2016
PROGRAM CRITERIA

May 2016
Version 1.0

Ontario Racing is the Program Administrator for the Standardbred Improvement Program, a component of Ontario's Horse Improvement Program.

Ontario Racing (OR) is a newly-created horse racing industry association, which was established to assume many of the functions of the Ontario Horse Racing division of the former Ontario Racing Commission.

The organization is responsible for directing breed improvement programs, setting an annual program of races and purses, attracting new horse owners, building a fan base and connecting the industry with government and the general public.

Ontario Racing will serve as the voice of the horse racing industry and will work closely with the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) towards the integration of horse racing into OLG's gaming strategy.

Information and all required Program application forms are available for viewing and download at www.ontarioracing.com

ONTARIO RACING
400 - 10 Carlson Court
Toronto, Ontario, M9W 6L2
Telephone: 416-213-1800 Fax: 416-477-5499
Attention: Standardbred Improvement Program

About This Guide

This booklet presents the 2016 participation and reward criteria for the Standardbred Improvement Program. This guide also informs participants of changes to Program criteria scheduled for future years, which may affect breeding and broodmare management decisions in 2016.

It is important that those intending to participate in the Standardbred Improvement Program read and understand the Program criteria as outlined in this guide, as some participation requirements may have changed.

This booklet will be updated annually to inform Program participants of requirements that must be met in order to receive Program benefits.

Ontario Racing, at its sole discretion, may from time to time make changes to the Standardbred Improvement Program criteria of any nature and kind whatsoever, including the terms, conditions and the purse structure of the Ontario Sires Stakes. Program participants agree to be bound by such changes.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Standardbred Improvement Program (SIP) is a component of the Ontario's Horse Improvement Program (HIP), which offers incentives for the breeding and ownership of Standardbred racehorses in Ontario.

For 2016, $16 million will be available in awards and purses through Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) races, purse bonuses and benefits for Breeders and Mare Owners.

Who receives benefits from the Program?

- Breeders of ONTARIO SIRED horses racing in the Ontario Sires Stakes;
- Owners of ONTARIO SIRED horses racing in the Ontario Sires Stakes;
- Owners of 2-year-old Ontario Sired horses racing in overnight races in Ontario
- Owners and Lessees of ONTARIO RESIDENT MARES with ONTARIO BRED purse-winning offspring racing in the Ontario Sires Stakes and selected open stakes.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 15	Stallion Registration New $200 +Levy, Renewal $100 +Levy, Late $500 + Levy (Levy equals 50% of Service Fee or $500, whichever is more)
February 15	3YO Sustaining $700
March 15	2YO Sustaining $500
May 15	Yearling Nomination $100
September 1	Final day for receipt of Late Mare Enrolments

REMINDERS

Late Mare Enrolment Reminder - An ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE can be enrolled in the Program after foaling, provided she is enrolled by September 1st of the foaling year and fulfillment of the residency requirement can be proven. The fee for late enrolment is $300.

Enrolment Starting Date - The 180 day residency period starts the day Standardbred Canada receives the enrolment form. However, if the enrolment form is received by mail, the date of the postmark is considered Day 1 of the residency period.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW 3

2016 Program Incentives 3
Eligibility 4

2. PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM 5

2.1 Requirements for Owners, Lessees and Breeders 5
2.2 AGCO or ORC Licencing Requirements 5
2.3 Stallion Eligibility 6
2.4 Enrolling a Broodmare as an ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE ... 8
2.5 Embryo Transfer Eligibility Requirements 10
2.6 Reporting During the 180-Day Residency Period 10

3. PROGRAM DEFINITIONS 13

4. PROGRAM INCENTIVES AND REWARDS FOR 2016 16

4.1 Benefits for Owners of OSS Eligible Horses 16
4.2 Benefits for Breeders and Mare Owners 17
4.3 Breeders' Enhancement Program 18

5. THE HORSE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 19

6. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 25

It is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate that all the requirements of the Program have been met to the satisfaction of the Program Administrator. The Program Administrator reserves the right to amend, cancel or alter the Program and/or make changes to the terms, conditions, and benefits of any nature and kind whatsoever and, Program participants hereby agree to be bound by such changes.

1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Standardbred Improvement Program (the Program) utilizes a principle based approach that focuses on supporting breeding and ownership of high quality Standardbred racehorses in Ontario. The main objectives of the Program are as follows:

- Strengthening the quality (and size) of the Ontario broodmare band to support a strong market for quality Ontario stallions and profitable markets for offspring of Ontario breeding programs
- Encouraging investment in the Ontario industry – investment in breeding stock and offspring for racing
- Supporting an expanded fan base and enhanced wagering for Standardbred racing in Ontario.

2016 Program Incentives

The Standardbred Improvement Program incentives available for 2016 include the following:

Ontario Sires Stakes Program

A series of races for horses foaled in 2013 and 2014, sired by eligible ONTARIO SIRES of 2012 and 2013, and nominated and sustained to the Ontario Sires Stakes program.

Ontario Sired Rewards

Rewards to eligible breeders of purse-winning two-year-olds and three-year-olds in Ontario Sires Stakes races.

Ontario Bred Rewards

Rewards to eligible ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE owners/lessees with ONTARIO BRED purse-winning offspring racing in Ontario Sires Stakes races and Finals of selected open stakes in Ontario.

2YO Purse Bonus

20% Purse Bonus for ONTARIO SIRED two-year-olds racing in overnight races in Ontario in PLUS a 5% Purse Bonus on two-year-old Ontario Sires Stakes earnings.

Enhanced Breeders Rewards

For more information on this program please see pages 19 & 20 or visit the Standardbred Breeders of Ontario Association at www.standardbredbreeders.com or contact by phoning at 519 833-2861.

Eligibility

Detailed eligibility criteria for the 2016 Standardbred Improvement Program incentives are included in Chapter 4: Eligibility Criteria and Incentives for 2016.

