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With this year's arrival of purse parity for state-breds competing at New York Racing Association tracks, stakeholders are hoping the benefits will extend beyond the racetrack and into the breeding sector

Purse Parity Has Arrived

NEW YORK-BRED PROGRAM RECEIVES A MAJOR BOOST

By **TERESA GENARO**

THE NEW YORK RACING ASSOCIATION kicked off 2026 with a long-awaited announcement, one that had been teased and modified since 2023, and one that New York's breeders and owners have eagerly anticipated.

No, that announcement is not about the reopening of Belmont Park (scheduled for September) after three years of demolition and construction. It's about the realization of a plan conceived a year before Belmont Park was torn down, a plan that represents one part of NYRA's new vision and one that emphasizes the importance of the state's breeding industry.

ALL SIRES LISTS ARE THROUGH DEC. 31, 2025

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AQUAPACER

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	Danzing Candy (13, Twirling Candy), Antar's Amazing Dream Farm	\$2,500	72/24	0/0	0/0	(Danzingwith Maxine, \$121,520)	\$1,131,488	252	2	0.71	0.97

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

In the original 2023 plan, all New York-bred overnight races for 2-year-olds would offer purse money identical to that of open-company races, effective Jan. 1 of this year. In step two of the plan, which was announced in December 2024, the purses for all New York-bred overnight races would match those of open-company counterparts, scheduled to take effect Jan. 1, 2027.

The initiative announced by NYRA in December accelerated the implementation of the increases; rather than being executed in two phases, the roll-out of additional monies for horses of all ages will take place this year. Details and specific purse amounts will be published in the first condition book for this summer's Saratoga Race Course meeting. "Raising purses for New York-breds has been a conversation piece for many years; it predates my time here," said



Incoming sire Mo Plex, a multiple graded stakes winner and grade 1-placed performer, is standing at one of the newest breeding enterprises in New York, Mountain View Farm near Gansevoort, for a fee of \$2,500

Andrew Offerman, NYRA's senior vice president, racing and operations. "The initial impetus was to drive breeding decisions within New York and to make New York breeding attractive to people active in other states."

At least in part as a result of the expected purse increases, New York has

seen an influx of stallions to stand for the 2026 season, with nearly a dozen joining the studs already in the state.

Bloodstock agent Michael Slezak was instrumental in bringing one of those stallions to New York, to a farm that had only recently decided to stand a stallion. Joe Tesiero bought Amsterdam Two Farm in 2024, and last year he built a stallion barn that will host its first breedings this year. The farm will stand Arzak, the only son of Not This Time standing in the state. Not This Time finished 2025

ranked second on the general sires list by earnings and was the leading sire of 3-year-old graded stakes winners, 2-year-old winners and earners, and black-type winners.

"You can definitely feel the excitement from breeders," Slezak said, "especially when horses sired in New York are



Marshall Gramm (right) with his partner in Ten Strike Racing, Clay Sanders. They've expanded their footprint in the industry by bringing mares and stallions to New York



Warrior's Charge, a graded stakes winner for Ten Strike Racing and Madaket Stables, stands at Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions for a fee of \$5,000 and will be represented by his first crop of 2-year-olds this year

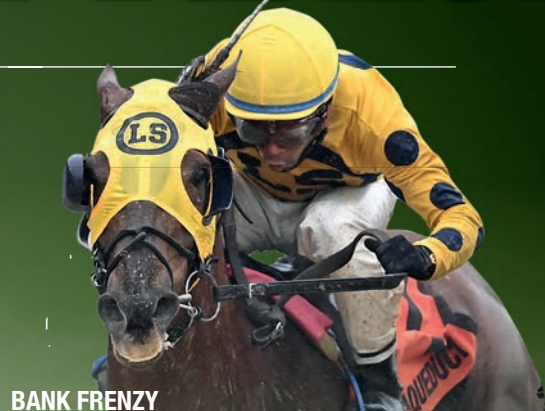
TOP: SKIP DICKSTEIN; BOTTOM, LEFT: COURTESY OF TEN STRIKE RACING; RIGHT: COADY MEDIA

