



From the *EXECUTIVE CORNER*



DOUG BURGE

CTBA PRESIDENT

Strong August Yearling Sales Highlight California-breds

For the first time in several years, two commercial yearling sales were held in California in August: the traditional Northern California Yearling & Horses of Racing Age Sale in Pleasanton and the revitalization of a select yearling sale hosted by Barretts Equine Sales in Southern California in Del Mar.

The northern sale, which had shown tremendous success in 2014, was strongly supported, with nearly 200 horses catalogued. With 50% more yearlings going through the ring than a year ago, the results were very favorable. In fact, the median and gross both soared while the average remained on par with the record set last year, even with a much larger offering.

These positive results reflect both the quality of horses presented as well as the ongoing high demand for California-breds. Taking advantage of the \$250 travel allowance offered by CTBA Sales, many Southern California and out-of-state trainers ventured to Pleasanton and made several purchases. The pool of prospective buyers, in fact, was the largest at the Northern California venue in many years, if not ever.

With the expanded catalog, horses were stabled in the permanent barns on the Pleasanton backside in order to provide a safe and secure environment. While the stabling and showing areas proved more than adequate, the distance to the sales arena, held in the Amador Pavilion, did require more coordination on sale day and proved

more taxing to some consignors. As we do expect similar, if not more, support from breeders in the state based on the promising sales results, the CTBA will discuss with consignors and purchasers ways to improve the logistics and provide an even better experience.

In regard to the Del Mar sale, 44 selected yearlings were reported sold for an average of \$37,023 and an impressive median of \$32,500. The event held by Barretts was the first yearling sale offered at that location since CTBA Sales left the seaside venue in 2004 due to the encouragement of consignors.

With Barretts now conducting all of its sales year-round in Del Mar due to the closing of the Pomona facility, sales officials have stated that they will make some adjustments regarding certain issues, including the timing of the event.

As Cal-breds will continue heavily populating the catalog in this select sale, the CTBA will work closely with Barretts to maximize the returns for breeders. Results of both sales are covered on pages 16 and 32 of this issue of *California Thoroughbred*. **CTB**