To be eligible for Standardbred Improvement Program benefits, subject to verification of their breeding, horses will be registered by Standardbred Canada as:

ONTARIO BRED (out of an ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE) AND/OR
ONTARIO SIRED (sired by a registered ONTARIO SIRE)

An ONTARIO BRED horse is the offspring of an ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE and thereby eligible to earn Ontario Bred Rewards. The Ontario Resident Mare Program was established in 2010 in response to industry recommendations outlined in the Ontario Horse Improvement Program Review Final Report and approved by the Board of the former Ontario Racing Commission. See Section 3 “Definitions” for the definitions of an ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE and an ONTARIO BRED horse.

A horse that is the offspring of a recognized ONTARIO SIRE shall be eligible to be registered as ONTARIO SIRED and thereby eligible to be nominated to the Ontario Sires Stakes and earn Ontario Sired Rewards. A horse could be ONTARIO SIRED, and not foaled out in Ontario, and still be eligible to be registered as ONTARIO SIRED. (See Section 3 “Program Definitions” for the definition of an ONTARIO SIRED horse).

The Program provides benefits to the owners of ONTARIO SIRED horses through Ontario Sires Stakes purses and purse bonuses. Horses registered as ONTARIO SIRED that meet all Ontario Sires Stakes eligibility criteria will be eligible to race in the Ontario Sires Stakes program.

A horse can be both ONTARIO SIRED and ONTARIO BRED, and be eligible for incentives attached to each status.

2. PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM

In order to participate in the Standardbred Improvement Program for 2016 and future years, the requirements below must be met.

2.1 Requirements for Owners, Lessees and Breeders

Stallion Owners (or Lessees) must register their stallion with the Program by January 15th each year in order for the horse to be recognized as an ONTARIO SIRE. After this date, late registration fees and special conditions apply. Stallions must be either owned or leased by an Ontario Resident.

To register a stallion as a 2016 ONTARIO SIRE, you must hold a current Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario/Ontario Racing Commission (AGCO/ORC) licence (see 2.2 below), complete the Standardbred Stallion Registration and submit all required fees.

Broodmare Owners (or Lessees) must hold a current, valid AGCO/ORC licence (see 2.2 below); enrol the broodmare as an ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE for each foal year in which she is eligible and submit all required fees.

Breeders / Foal Owners must register foals according to all Standardbred Canada requirements for foal registration. Upon confirmation from the Program, Standardbred Canada will record the foal's status as ONTARIO SIRED and/or ONTARIO BRED in the horse's registration record. Where foals are registered with the United States Trotting Association (USTA), Standardbred Canada will ensure that the relevant status for Ontario benefits is attached to the horse's record.

Owners of Ontario Sires Stakes eligible horses must nominate and sustain the eligible yearlings, two-year-olds or three-year-olds with the Ontario Sires Stakes program, and meet all eligibility requirements for the Ontario Sires Stakes program (including payment of all required fees). For information on eligibility requirements, visit the OSS website at www.ontariosiresstakes.com

2.2 Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) or Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) Licencing Requirements

A mare owner or lessee who is enrolling a mare in the Ontario Resident Mare Program must hold a current AGCO/ORC licence.

Stallion owners or lessees and their designated AUTHORIZED AGENTS must also hold a current AGCO/ORC licence.

Mare owners, stallion owners or lessees and AUTHORIZED AGENTS who do not require an AGCO/ORC licence for any purpose other than Program participation, may apply for a Program Licence, which will be available for a fee of $20.

For first time applications for AGCO/ORC licences, an additional $20 fee will apply.

For licencing questions, contact the AGCO at 416-326-8700 or 1-800-522-2876, by e-mail at customerservice@agco.ca or online at www.agco.ca

2.3 Stallion Eligibility

Registering a Stallion as an Ontario Sire

To be eligible for registration as an ONTARIO SIRE, a stallion must be:

- Wholly owned by an ONTARIO RESIDENT, and standing his entire NORTHERN HEMISPHERE STUD SEASON in the Province of Ontario; **or**

- Leased to an ONTARIO RESIDENT for a term of at least one year, and standing his entire NORTHERN HEMISPHERE STUD SEASON in the Province of Ontario during the term of that lease, with a copy of the written lease agreement on file with Standardbred Canada.

Verification of ownership (or leasing) of the stallion will be confirmed by Standardbred Canada records. Where registration documentation verifying the ownership of a stallion is in the process of being transferred, and Standardbred Canada is otherwise unable to verify the ownership of a stallion, other proof of ownership satisfactory to the Program must be submitted with the application for registration.

To be eligible for registration as an ONTARIO SIRE, Standardbred stallions must be registered with Standardbred Canada and/or the United States Trotting Association (USTA) and must be DNA-tested in accordance with prevailing Standardbred Canada regulations, as amended from time to time.

Owners, lessees, and AUTHORIZED AGENTS of owners or lessees signing an application for registration of a stallion, must hold a current, valid AGCO/ORC licence.

An AUTHORIZED AGENT may register a stallion on behalf of the owner or lessee, if:

- The owner or lessee holds a valid, current AGCO/ORC licence, AND
- The AUTHORIZED AGENT holds a valid current AGCO/ORC licence, AND
- The appropriate AUTHORIZED AGENT documents are recorded on file with Standardbred Canada.

Owners, lessees or AUTHORIZED AGENTS, who violate the stallion registration conditions or the intent of the stallion registration conditions, will be subject to sanctioning by Ontario Racing. Ontario Racing, in its absolute discretion, may waive the breach of any stallion condition, which it does not consider prejudicial to the best interest of the Standardbred Improvement Program or the Ontario Sires Stakes program.

Deadlines for Stallion Registration

The deadline for applying to register a stallion without a penalty is January 15th of the breeding year.

Applications to register a stallion received by the Program after January 15th of the breeding year will be subject to payment of a Late Registration Fee (see below).

A stallion is ineligible for registration as a 2016 ONTARIO SIRE if it breeds or has bred any mares during the 2016 calendar year prior to the approval of the application.

Fees for Stallion Registration before January 15th of the breeding year

The applicable fees for registration of a stallion as an ONTARIO SIRE are:

- $200.00 for a New Registration (if not registered as an ONTARIO SIRE in the previous year - 2015) … **OR** …
- $100.00 for a Renewal Registration (for stallions registered as an ONTARIO SIRE in the previous year - 2015)
  PLUS -
- An Ontario Sires Stakes Levy fee equal to 50% of the advertised service fee for the current year. If the service fee for the current year is listed as “Private”, the Ontario Sires Stakes Levy payable will be equal to 50% of the highest amount that would be charged for a service fee for the current year OR $500.00, whichever is GREATER.