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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	Bucchero (12, Kantharos), Ironhorse Stallions	\$12,500	144/89	4/12	0/4	(Book'em Danno, \$817,300)	\$5,873,316	225	8	1.19	1.05	
2	Central Banker (10, Speightstown), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$7,500	146/76	3/7	1/3	(Bank Frenzy, \$445,250)	\$5,239,826	486	18	1.26	1.12	
3	Solomini (15, Curlin), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$7,500	116/58	2/4	2/2	(Doc Sullivan, \$332,040)	\$4,271,999	172	5	1.28	1.08	
4	War of Will (16, War Front), Rockridge Stud	\$5,000	122/46	2/2	0/2	(Will Then, \$146,593)	\$3,268,955	191	2	0.83	1.60	
5	Honest Mischief (16, Into Mischief), Sequel Stallions New York	\$7,500	69/29	5/5	5/5	(Braverthanubelieve, \$319,000)	\$2,609,705	118	7	1.32	1.22	
6	War Dancer (10, War Front), Mill Creek Farm	Private	82/39	2/3	1/2	(Twenty Six Black, \$284,750)	\$2,280,704	242	5	0.95	1.03	
7	Bustin Stones (04, City Zip), Waldorf Farm	Private	58/28	0/0	0/0	(Lika Rolling Stone, \$165,070)	\$1,406,294	337	13	1.22	1.16	
8	Mission Impazible (07, Unbridled's Song)	Pnsd	49/27	0/0	0/0	(Miztertonic, \$139,390)	\$1,183,426	344	8	0.97	1.12	
9	Peace and Justice (10, War Front), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$7,500	44/20	0/0	0/0	(Beyondexpectations, \$128,800)	\$1,143,902	143	3	1.01	1.17	
10	King for a Day (16, Uncle Mo), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$5,000	41/15	2/2	2/2	(Prince Valiant, \$216,500)	\$1,143,465	72	2	0.90	1.04	
11	Freud (98, Storm Cat)	Pnsd	44/25	0/0	0/0	(Schlomo, \$94,060)	\$1,018,960	*1457	60	1.40	1.17	
12	¶ Leinster (15, Majestic Warrior), Mountain View Farm	\$7,500	23/9	1/3	0/1	(Lennilu, \$216,489)	\$825,830	37	1	1.21	0.96	
13	Union Jackson (12, Curlin)	Pnsd	22/14	0/0	0/0	(Jackson's Dixie, \$133,052)	\$729,677	94	2	0.93	0.98	
14	Big Brown (05, Boundary)	Pnsd	43/14	0/0	0/0	(Van Vollenhoven, \$84,905)	\$668,015	*928	30	0.99	1.32	
15	¶ Combatant (15, Scat Daddy)	Died, 2022	21/7	1/1	1/1	(Combat Mission, \$164,400)	\$632,440	41	1	0.99	0.86	
16	Slumber (GB) (08, Cacique), Rockridge Stud	\$5,000	19/7	1/1	1/1	(Nonna Lynne, \$158,450)	\$593,140	59	5	1.70	1.02	
17	Micromanager (10, Medaglia d'Oro)	Pnsd	16/9	0/0	0/0	(Braciolo, \$148,140)	\$576,144	95	0	0.80	1.13	
18	Weekend Hideaway (10, Speightstown)	Pnsd	9/7	0/0	0/0	(Zi End, \$120,560)	\$534,013	22	1	1.40	0.96	
19	¶ Galilean (16, Uncle Mo), Questroyal North	\$3,500	16/4	0/0	0/0	(Augustinian, \$103,200)	\$413,921	29	0	0.82	1.01	
20	Name Changer (13, Uncle Mo), Kaz Hill Farm	\$2,500	12/5	1/1	1/1	(Storm Changer, \$164,195)	\$390,365	28	1	0.93	1.00	
21	Courageous Cat (06, Storm Cat)	N/A	16/8	0/0	0/0	(Queens Cat, \$92,420)	\$310,200	243	8	0.84	1.01	
22	Majestic City (09, City Zip)	Died, 2022	21/7	0/0	0/0	(On the Ledge, \$70,380)	\$294,033	137	1	0.59	0.95	
23	Disco Partner (12, Disco Rico)	N/A	16/5	0/0	0/0	(Disco Star, \$91,986)	\$279,630	34	0	0.46	1.00	
24	Al Khali (06, Medaglia d'Oro)	Died, 2024	9/2	0/0	0/0	(Khali Magic, \$174,550)	\$265,596	27	0	1.11	1.48	
25	Lookin At Lee (14, Lookin At Lucky), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$1,000	16/5	0/0	0/0	(Greyjoy, \$63,800)	\$230,377	23	0	0.45	1.39	
26	Superestrella (08, Storm Cat)	N/A	4/3	0/0	0/0	(Willintoriskitall, \$115,672)	\$205,857	17	0	0.85	0.65	
27	Bellamy Road (02, Concerto)	Pnsd	10/3	0/0	0/0	(Petrolo, \$50,920)	\$179,767	*756	33	1.07	1.17	
28	Frost Giant (03, Giant's Causeway)	Died, 2022	11/3	0/0	0/0	(Can't Fool Me, \$80,725)	\$154,278	*478	16	1.07	1.06	
29	Bank Heist (07, Maria's Mon), Kaz Hill Farm	\$1,000	6/3	0/0	0/0	(Kaz Sweet Heist, \$56,257)	\$112,921	109	2	0.77	1.16	
30	Giant Surprise (09, Giant's Causeway)	Pnsd	6/3	0/0	0/0	(Giant James, \$53,732)	\$106,950	147	4	1.06	1.14	
31	Killybegs Captain (14, Mizzen Mast)	Pnsd	6/1	0/0	0/0	(Lady Captain, \$73,767)	\$91,397	17	0	0.33	0.51	
32	Teuflesberg (04, Johannesburg)	Died, 2022	6/3	0/0	0/0	(Clover Street, \$37,898)	\$86,720	183	4	1.08	1.03	
33	¶ Waiting (17, American Pharoah), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$2,500	6/1	0/0	0/0	(Nacho Problem, \$74,385)	\$86,485	11	0	0.40	0.71	
34	Beautyinthepulpit (08, Pulpit)	N/A	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Runningthenumbers, \$43,086)	\$69,661	27	0	0.52	0.79	
35	Snow Trouble (11, Tapit)	N/A	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Chicago Charlie, \$13,568)	\$56,612	18	0	0.31	0.85	
36	A Shin Forward (05, Forest Wildcat)	Pnsd	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Toro Forward, \$29,688)	\$43,179	57	0	0.54	0.84	
37	¶ Son of Thunder (18, Uncle Mo)	Died, 2025	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Miss Moxee, \$41,338)	\$41,338	1	0	1.31	0.84	
38	¶ Just Leo (19, Poseidon's Warrior)	N/A	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Pronti O Meno, \$19,620)	\$37,720	4	0	0.41	0.79	
39	Hangover Kid (08, Lemon Drop Kid)	N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Call Me a Cab, \$23,310)	\$35,752	22	1	1.01	0.97	
40	Sakonnet (14, Scat Daddy)	N/A	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Ligon's Legacy, \$17,610)	\$34,230	4	0	0.48	0.80	

