



DOUG BURGE

CTBA PRESIDENT

Growing a Demand for Cal-breds

The CTBA sets many objectives each year but the primary focus for 2014 was to grow the production of foals, both in quality and quantity, and further increase the demand for California-breds. With all the lucrative enhancements made over the past few years to the Cal-bred incentive and racing programs, the probability for financial success has increased greatly.

We are certain there is ample evidence that these goals are being achieved after reviewing both the live foal crop statistics and the commercial, as well as private, sales of California-breds. There is more investment in breeding in the state and locally bred horses are bringing a premium at sales across the country.

As featured in this column last month, per The Jockey Club, the 2014 California foal crop is expected to increase at least 3% over the previous year's. Now passing Florida as the second-largest foal-producing

state, California was one of only five states that reported growth compared to 2013.

The quality of horses produced has also significantly improved, as evidenced not only by the number of graded stakes horses produced locally, but also by the larger percentage of Cal-breds that are filling the entry boxes at California race-tracks. Restricted Cal-bred races continue to fill at an extremely high rate while at the same time many open races—both in the North and South—are dominated by Cal-breds.

There are plenty of reasons to believe this trend will continue.

In regard to our second objective, to increase demand at commercial and private sales, there have been numerous positive results this year. As you can see from the table below, California-bred/sired yearlings and 2-year-olds sold very well at public auctions across the country. While this table lists only six-figure horses sold

at public auction, many Cal-breds yielded prices well above the stud fees and costs associated with them, giving their breeders a profitable return.

The 2-year-olds in training and yearling sales held in state reported very favorable results, as Cal-bred prices rose considerably in both the North and South.

At the Northern California Yearling Sale in August, hosted by CTBA, the average soared over 100% while the median price rose 25% as compared to 2013. In fact, eight of the top-10 selling yearlings were California-breds.

In Southern California, at the Barretts October Yearling Sale, the average and median prices rose 15% over 2013. The \$175,000 sales-topping Unusual Heat Cal-bred filly was the highest-priced yearling sold in the state this year.

There is no doubt that the lucrative state-bred opportunities are the principal reasons driving these successes. **CTB**

SIX-FIGURE CALIFORNIA-BRED/SIRED SALES IN 2014 (Yearlings & 2-year-olds)

\$560,000	Benchmark - Mo Chuisse, Free House	Keeneland September Yearling	Hip 90
\$260,000	Street Boss - Hotlantic, Stormy Atlantic	Barretts May 2-Year-Olds	Hip 90
\$220,000	Artie Schiller - Sookloozy, Avenue of Flags	Ocala Breeders Sales June 2-Year-Olds	Hip 148
\$175,000	Unusual Heat - Hotlantic, Stormy Atlantic	Barretts October Yearling	Hip 93
\$150,000	Lucky Pulpit - Treed Cat, Tale of the Cat	Barretts May 2-Year-Olds	Hip 31
\$145,000	Tribal Rule - Gambler's Justice, Lit de Justice	Barretts May 2-Year-Olds	Hip 82
\$130,000	Desert Code - Lujien Lujien, Cozzene	Barretts March Select 2-Year-Olds	Hip 58
\$125,000	Dixie Chatter - Never to Excess, In Excess (IRE)	Barretts March Select 2-Year-Olds	Hip 25
\$110,000	Papa Clem - Bold Roberta, Bold Badgett	Barretts May 2-Year-Olds	Hip 51
\$105,000	The Pamplemousse - Hurricane Alert, Storm Cat	Barretts March Select 2-Year-Olds	Hip 135
\$100,000	Belong to Me - Miss Beekman Place, Yes It's True	Barretts October Yearling	Hip 144