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CTBA PRESIDENT

California Foal Crop Posts Largest Gain

In recently released statistics by The Jockey Club, California was reported to have the largest gain percentage of any other state in the number of 2015 live foals. With 1,767 live foals reported thus far in 2015, California has realized an increase of 8.5% over the previous year. Only two other states have reported a positive change from 2014 (see chart).

It is also important to note that the number of live foals reported thus far only reflects the foals by conception area. Therefore, after factoring in the several hundred California foals expected to have been conceived in Kentucky and elsewhere, the final 2015 California foal crop could surpass 2,000. This would result in the highest reported foal crop in more than five years.

As detailed many times in this publication, these positive trends can be attributed to all of the cooperation within the industry that has provided the lucrative enhancements to the California-bred racing and incentive program. The Golden State Series (with purses approaching \$6 million), the Maiden Bonus program, breeder/stallion/owner awards, and the expanded overnight racing opportunities have fueled the investment that has yielded the growth in the foal production.

As California-breds continue to make up more than half of the field sizes north and south, and with California racing becoming more dependent on locally bred horses, these statistics bode well for the future of racing in the state. Plus, even with the upward trend in the live foal crop, the emphasis still remains on quality, as a higher percentage of the horses being bred are making it to the races. It is also important to note that, unlike other states, we are realizing these positive results even

	2014 Mares Bred	2014 Live Foals	2015 Live Foals	Percent Change
Kentucky	17,088	11,089	11,853	6.9%
California	2,580	1,629	1,767	8.5%
Florida	3,008	1,585	1,629	2.8%
New York	1,662	1,025	975	-4.9%
Louisiana	1,846	1,037	955	-7.9%
New Mexico	991	531	506	-4.7%
Pennsylvania	890	514	415	-19.3%
Oklahoma	929	455	401	-11.9%
Texas	900	440	369	-16.1%
Ontario	880	454	367	-19.2%

without revenue from other forms of gambling. Restricted purses and incentives continue to remain strong strictly through the pari-mutuel handle.

We are currently finalizing the Golden State Series schedule of races for 2016 and

are expecting to offer the owners of Cal-breds even more stakes opportunities with purses of at least \$100,000 each. This stakes schedule will be published in the next few months so that horsemen have ample time to plan for next year. **CTB**



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