Late Registration

To register a stallion after January 15th, the required registration fee is $500.00 (for either “New” or “Renewal” registrations), PLUS the Ontario Sires Stakes Levy amount as outlined above.

How to Register a Stallion

Registration of a stallion as an ONTARIO SIRE for the current breeding season requires completion of the Standardbred Stallion Registration form. Completed forms, with payment of all required fees, must be submitted by the required deadline to:

Ontario Racing
400 - 10 Carlson Court, Toronto, ON M9W 6L2
Attention: Standardbred Improvement Program

Any applications received by mail that have no postmark or have an unreadable postmark on the envelope, will only be accepted up to January 16, 2016. After that date the late registration fee of $500.00 will apply.

Therefore, to avoid being penalized for the failure of Canada Post to properly postmark the envelope carrying the application, it is strongly recommended that these materials be sent by registered mail.

Failure to submit the appropriate registration fee and Ontario Sires Stakes Levy along with the application could result in the foals born to that stallion in 2016 being ineligible for nomination to the Ontario Sires Stakes program.

A list of registered ONTARIO SIRES will be published as soon as possible after January 15, 2016. It may not be possible to include all stallions registered pursuant to the late registration provisions on the published list.

The 2016 Standardbred Stallion Registration Form is available on the Ontario Racing (OR) website at www.ontarioracing.com and also on the OSS website at www.ontariosiresstakes.com.

2.4 Enrolling a Broodmare as an ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE

Administration of the Ontario Resident Mare Program will be managed by Standardbred Canada on behalf of Ontario Racing.

All documents and payments required for mare registration should be sent to:

Standardbred Canada
1-2150 Meadowvale Blvd., Mississauga ON L5N 6R6
Attention: Ontario Resident Mare Program

Broodmare Eligibility

Mare Owners (or Lessees) must enrol their mare(s) as an ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE for each foal year, for their foals to be recognized as ONTARIO BRED. The

fee to enroll a mare in the Program is $50 before she foals or $300 after the foaling date but before September 1st of the foaling year.

To enrol a mare, the mare must be in Ontario, and mare owners (or lessees) and their agents must:

- Hold a current AGCO/ORC licence
- Complete and submit the 2016 Standardbred Mare Enrolment Form with all required payments

To be eligible as an ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE, a broodmare must be:

- Located within the boundaries of the Province of Ontario at the time of enrolment, AND
- Must remain resident in the Province of Ontario for a minimum of 180 consecutive days surrounding foaling (in Ontario).

Documentation confirming arrival dates within Ontario may be required. This may include, but is not limited to, Veterinary Health Certificate for Export of Horses, horse transportation contracts, Health Inspection Certificates at port of entry and horse transportation invoices.

Broodmare Enrolment

The fee to enrol a broodmare is $50 before the mare foals or $300 after she foals but before September 1st of the foaling year. Please Note: Third party proof of residency must be submitted if the mare is enrolled after foaling.

The broodmare must be resident in Ontario at the time of enrollment.

The day the Standardbred Mare Enrolment form is postmarked is considered to be “Day One” of the required 180-day residency requirement period.

The Program Administrator may request transportation documents and/or copies of records for the mare such as invoices for veterinarian services, farrier (blacksmith) services, or boarding services during the declared residency period, to verify the mare’s residency period.

How to Enrol a Broodmare

Enrolment of a broodmare as an ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE for the 2016 foal year requires completion of the 2016 Standardbred Mare Enrolment Form. The form and all required fees must be submitted to:

Standardbred Canada
1-2150 Meadowvale Blvd., Mississauga ON L5N 6R6
Attention: Ontario Resident Mare Program

Completed forms may be submitted by fax to 905-858-3111 “Attention: Ontario Resident Mare Program”, provided that arrangements have been made for the remittance of all required fee payments. Standardbred Canada accepts no responsibility for the receipt of faxed application forms by the required deadline. It is recommended that you retain a fax transmission receipt to confirm the date/time of the fax transmission.

The 2016 Standardbred Mare Enrolment forms are available on the OR website at www.Ontarioracing.com.

2.5 Embryo Transfer Eligibility Requirements

Embryo Transfers Occurring in 2016

Offspring of embryo transfer procedures occurring in 2016 (foals of 2017) will qualify for ONTARIO BRED status if the following conditions are met:

- Embryo Transfer Donor Mare must be enrolled in the Program after conception, AND
- Embryo Transfer Donor Mare and Recipient Mare must be resident in Ontario at the time of enrolment, AND
- Recipient Mare must complete the 180-day residency requirement and remain in the Province of Ontario through foaling in Ontario.

It is not required that the embryo transfer procedure occurred in Ontario.

The Program Administrator may request transportation documents and/or copies of records for the mare such as invoices for veterinary services, farrier (blacksmith) services, or boarding services during the declared residency period, to verify the Recipient Mare’s residency period.

2.6 Reporting During the 180-Day Residency Period

Death of the Mare

In the event of the death of the mare prior to completion of the required residency period, a foal from the deceased mare would be eligible for ONTARIO BRED status provided the mare was enrolled as an ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE prior to her death. A letter outlining the circumstances of the death of the mare should be addressed to the Program Administrator.

Special Consideration for Temporary Absence

Special consideration may be granted for mares required to leave Ontario for breeding and/or health reasons, upon application by the mare owner to the

Program Administrator and at the sole discretion of the Program Administrator. If permission is granted to leave Ontario, the change of location must be reported to Standardbred Canada prior to departure and after her return.

If a mare's absence from Ontario during her 180 day residency period is approved by the Program Administrator, the residency period will be interrupted for the time she is out of the province and will resume when she returns.

Temporary Absence for Sale

With permission from the Program Administrator, an enrolled ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE may depart Ontario to be entered in a public sale/auction. If the mare returns to Ontario within thirty (30) days of departure, under the original ownership, the mare may resume her Ontario residency period until the 180 day requirement is fulfilled. The Program Administrator may request transportation and/or border crossing documents to validate entry date.

