$24,749)	\$143,995	94	1	0.40	0.73
23	Five Iron (10, Sharp Humor)	N/A	12/5	0/0	0/0	(Blessed Vision, \$68,290)	\$132,853	35	0	0.42	0.45
24	Brahms (97, Danzig)	N/A	8/1	0/0	0/0	(Brahms Image, \$60,414)	\$128,807	*719	13	1.01	1.09
25	Tekton (12, Bernardini)	Pnsd	10/3	0/0	0/0	(Brunia, \$72,535)	\$125,749	35	1	0.86	1.11
26	Jonesboro (02, Sefapiano)	N/A	5/3	0/0	0/0	(Allo Enry, \$43,427)	\$121,206	107	3	0.73	0.73
27	Stephanoatsee (09, A.P. Indy)	Died, 2021	6/1	0/0	0/0	(Stephanie Starfish, \$67,907)	\$102,787	28	0	0.48	0.92
28	Prom Shoes (04, Include)	N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Ready Shoes, \$39,200)	\$101,688	22	0	0.80	0.59
29	Exhi (07, Maria's Mon)	N/A	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Fine by Design, \$46,058)	\$69,990	114	2	0.54	1.11
30	Leadem in Ken (10, Sky Mesa)	Died, 2021	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Pollito Tito, \$35,722)	\$67,698	6	0	0.30	1.19

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

“Reproduction has always been my first love,” said Caines, who credited Dr. David Miller for showing her the reproduction ropes early on. “I was very fortunate to have a veterinarian who was extremely good, and I learned a lot from him. We tried different ways of doing things, some of them out of the ordinary, but it worked. Even after he retired, if I ever had a problem, I’d call him. He was a very dry-humored guy. I’d say, ‘Doc, I’ve got this mare doing this and that and can’t find anything that works.’ And he’d just sort of chuckle and say, ‘Ellen, go back to basics.’”



Ellen Caines with her husband, Conrad “Connie” Caines, who died in 2023 after nearly 40 years of marriage

“So people started sending me problem mares, and I try some different things with them and usually pretty soon they were pregnant.”

When the farm first got going after the Caineses married in 1985, they had stock horses.

“My husband did world champion halter horses,” she said. “And I just decided I always loved Thoroughbreds, and that’s the avenue I’m going to take. I’m just going to follow my heart. (Prominent Oklahoma owner) Jim Wells took me under his wing, and the rest was history.”

2025 LEADING SIRES IN COLORADO

For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2026 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	Numaany (05, A.P. Indy)	N/A	9/5	0/0	0/0	(Nu Blend, \$24,543)	\$111,309	67	2	0.61	0.74
2	Save Big Money (03, Storm Cat)	N/A	10/3	0/0	0/0	(Tiz Big Money, \$19,065)	\$58,278	168	3	0.58	0.83