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

eligible for 40% breeders awards and with increased purses on the way. This can be a game changer for a lot of breeders."

"This two-year agreement represents a significant step forward for every participant in the New York-bred program," said Najja Thompson, executive director of New York Thoroughbred Breeders. "The significant increase in purses for all New York-breds with the reopening of Belmont Park will be enormously beneficial for breeding and racing in New York, which drives a broad and growing industry across the state. We're proud to have the best regional breeding program in the nation, and this announcement further strengthens our position."

At Mountain View Farm near Gansevoort, David and Carolyn Cannizzo are overseeing the construction of a breeding shed and stallion

"THIS IS A BIG COMMITMENT ON NYRA'S PART, AND I APPLAUD IT. I HOPE THE BREEDERS WILL COME THROUGH ON THEIR END, AND WE'LL SUPPORT THEM AT THE SALES."

—TOM BELLHOUSE, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF WEST POINT THOROUGHBREDS

barn expected to be ready for this year's breeding season. The Cannizzos and a group of investors purchased the 380-acre farm last year and will stand three stallions, two of which are new to New York. Their first stud, Fire At Will, has moved from Sequel Stallions in Hudson, N.Y., to Mountain View; he will soon be joined by Leinster, relocating from Pleasant Acres in Florida, and Mo Plex, who will stand his first season after retiring from racing last year.

"The purse increases, the opening of Belmont, and everything else that's going on in the state can only help the New York-bred program," David Cannizzo said.

Marshall Gramm bought his first horse in 2008, and eight years later, he and Clay Sanders established Ten Strike Racing, an ownership syndicate that has in recent years also gotten involved in

New York Sire Power **X3**

2026 Roster



< FIRE AT WILL

Declaration of War - Flirt, by Kitten's Joy

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on Turf - SW on Dirt**

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< MO PLEX

Complexity - Mo Joy, by Uncle Mo

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both at Saratoga, went on to run 3rd in Grade 1
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2026 FEE: \$2,500 LIVE FOAL



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breeding, owning both mares and stallions. An associate professor of economics at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn., Gramm brought his first stallion to New York in 2023, when Warrior's Charge (by Munnings) took up stud duty at Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions in Stillwater, N.Y. His first foals will be 2-year-olds this year.

In 2026, Gramm will be part of the syndicate that owns Mo Plex, a multiple graded stakes-winning son of Complexity that earned \$790,000 in two seasons of racing.

"With the purse increases coming, you can see that the stallion market in New York has gotten a lot stronger," said Gramm, who keeps 12 mares in New York, at Irish Hill Century Farm. "The objective is to improve the breed and maybe get more people involved. A strong breeding program also keeps farms in business and maintains green spaces, and I think there's a lot of momentum in the industry now."

Mo Plex himself is an example of the success of New York's program: bred in the state by Everything's Cricket Racing, he won the Sanford Stakes (G3) at Saratoga Race Course and was third in the Champagne Stakes (G1) as a juvenile, and won the Ohio Derby (G3) as a 3-year-old.

