

New York Foaling Season Off to Strong Start

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. - New York's 2012 Thoroughbred foal crop is up 37 percent from the same date a year ago.

Statistics compiled by the New York State Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund (the Fund) show that 222 foals were born through March 3, a sharp rise from the 162 foals that had arrived by that date in 2011.

The figure reflects the substantial growth in breeding in the state as a result of the opening of the Resort Worlds Casino New York City at Aqueduct in October. Revenue from the casino has fueled increases in purses at New York Racing Association tracks and has allowed the Fund to hike breeder and stallion awards. Owner awards, which were the only awards that weren't affected by the loss of revenue that accompanied the closure of NYC OTB, remain at up to 20 percent for wins in open-company races, with a cap of up to \$20,000 per horse per race.



This colt by Notional out of Diva Moon was foaled on Jan. 9 at McMahon Thoroughbreds in Saratoga, NY.

"Although the foal crop numbers represent the very earliest foals to hit the ground, I believe it is just the start of a trend that will continue this spring on farms across the state," said Tracy Egan, Executive Director of the New York State Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund.

A mid-January survey of farms by the Fund's field inspectors showed that at least 458 pregnant mares from other states were either on their way or already stabled on New York farms.



This bay colt by Tiago out of Traipse is one of 39 foals already on the ground at McMahon Thoroughbreds.

"They are leading the wave of mares coming here to be covered by New York stallions so that their foals of 2012 can become registered New York-breds," Egan said. "Many of the mares will be staying here to become resident mares. Their owners recognize that the quality of the New York stallion roster is steadily improving.

"While the arrival of new stallions such as Bluegrass Cat, Girolamo, Dublin and Here Comes Ben helped draw pregnant mares to New York and spur new investment in our farms, the 37 percent increase in the foal crop so far is the strongest indicator that the New York breeding program is on the upswing."



Any Given Saturday-Flash Act filly

During the past 10 years, New York's foal crop has fallen 34 percent from a high of 2,209 in 2004 to a low of 1,450 last year. The foal crop in 2012 is expected to halt four consecutive years of declines.