If the mare returns to Ontario under new ownership and the Ontario Bred Rewards were not transferred to the new owner, the new owner will be allowed to enrol the mare in the program and the original owner will lose all rights to future Ontario Bred Rewards for that foal. The mare's 180 day residency period starts the day the new owner enrolls her.

If the new owner does not enrol the mare, the original owner will only be eligible for the Ontario Bred Rewards if he is able to provide written verification from the new owner that the mare foaled in Ontario and fulfilled the 180 day residency requirement. The Program Administrator may request documents to verify the residency period.

Sale of an Ontario Resident Mare

If an Ontario Resident mare is sold after she has been enrolled in the Program and the Ontario Bred Rewards were not transferred to the new owner, the new owner will be allowed to enrol her in the program, provided she continues to reside in the province. The original owner will lose all rights to future Ontario Bred Rewards for that foal. The mare's new 180-day residency period starts the day the new owner enrolls her.

If the new owner does not enrol the mare, the original owner who enrolled the mare in the Program will only be eligible for the Ontario Bred Rewards if he is able to provide written verification from the new owner that the mare foaled in Ontario and remained in Ontario until the end of her 180-day residency period. The Program Administrator may request documents to verify the residency period.

If an enrolled ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE is sold during the 180-day residency period, either privately or at public auction, Standardbred Canada must be notified of the change of ownership within thirty (30) days of the sale transaction.

Transfer of Ontario Bred Rewards

If an enrolled ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE is sold during the 180-day residency period, either privately or at public auction, the Ontario Bred Rewards may be transferred to the new owner. A Transfer of Ontario Bred Rewards form must be completed and submitted to the Program Administrator. The Transfer of Ontario Bred Rewards form is available on the OR website at www.ontarioracing.com

Ontario Bred Rewards cannot be transferred unless the change of ownership process has been completed with Standardbred Canada.

Reporting Upon Completion of the 180-Day Residency Period

Participants who have enrolled an Ontario Resident Mare will receive a Declaration of Compliance form letter from the Program at the end of the 180-day residency period or after the mare has foaled, whichever occurs last.

The participant must complete the brief questionnaire to confirm the mare's fulfillment of the residency term and compliance with criteria, sign the document and return it to Standardbred Canada in order for the mare's offspring to be eligible for Ontario Bred Rewards.

Exemptions

By application to the Program Administrator, special considerations may be granted for specific circumstances. However, failure to provide supporting documentation when requested by the Program Administrator could result in the foal being ineligible for ONTARIO BRED status.

Appeal Process

Decisions of the Program Administrator may be appealed and will be heard by a panel of one Ontario Racing Board member in a public meeting at which the complainant, as well as other interested stakeholders, may be present if they wish. There is no appeal of the panel's decision on Program matters.

3. PROGRAM DEFINITIONS

The following definitions will apply for the Standardbred Improvement Program for the 2016 Program year. A horse's status is determined by the criteria in effect in its birth year. A horse's status is retained for its entire racing career.

ONTARIO SIRE means a stallion registered with the Program, owned or leased by an ONTARIO RESIDENT, standing in the Province of Ontario for the entire NORTHERN HEMISPHERE STUD SEASON of the year of record. To be eligible to be registered in the Program, a stallion must be: (a) Wholly owned by an ONTARIO RESIDENT, and standing his entire NORTHERN HEMISPHERE STUD SEASON in the Province of Ontario; OR (b) Leased to an ONTARIO RESIDENT for a term of at least one year, and standing his entire NORTHERN HEMISPHERE STUD SEASON in the Province of Ontario during the term of that lease, with a copy of the written lease agreement being filed with Standardbred Canada

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ONTARIO SIRED means a foal sired by a stallion that is recognized as an ONTARIO SIRE by the Standardbred Improvement Program in the year of conception. Only foals conceived as a result of matings between a mare in the Northern Hemisphere and a recognized ONTARIO SIRE during the NORTHERN HEMISPHERE STUD SEASON are eligible to be registered with Standardbred Canada as ONTARIO SIRED. Foals conceived from frozen semen will be eligible to be registered with Standardbred Canada as ONTARIO SIRED only if the semen was collected and frozen in Ontario and is from a recognized ONTARIO SIRE at the time of collection and when the mare was inseminated. The semen must have been obtained through the ONTARIO SIRE registered owner, lessee or syndicate manager. If a recognized ONTARIO SIRE dies during the breeding season, the breeder may use frozen semen to finish that Northern Hemisphere breeding season only, provided the stallion has been properly registered for that season and provided the semen meets the above requirements.

ONTARIO STALLION LESSEE means an ONTARIO RESIDENT, who has signed a lease in which the initial term of the lease must be for no less than one year. A Lessor's rights may not be transferred during the NORTHERN HEMISPHERE STUD SEASON, except to another ONTARIO RESIDENT, and then only if the Program is so advised in writing by the previous Lessor within thirty (30) days of the transfer. Stallions under lease become ineligible for recognition as an ONTARIO SIRE where any of the rights of the Lessor under the lease are transferred: (a) to a non-Ontario Resident during the stallion's NORTHERN HEMISPHERE STUD SEASON; OR (b) to an ONTARIO RESIDENT, unless the Program is notified in writing within thirty (30) days of the transfer.

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE STUD SEASON means that period during each calendar year, commencing when the stallion breeds his first mare situated in the Northern Hemisphere, and ending the day the stallion breeds his last mare situated in the Northern Hemisphere. During this entire period, the stallion must remain situated in Ontario to remain eligible for ONTARIO SIRE status. Dual Hemisphere stallions must remain situated in Ontario for at least 170 consecutive days. Time spent by Dual Hemisphere stallions in quarantine in North America can be counted towards their requirement to be in Ontario for 170 days. For breeding stallions that are also racing or in the event of a medical emergency, Ontario Racing, in its sole discretion, may waive the requirement to remain situated in Ontario.

ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE means a mare, enrolled with the Program, domiciled in the Province of Ontario for a minimum of 180 consecutive days, which includes the date of foaling out in Ontario. Special consideration may be granted for mares required to leave the Province for breeding and/or health reasons, upon application of the Mare Owner (or Lessee) to the Program Administrator and at the sole discretion of the Program Administrator.