The interest in New York-breds is also evident in the sales ring. According to the 2026 New York Fact Book, compiled and published by The Jockey Club, 2025 saw huge gains in virtually all auction metrics. Gross sales of weanling New York-breds rose 68% over 2024, with the average rising 50% and the median 60%.

Yearlings posted increases of 28% in gross sales and 11% in average sales price, while the median price of \$32,000 was unchanged over the prior year.

The 2-year-old sales gross rose 22.6%,



Another new face in the stallion ranks is Amsterdam Two Farm's Arzak, currently the only son of Not This Time standing in New York



NYRA's Andrew Offerman emphasizes the additional money for New York-bred races will not result in a reduction of purses for other conditions

while the average of \$89,940 marked a 34% increase. The \$40,000 median price represented a rise of 12.7%.

Fasig-Tipton holds two annual sales in Saratoga Springs for New York-breds:

an August yearling sale of exclusively New York-breds and a fall sale comprising mostly New York-bred weanlings. The yearling sale saw gains of 24% in gross sales and 15% in average sales prices. The fall sale boasted eye-popping increases: a gross of \$6.2 million represented a rise of 57% over 2024, while the average rose 80% to \$47,674 and the median to \$25,000, a 72% increase.

"The elevation in purses will continue to enhance the values of New York-breds," said Boyd Browning Jr., Fasig-Tipton's president and CEO. "Racehorses will have increased earnings capability, and that's got to have a positive influence in terms of value at auctions. It's definitely a positive move."

West Point Thoroughbreds has a long involvement with New York-breds, going back at

least 20 years to Mr. Fantasy and ReadtheFootnotes, the former a graded stakes winner and the latter a stakes-winning graded stakes-placed runner. More recently, in 2019 the partnership paid \$2 million for a New York-bred son of Tapit out of the New York-bred multiple grade 1 stakes winner Artemis Agrotera.

"New York-breds were a huge part of our operation in the early years of West Point Thoroughbreds," said Tom Bellhouse, the company's executive vice president and a member of the board of directors of New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. "They still are. We've spent some real money on New York-breds."

The syndicate purchases most of its runners at auction, so the implementation of purse parity is kind of a good news/bad news situation.

"As owners, an increase in purses is positive for our partners and gives us more of a fighting chance," he said.

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As a buyer, Bellhouse hopes that the higher purses also leads to a higher foal crop.

"If it doesn't, then prices for New York-breds are going to continue to go up," he said. "That's great for breeders, and I hope that this will provide an incentive to bring more mares to New York. I'm less worried about prices than I am about the potential scarcity of the product."

"This is a big commitment on NYRA's part, and I applaud it," he continued. "I hope the breeders will come through on their end, and we'll support them at the sales."

Avoiding that potential scarcity is an integral part of the Cannizzos' philosophy at Mountain View Farm.

"We've got a lot of shareholders from out of state," David Cannizzo said, "because we want to bring new mares here to try to help the program. A lot of the mares bought at the (Fasig-Tipton) December digital sale were bought by people with breeding interests in New York. The more stallions we bring here, the more mares we need."

NYRA's Offerman emphasized that the additional money for New York-bred races will not mean a diminution of purses for other conditions.

"The timing of purse parity has always been tricky, because the objective was to increase these purses without impacting purses for other races," he said. "Over the last several years, the Belmont at Aqueduct meet has performed a little better than anticipated, which enabled us to implement the increases earlier than planned."

"This is a great thing for New York breeders," said Tina Bond, president of New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. "It's been a long time coming."

In addition to the economic benefits in auction rings, on the racetrack, and at breeding farms, Ten Strike Racing's Gramm thinks that the purse uptick has the potential to benefit another key constituency: horseplayers.



Another Mountain View Farm resident is Fire At Will, the 2020 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf winner



Mountain View Farm is the expansion of the Willow Brook Stables operation owned by David Cannizzo, a former trainer on the NYRA circuit, and his wife, Carolyn

"If purse parity helps the breeding industry and leads to more foals in New York, we might be able to get bigger fields," he said. "With small fields, our winter cards can be rough. Hopefully the higher purses, combined with breeder and owner awards, will mean that people will want to stay and race in New York."

Two decades ago, Joe McMahon of

McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds worked to implement purse parity, when he was active in the New York Thoroughbred Breeders organization. According to him, the plan fell apart "at the 11th hour."

"We could never revive it," he said. "This is long overdue. I think that NYRA recognizes that a lot of their owners that race regularly in New York have New York-breds. They looked at the day rate to keep a horse in training here and realized that the purse structure was

inequitable, and they corrected it.

"Good for them," he added. "We need to keep owners in the business, and we need to grow the business. This is a way to do that."

Gramm said, "It took a lot of hard work by a lot of people to get where we are. I'm beyond happy that it got done, and I'm thrilled to be breeding in New York." **BH**

SKIP DICKSTEIN PHOTOS

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