



From the EXECUTIVE CORNER



DOUG BURGE

CTBA PRESIDENT

A BRIGHT HORIZON FOR CALIFORNIA BREEDERS

In early October, The Jockey Club released the most recent breeding statistics detailing the number of mares bred in 2017 and the estimated 2018 live foals from mares covered in the various states. According to TJC, approximately 90% of reports are complete. Among the 10 states and provinces listed, only three produced more live foals than the previous year (see chart below).

This listing of live foals pertains strictly to the state of conception and does not represent the total number of foals born in a particular state. For California, the percentage of live foals produced by California-based stallions declined 8.6% in 2018 compared to 2017. Several other regional racing states (Florida and New York in particular) showed a significant-

ly higher decrease in foal production.

Also, when factoring in the 300-plus California foals conceived in Kentucky and elsewhere, the current-year live foal crop should again approach 2,000.

In regard to Kentucky-sired California-breds, 297 foals were reported for this year. This positive trend continues to increase each year and percentage-wise might be the highest in history. As California breeders continue to upgrade and bring better-bred bloodstock to the state, the quality of California-bred foals will rise. This bodes well for the future of racing and sales in the state.

The total Cal-bred program, at more than \$35 million a year in restricted purses and incentive awards, has fueled this investment by California breeders.

As California-breds continue to con-

stitute roughly half of the field sizes north and south, and California racing becomes more and more dependent on locally bred horses, these stable trends are vital for the future of racing in the state as ample inventory should be available with a higher percentage of the horses being bred making 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.

Through the continued cooperation within the industry to provide lucrative purses and incentive awards for breeders and owners, there should be more positives to report in the future. **CTB**

REPORT OF MARES BRED

	2017 Mares Bred	2017 Live Foals	2018 Live Foals	Percent Change in Live Foals
Kentucky	17,401	12,396	12,370	-0.2%
California	2,573	1,726	1,577	-8.6%
Florida	2,286	1,514	1,217	-19.6%
New York	1,344	912	777	-14.8%
Louisiana	1,336	799	713	-10.8%
Ontario	908	397	495	24.7%
Maryland	783	500	483	-3.4%
New Mexico	794	370	372	0.5%
Pennsylvania	673	289	373	29.1%
Oklahoma	773	341	329	-3.5%