ONTARIO BRED means a horse foaled in the Province of Ontario, out of an ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE.

Foals of 2016 resulting from Embryo Transfer Procedures: Offspring of embryo transfer procedures will qualify for ONTARIO BRED status if the following conditions are met:

- The Embryo Transfer Donor Mare (dam of the foal) must be enrolled with the Program after conception.
- The Embryo Transfer Donor Mare and the Recipient Mare must be resident in Ontario at the time of enrolment.
- The Recipient Mare must complete the 180-day residency requirement and remain in Ontario through foaling in Ontario.
- The embryo transfer procedure does not have to occur in Ontario.

The Program will not recognize foals as twins if produced through embryo/ovum transfer. If such foals were produced through embryo/ovum transfer, only the Embryo Transfer Donor Mare's first-born foal, registered with either Standardbred Canada or the United States Trotting Association (USTA), will be eligible for registration with Standardbred Canada as ONTARIO BRED.

BREEDER OF RECORD means the individual, partnership, syndicate, or corporation who was the Owner of the dam at the time of conception; except when a mare is held under lease at time of breeding and written notification of such lease signed by the Lessor and the Lessee is on file with Standardbred Canada. When the dam (mare) is under lease at the time of breeding (and written notification is on file as required), the Lessee will be recognized as the BREEDER OF RECORD.

ELIGIBLE MARE OWNER /LESSEE means the individual or partnership who enrols a broodmare in the ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE program. This is the individual or partnership that makes the business decision to participate in the Program, and will be eligible to receive awards earned by the resulting ONTARIO BRED offspring.

ONTARIO RESIDENT means a person whose permanent home or principal home is in Ontario and who resides at that home for no less than 182 days in a calendar year.
A Registered stable, farm, corporation or limited partnership, registered with Standardbred Canada as an ownership group, will be considered an ONTARIO RESIDENT, IF:

- The stable, farm, corporation or limited partnership is registered with Standardbred Canada, AND
- The primary business location for the stable, farm, or limited partnership - or the registered head office for the corporation - is in the Province of Ontario, AND
- At least one member of the registered stable, farm, corporation, limited partnership or syndicate is an ONTARIO RESIDENT.

Should any dispute or disagreement arise, the person (or entity) bears the onus of proving that they fall within the meaning of ONTARIO RESIDENT.

The records of Standardbred Canada, the recognized registry for Standardbred horses in Canada, will be the source of verification and validation for any documentation surrounding ownership, leases, or breeding records of registered ONTARIO SIRES or other horses recognized by the Program.

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4. PROGRAM INCENTIVES AND REWARDS FOR 2016

4.1 Benefits for Owners of OSS Eligible Horses

Ontario Sires Stakes

The Ontario Sires Stakes program is an annual series of stakes races for two-year-old and three-year-old trotting and pacing horses sired by recognized ONTARIO SIRES. The Ontario Sires Stakes program was established in 1974, and is considered one of the best programs of its kind in North America.

Purses for Ontario Sires Stakes races are funded through:

- Nomination and sustaining fees paid by owners of eligible horses
- Starting fees paid for entries
- Added money from the Standardbred Improvement Program.

The Ontario Sires Stakes program is organized into two series of races, the Gold Series and the Grassroots Series. Within each series, races are organized into events by gait, gender and age. Both the Grassroots Series and the Gold Series include events in all eight categories.

Depending on the number of eligible entries in each event, each event will include one or more divisions. Based on the number of starters in each division, the available purse money is distributed as follows:

5 or more starters	50-25-12-8-5%;
4 starters	50-25-15-10%;
3 starters	60-30-10%;
2 starters	65-35%;
1 starter	100%.

Horses racing in Grassroots Series events accumulate points based on race results, which qualify them for competition in the Grassroots Championship races for each age/gender/gait category.

Horses racing in Gold Series events accumulate points based on race results, which qualify them for competition in the year-end Gold Super Finals for each of the age/gender/gait categories.

Eligibility for Ontario Sires Stakes

An ONTARIO SIRED horse is eligible for all ONTARIO SIRED restricted races in Ontario, including the Ontario Sires Stakes program, provided that the eligibility

requirements and race entry conditions are met. (See Section 3 "Program Definitions" for the definition of an ONTARIO SIRED horse).

Eligible ONTARIO SIRED offspring must be nominated to the Ontario Sires Stakes program to be eligible for entry into Ontario Sires Stakes races, and must meet all required nomination, sustaining and race entry criteria and conditions.

Nominations for foals to the Ontario Sires Stakes program close on May 15th of their yearling year.

The Ontario Sires Stakes Conditions, including nomination criteria, racing eligibility and entry requirements, are published each year, prior to the May 15th deadline for nominations. Eligibility criteria for the current year Ontario Sires Stakes program is available for reference in the Ontario Sires Stakes Racing Guide, which is printed annually and published on the Ontario Sires Stakes website at www.ontariosiresstakes.com.

Ontario Sires Stakes Purses

The actual amount of purse per race is subject to annual budget approval. Purse values for the 2016 Ontario Sires Stakes program are as published in the 2016 Ontario Sires Stakes Racing Guide.

The budget for OSS purses in 2016 has been allocated as $13,748,000.

2-Year-Old Ontario Sired Purse Bonus

In addition to the $13.7 Million for OSS purses in 2016 and restricted races written for ONTARIO SIRED horses, a 2-year-old Ontario Sired Purse Bonus is in place, which is equal to:

20% of purses earned in overnight races in Ontario
- **PLUS -**

5% of purses earned in Ontario Sires Stakes races.

Note: *This Purse Bonus will be replaced in 2017 with a $2M Owners' Bonus which will be paid to owners of two and three-year-olds that are ONTARIO SIRED or ONTARIO BRED. If a foal is both ONTARIO SIRED and ONTARIO BRED they will receive double the bonus. The bonus will be calculated on a pro-rata basis according to each horse's earnings.*

4.2 Benefits for Breeders and Mare Owners

The Standardbred Improvement Program provides Ontario Sired Rewards and Ontario Bred Rewards to reward breeders who use ONTARIO SIRES in their

breeding program, and to reward owners/lessees of ONTARIO RESIDENT MARES. The rewards are intended to directly reward the breeder or mare owner who makes the business decision to participate in the Standardbred Improvement Program.

