



From the EXECUTIVE CORNER



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CTBA PRESIDENT

CAL-BRED PROGRAM REMAINS ESSENTIAL

In its annual October compilation of breeding statistics, The Jockey Club detailed both the number of mares bred in 2023 and the estimated 2024 live foals from mares covered in the various states.

According to TJC, approximately 85-95% of the mares bred and live foal reports are complete. In mares bred, California showed a decline of 6%. While that is still worrisome, it's a considerable improvement from a 10.5% decline the previous year. The trend follows with live foals, as California showed an 8.1% decline in 2024 compared to a decline of 12.7% in 2023.

California, of course, reflects the industry as a whole, with six of the top 10 states/provinces listed reporting a percentage decline in live foals (per 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, when factoring in the roughly 200 California foals conceived in Kentucky and elsewhere, the current year foal crop should approach 1,300.

While this continued decline needs to be addressed with other industry stakeholders, we need to also focus on quality as well as quantity. With eight California-breds bringing six-figure prices at the Fasig-Tipton California Fall Yearling Sale, it is evident that California breeders continue to upgrade and bring quality bloodstock to the state.

The total Cal-bred program, at more than \$35 million a year in restricted purses and incentive awards, continues to fuel that

investment by California breeders. The CTBA will continue to work with others in the industry to not only protect purses, opportunities, and awards available, but to also grow them as much as possible.

As California-breds continue to make up roughly half of the field sizes north and south and California racing becomes more dependent on locally bred horses, it is vital for the future of racing in the state that breeders and owners have such a strong state-bred program. It is also important to note that, even with the decline in the number of foals, California still bred more mares than any state other than Kentucky. And this is without revenue from other forms of gambling. Restricted purses and incentives continue to remain strong strictly through pari-mutuel handle. **CTB**

REPORT OF MARES BRED

	2023 Mares Bred	2023 Live Foals	2024 Live Foals	Percent Change in Live Foals
Kentucky	17,056	11,564	11,605	0.4%
California	1,658	1,138	1,046	-8.1%
Florida	1,475	829	782	-5.7%
New York	1,088	590	672	13.9%
Louisiana	903	564	525	-6.9%
Maryland	572	498	344	-30.9%
Ontario	584	301	316	5.0%
New Mexico	461	234	237	1.3%
Oklahoma	413	220	195	-11.4%
Indiana	437	243	178	-26.7%