



DOUG BURGE

CTBA PRESIDENT

THINGS ARE LOOKING UP

As detailed in recently released statistics by The Jockey Club, the trends within the California breeding industry continue to stabilize. For the first time in several years, more than 2,600 mares have been bred in the Golden State, resulting in a California-conceived foal crop of more than 1,700. This past breeding season, the reported change in foal crop increased slightly over 2016 (see chart). California was one of only three states to produce more live foals over the past year.

This chart specifically depicts the conception area and does not factor in the California foals that are by out-of-state stallions. Therefore, after factoring in the several hundred California foals expected to have been conceived in Kentucky and elsewhere, the live-foal crop for next year should reach or exceed 2,000.

As I have detailed many times, these healthy trends can be attributed to the cooperation within the industry that has provided the lucrative enhancements to the California-bred racing and incentive program. The total Cal-bred program, at more than \$30 million a year in restricted purses and incentive awards, has fueled the investment by California breeders. This coupled with the increased demand for Cal-breds, as evidenced by the re-

CHANGES IN FOAL CROP FROM 2016 TO 2017

State	2016 Mares Bred	2016 Live Foals	2017 Live Foals	Percent Change in Live Foals
Kentucky	17,912	12,184	12,396	1.7%
California	2,631	1,720	1,726	0.3%
Florida	2,841	1,577	1,514	-4.0%
New York	1,526	940	912	-3.0%
Louisiana	1,507	893	799	-10.5%
Maryland	929	411	500	21.7%
Ontario	865	447	397	-11.2%
New Mexico	869	452	370	-18.1%
Oklahoma	826	361	341	-5.5%
Pennsylvania	547	349	289	-17.2%

cent yearling and 2-year-old sales, has sparked interest by breeders to continue to upgrade their stock.

As California-breds continue to make up roughly half of the field sizes north and south, and California racing becomes more and more dependent on locally bred horses, these statistics bode well for the future of racing in the state, as ample inventory should be available with a higher percentage of the horses being bred mak-

ing it to the races. It is also important to note that unlike other states, we are realizing these positive results even without revenue from other forms of gambling. Restricted purses and incentives continue to remain strong strictly through the pari-mutuel handle.

The prospects for next year look very favorable, and the expectations are strong for more positives on the breeding front. **CTB**



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