Eligible breeders and ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE owners/lessees will receive:

Ontario Sired Rewards:

Equal to 5% of purses earned in Ontario Sires Stakes races.

Eligibility: Ontario Sired Rewards will be paid to the BREEDER OF RECORD of purse-winning horses racing in the Ontario Sires Stakes program. The rewards are available for two-year-olds and three-year olds racing in the Ontario Sires Stakes.

Ontario Bred Rewards:

Equal to 15% of purses earned in Ontario Sires Stakes races
- **AND -**
15% of purses earned in selected open stakes in Ontario.

A list of the selected open stakes that are eligible for Ontario Bred Rewards will be posted annually on the OR website at www.ontarioracingcom

Eligibility: Ontario Bred Rewards will be paid to the owner/lessee of an ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE with ONTARIO BRED purse-winning offspring racing in Ontario Sires Stakes races and selected open stakes in Ontario.

If an eligible purse-winning horse racing in the Ontario Sires Stakes program is both ONTARIO SIRED and ONTARIO BRED, the horse will earn both Ontario Sired Rewards and Ontario Bred Rewards.

FOR CLARITY: A horse must be ONTARIO SIRED in order to be eligible for Ontario Sires Stakes racing (or any races that are restricted to ONTARIO SIRED horses). A horse could be ONTARIO BRED, and not be ONTARIO SIRED, and still be eligible for benefits attached to its ONTARIO BRED status (Ontario Bred Rewards for purse earnings in Finals of selected open stakes, for example). If an ONTARIO BRED is also ONTARIO SIRED, it is eligible for rewards for both categories.

4.3 Breeders' Enhancement Program

In 2015, the Standardbred Breeders of Ontario Association (SBOA) signed an agreement which will enhance the current breeders reward program by approximately $3 million per year from 2015 to 2018.

In addition to the current Ontario Bred and Ontario Sired rewards, the enhanced program will reward breeders as follows:

- An approximate $1 million will be paid out on a pro-rata basis to the owners/lessees of eligible Ontario Resident Mares who invested in the Ontario Standardbred breeding industry by breeding to an Ontario Sire. An amount will be paid for each foal that is both Ontario Sired and Ontario Bred (from Ontario Resident Mares) and fully registered with either Standardbred Canada or the USTA by December 31, 2016. The payment per foal will be based on the advertised service fee of the Ontario Sire.

- An approximate $1 million increase to the Standardbred Improvement Program's Ontario Bred rewards. The rewards will be paid on a pro-rata basis to the owners/lessees of eligible Ontario Resident Mares with purse-winning offspring, which are both Ontario Bred and Ontario Sired, racing in Ontario Sires Sakes races and selected open stake races in Ontario. These rewards commenced with the 2015 stake season.

- Rewards to breeders of the top three Ontario Bred performers in each of the eight divisions of the Ontario Sires Stakes. A $50,000 reward will be split (First - $25,000; Second - $15,000; Third - $10,000) among the owners/lessees of the eligible Ontario Resident Mares that produce the top three money earners in each division.

- $100,000 paid to the owner/syndicate of the top Ontario Sires Stakes stallions based on progeny earnings in each of the following OSS categories: 2-year-old trotters; 2-year-old pacers; 3-year-old trotters; 3-year-old pacers. The leading stallions from the 2015 OSS season were the first group eligible for these rewards. To qualify for the rewards, stallions must currently reside in Ontario.

To benefit from the enhanced program, foals must be both ONTARIO SIRED and ONTARIO BRED.

Additional information about the Enhanced Breeder's Reward Program can be found at www.standardbredbreeders.com or by phoning 519 833-2861.

5. THE HORSE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Horse Improvement Program (HIP) is a racing and breeding incentive program that was established in 1974. The Program plays a direct role in increasing employment in the racing industry, helping Ontario farms remain economically stable and encouraging ownership in Ontario-produced horses.

The purpose of HIP is to:

- Benefit the Ontario racing industry in general and to grow the industry in a sustainable and responsible way,
- Support the Ontario breeding sector,
- Invest in equine research, and
- Promote participation in the Ontario Horse Improvement Program.

The Horse Improvement Program is funded through a pari-mutuel tax reduction on wagering. The budget for the 2016 Horse Improvement Program, including both the Standardbred Improvement Program and Thoroughbred Improvement Program, is valued at approximately $30,000,000.

Administration of the Horse Improvement Program

Prior to 1997, the Ontario Racing Commission administered the various program elements of HIP. In conjunction with the many changes that occurred as a result of the reduction in the provincial tax on wagering, responsibility for the administration of HIP was delegated to the Ontario Horse Racing Industry Association (OHRIA) effective January 1, 1997. HIP was then administered by OHRIA, in accordance with the Rules of Administration approved by the ORC. In May of 2005, administration of HIP was transferred back to the ORC.

In 2006, the Governing Board of the ORC mandated a review of HIP, to determine if the Program was continuing to be effective within the context of the current environment for breeding and racing in Ontario. The process for the review of HIP involved broad-based industry consultations and background research during the December 2006 through March 2008 period.

The ORC released the Final Report of the Review of the Horse Improvement Program on June 20, 2008, which presents the results of the comprehensive review. The Final Report includes summaries of the industry consultations and the resulting recommendations received from the industry for restructuring HIP to meet the revised goals and objectives for the Program.

Ontario Racing was established in conjunction with the Ontario Government's strategy to integrate Horse Racing within Provincial Gaming. Ontario Racing, as part of their new mandate beginning on April 1, 2016, is responsible for the administration of the Horse Improvement Program.