2025 LEADING SIRES IN LOUISIANA

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2026 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	Unified (13, Candy Ride), LACER	\$3,500	172/88	1/2	0/1	(Idratherblessed, \$276,901)	\$3,906,416	372	6	0.89	1.19
2	Coal Front (14, Stay Thirsty), Red River Farms	\$4,000	59/36	4/10	1/4	(Coal Battle, \$980,050)	\$3,872,069	91	6	1.59	0.94
3	Star Guitar (05, Quiet American), Clear Creek Stud	\$7,500	114/61	3/9	2/3	(Touchuponastar, \$647,100)	\$3,411,587	344	19	0.99	0.99
4	Hoppertunity (11, Any Given Saturday), Shady Oaks Stud Farm	\$3,000	125/52	1/2	0/1	(Pachelbel, \$274,170)	\$3,080,683	235	3	0.79	1.20
5	Exaggerator (13, Curlin), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	128/55	1/3	0/1	(Skippylongstocking, \$682,265)	\$3,059,121	*680	10	0.79	1.36
6	Gormley (14, Malibu Moon), Red River Farms	\$2,000	149/65	0/0	0/0	(Grahmalamadingdong, \$148,064)	\$2,835,256	351	6	0.76	1.07
7	Tom's d'Etat (13, Smart Strike), Red River Farms	Private	81/42	1/2	0/1	(Take Charge Tom, \$298,524)	\$2,414,449	130	2	0.92	1.25
8	Aurelius Maximus (16, Pioneerof the Nile), Red River Farms	\$4,000	45/23	5/12	4/5	(Secret Faith, \$314,000)	\$1,806,777	82	6	1.30	0.95
9	El Deal (12, Munnings), Red River Farms	\$2,500	83/37	0/0	0/0	(Free Like a Girl, \$459,650)	\$1,802,864	153	4	0.99	0.89
10	Carpe Diem (12, Giant's Causeway), LACER	\$3,500	81/44	1/1	0/1	(Seize the Night, \$130,075)	\$1,503,224	*443	13	0.97	1.46
11	Daaher (04, Awesome Again)	N/A	31/18	1/1	1/1	(Seesaw Game, \$295,247)	\$1,217,914	224	12	1.16	1.04
12	Mr. Money (16, Goldencents), Clear Creek Stud	\$2,500	39/20	2/2	2/2	(Sippin On Gin, \$221,115)	\$1,188,932	53	2	0.81	0.85
13	Custom for Carlos (06, More Than Ready), Clear Creek Stud	\$2,000	62/30	1/1	1/1	(Marks Promise, \$98,530)	\$1,157,865	430	8	0.67	0.93
14	Half Ours (03, Unbridled's Song)	Died, 2021	62/24	1/2	1/1	(Geaux Sugar, \$254,485)	\$991,786	*644	28	0.84	1.03
15	Bobby's Wicked One (15, Speightstown), LACER	\$3,500	24/15	1/2	0/1	(Smoken Wicked, \$403,850)	\$965,054	43	1	1.41	0.70
16	Breaking Lucky (12, Lookin At Lucky)	Died, 2024	33/18	1/1	1/1	(He's Just Lucky, \$171,120)	\$748,577	58	1	0.52	0.86
17	Country Day (06, Speightstown), Peach Lane Farms	\$2,500	53/20	0/0	0/0	(Country Hit, \$100,660)	\$648,080	229	4	0.79	0.83
18	Catalina Red (12, Munnings), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	19/14	0/0	0/0	(Lovelyredstiletos, \$126,160)	\$642,287	49	0	0.93	0.82
19	Mo Tom (13, Uncle Mo), Red River Farms	\$2,000	42/14	0/0	0/0	(Mo for Us, \$154,515)	\$636,960	108	5	0.80	0.97
20	Clearly Now (10, Horse Greeley), Clear Creek Stud	\$3,500	36/12	0/0	0/0	(Clearly a Test, \$99,950)	\$626,180	69	2	0.72	1.01

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

“My first Thoroughbred stallion was War Machine for Jim Wells,” Caines said of the 1990 son of Explodent who banked more than \$232,000 on the track.

While Oklahoma, along with other

states in the region such as Texas, New Mexico, and Louisiana, have both Thoroughbred and American Quarter Horse Racing, most breeding farms in those states focus on a single breed.

That’s not the case for Caines, whose roster includes six Thoroughbreds and a collection of other breeds.

“I’ve got a three-time world champion Paint horse, I’ve got a Haflinger and a roping horse, and I’ve got a Quarter Horse racehorse. At one time I stood like 14 studs, but I got smart since then,” she said with a laugh.

Caines noted that those other breeds allow artificial insemination, so they are less labor-intensive compared to live covers with Thoroughbreds. Despite the menagerie of equines on the farm about an hour’s drive south of Oklahoma City, Caines’ primary business is the Thoroughbred.

“The Thoroughbreds are the main thing; that’s what I’m the busiest with,” she said. “The other ones, they just sort of fit in, but it does keep things interesting. Most of the work with those other stallions is shipping semen.”

As far as her favorite of the many stallions she’s stood over the years, she goes back to that very first one, War Machine. He wasn’t the most successful stallion, and he didn’t have the best



The Caineses’ most successful stud was not a Thoroughbred but rather an Appaloosa, Skip’s Reward, who Ellen says, “... basically built this place ...”

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2025 LEADING SIRES IN NEW MEXICO



