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CTBA PRESIDENT

## Summer Yearling Sale Season Looks Promising

August brings with it the start of the commercial yearling sales in California—the CTBA-sponsored Northern California Sale Aug. 16 in Pleasanton and the Barretts Select Yearling Sale Aug. 30 in Del Mar.

With the value of California-breds continuing to increase due to the lucrative Golden State Series, restricted overnight purses, maiden bonus, and owner's awards, the demand at this year's auction venues should be very strong.

The Northern California Yearling and Horses of Racing Age Sale, which historically has provided a service for breeders in the north, has recently proved very successful for both consignors and buyers. In return, the number of entries cataloged has more than doubled over the past few years, as horses bred and raised in the central region of the state and the south are now shipping north and supporting the auction as well. Many of the top California, and national, sires are represented.

This year 239 horses are cataloged for the Northern Sale, of which 215 are yearlings, with the vast majority bred in the Golden State. Once again stabling will take place in the permanent barns on the backside of the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The sale itself will be conducted in the covered Amador Pavilion, with modifications to the auction ring to provide an expanded out-back area to benefit both buyers and consignors.

This sale has already produced many 2-year-old winners, including the first two finishers in the \$100,450 Everett Nevin Stakes at the Oak Tree Meet at Pleasanton. Travel allowances for trainers who purchase horses coming from Southern California or out of state have also been increased significantly.

The Barretts August Select Yearling Sale, conducted at the Surfside Race Place in Del Mar, has cataloged 72 yearlings. This year's event will begin at 2:00 in the afternoon, versus the evening start a year ago. Stabling will take place in the Del Mar Horse Show Arena, next to the sales pavilion. Barretts officials have stated that "last year's yearlings were a very good group of yearlings in terms of quality, and we believe this year's group is stronger." Top California and national sires are represented with California-bred foals.

Both of the above-mentioned auctions are previewed in this edition of *California Thoroughbred*. Good luck to all for an exceptional summer of sales. 