Goals and Objectives of the Horse Improvement Program

The 2008 HIP review identified the following goals and objectives for the Program:

- Rewarding Excellence
- Developing programs that support a strong and sustainable live racing product in Ontario which attracts enhanced wagering
- Developing and supporting programs that foster, sustain and encourage investment within the breeding sector
- Supporting the Ontario breeding sector as a priority with programs and race conditions that create incentives for the breeding and purchase of Ontario offspring (yearlings in particular)
- Supporting the Ontario breeding sector over the long-term, with programs that:
  a) Encourage investment in the breeding sector
  b) Encourage the purchase of Ontario offspring
  c) Maximize the value of Ontario offspring
  d) Include long-term returns to owners of Ontario-bred horses, Ontario breeders and Ontario stallion owners
  e) Support improvement in quality, not just increased quantity, in breeding programs
  f) Encourage improvements to the broodmare band, as well as the stallion population
- Establishing conditions for allocation of HIP funds for overnight races
- Investing in equine research
- Promoting Ontario's Horse Improvement Program to:
  a) Brand the Program and provide education on program benefits and eligibility requirements
  b) Introduce our products to new people

Program funds entrusted to Ontario Racing are audited and reviewed annually by an independent auditor.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Program Administrator

OR, as the Program Administrator for the Horse Improvement Program, is responsible for the development and implementation of all Program elements to achieve the identified goals and objectives of the Program.

OR is responsible for approving all Program criteria, eligibility requirements and rules and procedures surrounding implementation and administration of the Program.

As Program Administrator, OR has responsibility for:

- Ensuring the integrity of all payments to eligible recipients of HIP incentive benefits
- Setting targets (expected performance outcomes and results) for Program expenditures
- Developing a program for evaluating and measuring the results of Program implementation
- Reporting on Program performance to industry and government

HIP includes incentives and benefits for breeders, stallion owners, and owners of active racehorses. The Program Administrator is responsible "To ensure that all those eligible are paid, and that all those paid are eligible."

OR is committed to working with industry stakeholders to develop a process for annual review of Program performance and outcomes, and a process for involving industry stakeholders in revisions to Program elements and long-term strategic planning for the Program. An Advisory Group is in place for both the Thoroughbred and the Standardbred sectors. These groups are made up of industry stakeholders who are responsible for:

- Working with the Program Administrator to review the annual performance of HIP in the context of the identified goals and objectives of the Program
- Providing recommendations (and input) to the Program Administrator on the annual budget and Program elements for the next year
- Providing recommendations to the Program Administrator on the annual Program eligibility requirements, and Program Criteria documents
- Developing recommendations on Program targets and benchmarks
- Developing recommendations to the Program Administrator on program changes for future years, that reflect changes in the business environment for the Ontario breeding and/or racing sector
- Developing recommendations on marketing and communication programs surrounding HIP.

OR has specific responsibilities for:

- Recording and publicizing a list of horses that have been registered with, and accepted by, the Program as ONTARIO SIRES for each breeding year
- Recording eligible ONTARIO RESIDENT MARES for each foaling year
- Authorizing the designation of a foal's (horse's) lifetime status for HIP benefits on registration records or certificates issued by Standardbred Canada or the Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society
- Informing all racetracks of a horse's eligibility for racing incentives that are funded by HIP and distributed through purse accounts
- Developing a Horse Improvement Program promotional website to support investment in Ontario's breeding and racing sectors.

OR will rely on, and work in partnership with, pedigree registries, Ontario racetracks, and industry associations to administer HIP.

Pedigree Registries

OR will rely on registration records maintained by Standardbred Canada as the source of valid information related to the identification, ownership, or ownership leases for Standardbred horses recognized by the Program.

OR will authorize Standardbred Canada to designate a horse's lifetime status for HIP benefits on registration records or certificates issued for eligible foals/horses, as:

ONTARIO BRED AND/OR ONTARIO SIRED

OR will require Standardbred Canada to provide current listings of horses registered as ONTARIO BRED and/or ONTARIO SIRED.

OR will require pedigree registries to provide such other activity reports as are required to support reporting on Program performance to industry and government.

The records of Standardbred Canada, the recognized registry for Standardbred horses in Canada, will be the source of verification and validation for any documentation surrounding ownership – or leases – for Standardbred horses recognized by the Program.

Ontario Racetracks

One of the goals of HIP is to encourage the adoption of common definitions and terminology to be shared by the Program Administrator, the racetracks and the breeder and horsemen's associations in Ontario.

Where race conditions restrict eligibility to Ontario progeny, or where additional purse incentives are available for Ontario progeny, it is expected that the HIP definitions for ONTARIO SIRED and ONTARIO BRED will apply to such races.

Where HIP benefits are distributed to eligible owners of active racehorses through purse account payments, OR will provide Ontario racetracks validation for eligibility for such incentives.

When applicable, Ontario racetracks will be responsible for:

- Validating eligibility for HIP restricted races
- Validating eligibility for HIP funded purse incentives to owners
- Reporting to OR, race entries and race results for HIP funded races, or races that receive HIP funded bonuses or added money
- Reporting to OR, the results of races that impact a horse's future eligibility for Program benefits (i.e. claiming races)
- Other racing activity reports as are required to support reporting on Program performance to industry and government.

Industry Association Partners

OR will partner with industry associations wherever possible, to maximize the effective administration of HIP, and the value of HIP expenditures. OR may enlist industry associations such as Standardbred Canada or CTHS (Ontario Division), to provide services that support the administration of the Program.

The provision of Program services by a designated industry association will operate under terms specified in a contractual agreement between OR and the industry association.

6. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What happens if the criteria changes for ONTARIO BRED and ONTARIO SIRED status?

A horse's status is recorded on its Registration Record (electronic papers) with Standardbred Canada, and is based on the criteria in effect in its birth year. This status is maintained for the horse's entire racing career.

Can a non-Ontario resident participate in the Resident Mare Program?

You do not need to be an ONTARIO RESIDENT to enrol a broodmare as an ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE. The mare must be in Ontario at time of registration, must meet the requirements for residency in Ontario, and must foal out in Ontario. The owner/lessee of the mare who enrols her as an ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE will be eligible to receive Ontario Bred Rewards earned by her offspring.

Non-Ontario residents can also benefit from the Program by purchasing ONTARIO BRED or ONTARIO SIRED horses and capitalizing on the bonuses and racing opportunities that are attached to the status of these horses.

What happens if I sell my Ontario Resident Mare? Who will get the awards and bonuses?

If you sell a mare that you enrolled as an ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE for the current foal year, you will only be eligible to receive the Ontario Bred Rewards IF the new owner does not enrol the mare after purchasing her AND if you can provide written verification from the new owner that the mare was kept in Ontario to foal out and that she completed her required 180 days of residency. Proof may also be required to support the claim.