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2026 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	Marking (12, Bernardini), A & A Ranch	\$7,500	74/34	4/4	4/4	(Speed Merchant, \$267,006)	\$2,623,265	147	16	1.24	1.10
2	Attila's Storm (02, Forest Wildcat)	Died, 2021	50/17	0/0	0/0	(Diabolical Storm, \$115,510)	\$871,224	400	28	0.94	0.77
3	Sporting Chance (15, Tiznow), A & A Ranch	\$5,000	34/16	1/1	1/1	(Bully Boy, \$167,410)	\$803,018	68	3	0.59	1.24
4	Sway Away (08, Affleet Alex)	N/A	15/8	0/0	0/0	(Let Him Be, \$201,583)	\$517,879	52	2	0.95	0.72
5	American Anthem (14, Bodemeister), Copper Spring Ranch	\$3,000	26/9	0/0	0/0	(F S Liberty Belle, \$79,198)	\$498,803	45	0	0.55	0.87
6	Mr. Trieste (01, Old Trieste)	N/A	10/4	1/3	0/1	(Corrina Corrina, \$401,400)	\$478,699	71	2	0.92	0.74
7	Abstraction (10, Pulpit), Doubletree Farm	\$3,500	25/10	0/0	0/0	(Hardy Boy, \$52,011)	\$350,735	135	1	0.61	0.90
8	Kentucky Wildcat (16, Tapit), Huntercreek Farms	\$2,500	18/6	0/0	0/0	(Souped Up Wildcat, \$92,300)	\$348,425	30	1	0.82	0.62
9	Proceed (11, Desert God), A & A Ranch	\$1,500	14/7	0/0	0/0	(Thatsaterribleidea, \$84,270)	\$342,358	34	0	0.70	1.01
10	Comfort (12, Indian Charlie), Double Tree Farm	\$3,000	21/7	0/0	0/0	(The Smooch, \$95,490)	\$334,799	72	1	0.66	0.70
11	Holy Lute (10, Midnight Lute)	N/A	10/2	0/0	0/0	(Holy Hank, \$277,860)	\$321,276	20	3	1.51	0.64
12	Runaway Ghost (15, Ghostzapper)	N/A	24/8	0/0	0/0	(Short Round Bound, \$73,045)	\$314,970	49	0	0.37	0.81
13	Delhomme (10, Dixie Union)	N/A	15/7	0/0	0/0	(Nobody's Perfect, \$58,834)	\$305,956	43	0	0.59	0.92
14	Conquest Mo Money (14, Uncle Mo), McKenna Thoroughbreds	Private	18/8	0/0	0/0	(Mo Money Time, \$104,934)	\$295,032	53	1	0.65	0.67
15	Punctuate (12, Distorted Humor), Marr's Breeding Farm	Private	16/10	0/0	0/0	(Shez Punctual, \$46,809)	\$274,399	53	0	0.63	0.81

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

pedigree or race record, but he's still special as the one who helped steer the business toward Thoroughbred breeding. But the most successful stallion to stand there was not even a Thoroughbred but rather an Appaloosa named Skip's Reward.

"The one who basically built this place was Skip's Reward," Caines said. "He was a world champion, and he was very versatile. He had champions in Germany and all over the place."

The current roster of six Thoroughbred stallions is fewer than in the past, when it was sometimes double digits for that breed alone, but Caines believes she's landed on the right combination of quantity and quality.

The elder statesman at the farm is 21-year-old Colonel John, millionaire winner of the 2008 Santa Anita Derby (G1) and Travers Stakes (G1) for breeder WinStar Farm. The stallion originally stood at WinStar in Kentucky and later spent many years standing in South Korea before returning to the United States in 2024.

"Everybody knows Colonel John, and



Colonel John, pictured here in 2024 at WinStar Farm in Kentucky, now calls Caines Stallion Station home. The 21-year-old previously stood in Kentucky and South Korea

Bill (Casner, co-founder and former co-owner of WinStar) has been a good friend, and he and I have partnered on several horses. He sent me Colonel John last year, and I am very, very honored to have him here."

Home of the Brave, like Colonel John, is connected to Casner and WinStar Farm. He's a full brother to WinStar homebred and Dubai World Cup (G1) winner Well Armed.

"Home of the Brave is one that Bill sent to me and we partnered on," said Caines. "His foals are usually 3- and 4-year-olds before the light bulb really comes on.

(Last) year has been a really good one for him, and he had two winners on the last day of the meet up here at Remington Park."

Half of the six Thoroughbred stallions are owned by Lonestar Stallions, which is headed by Texans Stacy and Jeff Jeans. The leading earner among them is Airoforce, a son of fellow Caines resident Colonel John who banked \$679,130 with two graded stakes wins and a runner-up finish in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1T). Uncle Vinny, by Uncle Mo, is also a graded stakes

winner and grade 1-placed runner.

"They're just two super nice horses, and we're finally getting enough foals on the ground by them that are making their way to the track, and they are really doing well," Caines said. "Jeff Jeans is great with pedigrees. We are on the phone all the time, and it's really good having him to help with that end of it.

