



## From the EXECUTIVE CORNER



**DOUG BURGE**

CTBA PRESIDENT

# CALIFORNIA BREEDING STATISTICS HOLD STEADY

According to The Jockey Club in its annual compilation of breeding statistics, California again ranks second to Kentucky in mares bred and live foals, even though it remains the only state of the top five without the benefit of revenue from other sources of gambling.

California also showed modest improvement in the rate of decline in live foals from the previous year, down 6.3% in 2025 from 2024. The California foal crop in 2024 was down 8.1% from 2023.

Considering the doomsday predictions after consolidation of live racing in Southern California, expectations proved worse than reality.

As I told Steve Andersen of the *Daily*

*Racing Form*, the official statistics from The Jockey Club were a pleasant surprise, because I was hearing more negativity from within the industry in both the north and south than what actually occurred.

No doubt, this is the result of both the passion and resilience of our breeders, as well as the expanding initiative programs the CTBA has driven in conjunction with industry stakeholders that have helped generate funds to invest back into Cal-breeds.

In addition, the CTBA recently announced further incentives, including an upcoming boost to the Cal-bred maiden bonus (funded jointly with the Thoroughbred Owners of California), a \$1,000 bo-

nus per foal up to 25 for foals of 2027, waiving registration fees for foals born in 2025, 2026, and 2027, and a pilot program for broodmare-quality enhancement that will reimburse breeders \$3,000 for each mare purchased out of state that meets specified criteria.

As noted by DRF, among California's stallions, 26 were bred to more than 20 mares. That list was led by Midnight Storm, who was bred to 82 mares, followed by Shaaz (69), Sir Prancealot (56), Hopkins (46), and Brickyard Ride (44).

The following table shows the 10 top states and provinces with the most mares covered in 2024 sorted by number of state/province-sired live foals of 2025 reported through Oct. 13, 2025. [CTB](#)

### REPORT OF MARES BRED

	2024 Mares Bred	2024 Live Foals	2025 Live Foals	Percent Change in Live Foals
<b>Kentucky</b>	16,686	11,605	11,288	-2.7%
<b>California</b>	1,507	1,046	980	-6.3%
<b>New York</b>	1,185	672	704	4.8%
<b>Florida</b>	1,330	782	700	-10.5%
<b>Louisiana</b>	932	525	523	-0.4%
<b>Ontario</b>	560	316	315	-0.3%
<b>Maryland</b>	499	344	302	-12.2%
<b>New Mexico</b>	446	237	239	0.8%
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	440	222	212	-4.5%
<b>Indiana</b>	404	178	174	-2.2%