"I'm a broodmare-aholic and I love my broodmares, and someone was asking how I find my mares, and I said that I run everything through Jeff, and if it doesn't pass, I don't buy it. I've upgraded my mares and have much better stock



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2025 LEADING SIRES IN OKLAHOMA

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									BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Flat Out (06, Flatter), Mighty Acres	\$3,000	127/55	1/1	1/1	(Black Musk, \$152,737)	\$2,621,441	615	23	1.03	1.04
2	Code West (10, Lemon Drop Kid)	N/A	50/27	3/5	1/3	(Miss Code West, \$227,343)	\$1,238,113	86	3	0.82	0.71
3	Cowtown Cat (04, Distorted Humor), Kirton Farms	\$1,500	33/22	0/0	0/0	(Momma K's Boy, \$93,533)	\$840,171	285	6	1.09	1.10
4	Caleb's Posse (08, Posse), River Oaks Farms	\$1,000	40/16	0/0	0/0	(Eakly, \$136,795)	\$797,628	*203	4	0.90	0.93
5	Excaper (09, Exchange Rate), River Oaks Farms	\$2,000	17/7	0/0	0/0	(Colonel Yorke, \$151,737)	\$553,105	63	0	0.56	0.78
6	Da Stoops (03, Distorted Humor)	N/A	21/15	0/0	0/0	(Ooh La Da Stoops, \$78,387)	\$501,027	*143	1	0.87	0.98
7	Den's Legacy (10, Medaglia d'Oro), Mighty Acres	\$2,000	39/16	0/0	0/0	(Brown Reserve, \$56,129)	\$491,671	115	3	0.67	0.81
8	Wilburn (08, Bernardini), River Oaks Farms	\$2,000	27/14	0/0	0/0	(So Jordan, \$93,726)	\$472,953	*390	9	0.71	1.00
9	Pass the Buck (13, Pulpit)	N/A	21/8	0/0	0/0	(Devious Dennis, \$75,153)	\$316,907	38	0	0.45	0.58
10	Euroears (04, Langfuhr)	N/A	23/7	0/0	0/0	(Posetively Perfect, \$48,379)	\$245,999	225	5	0.72	0.78
11	Black Bear (10, Midnight Lute)	N/A	10/6	0/0	0/0	(Dark Afternoon, \$77,739)	\$241,018	15	1	0.96	0.99
12	Magna Graduate (02, Honor Grades)	Died, 2025	13/8	0/0	0/0	(Stormy's Revenge, \$64,321)	\$239,447	*287	11	0.88	0.93
13	Revved Up (13, Candy Ride), River Oaks Farms	\$2,000	11/7	0/0	0/0	(Rev's Tomb, \$44,732)	\$198,069	29	0	0.42	0.61
14	Shakin It Up (10, Midnight Lute)	Died, 2024	20/6	0/0	0/0	(Span, \$34,394)	\$196,403	*189	2	0.64	1.05
15	Airoforce (13, Colonel John), Caines Stallion Station	\$2,500	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Double Airo, \$116,040)	\$191,135	28	0	0.66	0.74

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

now. I have some go to Kentucky and then my regional mares are here, but it all goes through Jeff, and we use Pedigrees 360 and G1 Goldmine.”

The third of the Lonestar Stallions-owned trio is Arrogates Hercules, who is new for this breeding season. Although unraced, he brings a sterling pedigree as a son of Arrogate out of Willet, a stakes-winning and grade 1-placed earner of more than \$865,000.

“He stood his first season in South Texas, and we’ve already had a tremendous response on him,” Caines said.

Caines is also high on the young Very Cool, a son of American Pharoah.

“He’s just getting started with horses on the track,” she said. “I think he’s another one where they probably will be 3-year-olds before they really start coming together for him. His babies are stout and easy to work with.”

Caines, like anyone who breeds Thoroughbreds, has been through many ups and downs over the years, but nothing compares to losing her husband of nearly 40 years in 2023.

“When I lost my husband, I think everybody was waiting for the dispersal



Three-time world champion Paint horse Cats Painted Illusion stands at Caines

sale, and even the guy that worked for me was worried I was just going to shut everything down,” she said. “I said, ‘Hell no. We’re full throttle, so let’s go.’”

“I’ve been very blessed with good horses and good people,” she added.

The hard, hands-on work of Ellen over the years undoubtedly played a big part in the long-term success and viability of Caines Stallion Station, as many other breeding operations have

come and gone during that time. Ellen also credits a prudent strategy of balancing the need for a quality facility against the desire to expand or overextend the business.

“Basically, everything’s paid for,” she said. “I’ve rebuilt or torn down barns and rebuilt them back. I’m in the midst of doing the last one right now. But I did it when we could pay for it and didn’t overextend ourselves too much. And it’s just being good to the people that are good to you. We’ve had clients that have been with us for 10 or 20 years.”

While Oklahoma has fared better than many states in recent years as total purses have basically remained constant, Caines has seen a decline in breeding activity that mirrors what’s happened at the national level.

“A lot of people aren’t breeding as many mares now,” said Caines, who has about 20 broodmares of her own and generally breeds to sell at auction or privately. “But we’ve been lucky with our stallions, and I still get calls all the time from people asking what we have for sale. We’ve been very blessed with having people come to look at our horses and buy them, and that keeps things rolling.”

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2025 LEADING SIRES IN TEXAS

For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2026 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	Creative Cause (09, Giant's Causeway), Marjorie Farms	\$6,000	104/57	0/0	0/0	(King Russell, \$179,068)	\$2,877,775	*657	27	1.07	1.36
2	Competitive Edge (12, Super Saver), Valor Farm	\$5,000	73/50	2/3	0/2	(Alani, \$332,400)	\$2,847,701	*396	15	1.25	1.13
3	Too Much Bling (03, Rubiano)	Pnsd	52/30	3/5	2/3	(Too Much Kiki, \$226,165)	\$1,520,356	405	35	0.94	0.96
4	Mr Speaker (11, Pulpit), Forks of the Paluxy	Private	56/27	0/0	0/0	(Louder Than Words, \$131,220)	\$1,077,107	*398	12	0.94	1.13
5	Copper Bullet (15, More Than Ready), Marjorie Farms	\$4,000	36/19	2/4	0/2	(Copper Em, \$135,687)	\$837,673	57	4	0.99	1.41
6	My Golden Song (03, Unbridled's Song)	Died, 2022	31/13	1/1	1/1	(Golden Grit, \$129,960)	\$661,725	234	19	0.87	0.94
7	Poseidon's Warrior (08, Speightstown), Legacy Ranch Stallions	\$2,500	19/12	0/0	0/0	(Justinspeightofit, \$56,200)	\$425,095	*270	5	0.96	0.99
8	Finale (09, Scat Daddy), Legacy Ranch Stallions	\$2,500	11/2	0/0	0/0	(Final Verdict, \$88,600)	\$207,888	57	0	0.42	0.81
9	Keep Up (07, Unbridled's Song)	N/A	14/5	0/0	0/0	(Up Up and Away, \$34,650)	\$175,572	59	0	0.52	1.19
10	Early Flyer (98, Gilded Time)	Pnsd	9/4	0/0	0/0	(Rockets Red Flair, \$66,669)	\$170,205	339	19	0.71	0.86
11	Latent Heat (03, Maria's Mon)	N/A	9/5	0/0	0/0	(Itty Bitty Baby, \$43,646)	\$155,817	*403	8	0.80	1.01
12	The Hunk (07, Speightstown)	N/A	11/4	0/0	0/0	(Phunk, \$40,752)	\$128,570	59	1	0.48	0.77
13	Expect a Lot (11, Awesome Again)	N/A	3/3	0/0	0/0	(Prince Rama, \$54,325)	\$108,722	26	0	0.57	0.80
14	Tiz Mischief (15, Into Mischief), Solitude Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	8/2	0/0	0/0	(Berry Mischievous, \$75,768)	\$93,510	16	0	0.30	0.60
15	Final Row (GB) (97, Indian Ridge)	N/A	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Won More Time, \$32,239)	\$62,628	22	0	0.48	0.83

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



Caines keeps busy: "We foal out between 50 and 60 mares a year, and I'm there for every one of them."

As if handling several different breeds of stallions on the main farm, which covers about 55 acres, along with boarding and sales prep, isn't enough to keep her busy, Caines has another location of the farm with close to 150 acres where she breeds bucking bulls for rodeos.

"I'm a glutton for punishment I guess," she said with a laugh. "I'm trying to get everything running back the way I want it after my husband passed away. It's been tough, but we're getting ready to hammer down on it."

Like any breeder, Caines would love to have a horse in the Kentucky Derby (G1), but she knows it's a longshot when competing against those with much pricier pedigrees.

"I've always said that my dream, my



The foaling barn (above) and mare barn at Caines

ultimate dream, is to breed a horse that's in the Kentucky Derby," she said. "And I said it may be a pony horse, but it's going to be at the Kentucky Derby."

Until that happens, Caines will continue to operate one of the most active breeding farms in the state, even if it means she gets little sleep during foaling season, or even the rest of the year.

"We foal out between 50 and 60 mares a year, and I'm there for every one of them," she said.

There are days she is tired, and there are days when the Oklahoma weather is less than ideal, but just as she had for many years, Caines carries on and puts her horses first.

"You just do it," she said. "That's the only way I can explain it. You just buckle up and do it."

It's not easy work, but Ellen Caines can't imagine herself doing anything else other than breeding Thoroughbreds in Oklahoma. [BH](#)