If you sell your mare during her 180-day residency period, you have the option to transfer the Ontario Bred Rewards to the new owner along with the mare, adding value to the transaction. If you choose to transfer the Ontario Bred Rewards, the Transfer of Ontario Bred Rewards form must be completed and submitted to Standardbred Canada.

What is the earliest date that I can enrol my mare in the Program so that she can begin her 180-day residency requirement for the 2016 foal year?

An ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE can be enrolled in the Program any time, provided she is in Ontario at the time of enrolment. The residency period for mares enrolled in 2016 will begin on the day the 2016 Standardbred Mare Enrolment form is postmarked. The mare must reside in Ontario for a minimum of 180 consecutive days including foaling out in Ontario.

Can I get the $50.00 mare enrolment fee back if my mare does not produce a live foal?

The mare enrolment fee covers the administration costs that are incurred by the Program each year. For this reason you will not be refunded if your mare does not produce a live foal.

I forgot to register my mare in the Ontario Resident Mare Program before she foaled. What can I do?

An ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE can be enrolled in the Program after foaling for a fee of $300, which must be paid by September 1st of the foaling year. Proof that the mare fulfilled the residency requirement must also be provided.

I bred my ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE to an ONTARIO SIRE and am planning on selling her. If I transfer my rights to the Ontario Bred Rewards to the purchaser, will I also be transferring my rights to the Ontario Sired Rewards for that foal?

No. Even if you sell your ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE and transfer the rights to the Ontario Bred Rewards, you, as the BREEDER OF RECORD are the one who is eligible to receive the Ontario Sired Rewards.

In 2016, I'm planning to have my mare's embryo transferred to a Recipient Mare. Which mare do I have to enrol and by what deadline?

It is only the Embryo Transfer Donor Mare (your mare) that must be enrolled as an ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE. Although the Recipient Mare will serve the 180-day residency period in Ontario, it is the registered dam of the resulting foal that must be enrolled with the Program. Both the Donor Mare and the Recipient Mare must be resident in Ontario at the time of enrolment but only the recipient mare is required to fulfil the 180-day residency requirement. The Donor Mare must be enrolled prior to the Recipient Mare foaling out in Ontario.

I enrolled my mare in the Ontario Resident Mare Program and I have now received the foal's registration papers but it does not say the foal is ONTARIO BRED.

The ONTARIO BRED designation does not show on the Foal Registration papers. It is shown on the Standardbred Canada TrackIT system.

I used an ONTARIO SIRE for my mare, but the new owner doesn't want to keep her in Ontario. What happens to the Ontario Sired Rewards?

As the BREEDER OF RECORD (the owner or lessee of the mare at the time of breeding) of an ONTARIO SIRED horse, you will be eligible for the Ontario Sired Rewards.

Example 1: *You are a breeder who owns a mare January 1, 2016, breeds her to an OSS stallion in 2016, enrols her in the Program (in 2016), and then sells her in foal in November 2016. If the mare stays in Ontario and foals out in 2017 in Ontario:*

You will be eligible for the Ontario Sired Rewards earned by the foal she is carrying (because you were the BREEDER OF RECORD who bred her to the ONTARIO SIRE)

You will be eligible for the Ontario Bred Rewards only if the new owner did not enrol the mare after he purchased her AND if you can provide written verification from the new owner that the mare was kept in Ontario to foal out and that she completed her required 180 consecutive days of residency.

Example 2: *You are the breeder as outlined above, BUT when you sell the mare, the new owner takes her out of Ontario to foal in another province or state:*

You will be eligible for the Ontario Sired Rewards earned by the foal she is carrying (because you are the BREEDER OF RECORD)

No one will receive Ontario Bred Rewards for the foal because the mare did not complete her requirements to fully qualify as an ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE. Therefore, the foal does not receive ONTARIO BRED status.

What happens if I sell my Ontario stallion during the breeding season?

As long as the stallion is sold or leased to an ONTARIO RESIDENT and remains in Ontario for the remainder of the breeding season, it will maintain its eligibility for that year. The OSS Administration must be notified within 30 days of the sale.

I have frozen semen from a deceased ONTARIO SIRE. Can I breed my mare with it and get an ONTARIO SIRED foal?

For a foal to be considered ONTARIO SIRED, the frozen semen must be used in a year that the Stallion is registered with the Program. If the stallion dies during a breeding season, the frozen semen can only be used to finish that breeding season.

Can my stallion leave and breed mares in the United States and still be considered an ONTARIO SIRE?

No, your stallion must remain standing in Ontario for his entire NORTHERN HEMISPHERE STUD SEASON.

If I register a stallion for the OSS and then move him out of the province before he breeds any mares, will I get a refund of my Registration Fee and Levy?

No, the Registration Fee and Levy are not refundable.

If I purchase a stallion after the January 15th deadline, can I still register him for the Ontario Sires Stakes?

As long as the stallion has not bred any mares in the current season, he can be registered as an ONTARIO SIRE for a late fee of $500 plus the Levy.

What do I do if I miss one of these deadlines?

It is the responsibility of the horse owner to be familiar with the Standardbred Improvement Program incentives and criteria in order to benefit from them. In the case of extenuating circumstances, a request can be made to the Program Administrator for an Exemption from the Requirements.

What happens if the Program Administrator has ruled that my mare is ineligible as an ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE?

An owner may submit an application to OR requesting an exemption. The exemption request will be heard by a panel of Commission Member(s) in a public meeting at which the owner, as well as other interested stakeholders, may present in support of the application for exemption. There is no appeal of the panel's decision on Program matters.

If I do not hold a current valid AGCO/ORC licence, am I still eligible for Breeders Rewards?

Yes. You do not require an AGCO/ORC licence simply to receive Breeders Rewards. However, BREEDERS must hold a current, valid AGCO/ORC licence for each year in which they declare an ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE or register an ONTARIO SIRE.

When will I receive my Breeders Rewards and 2-Year-Old ONTARIO SIRED Purse Bonus cheques?

Ontario Sired Rewards and Ontario Bred Rewards are paid out monthly. The 2-Year-Old Ontario Sired Purse Bonus will be paid out in mid-September and again in early January of 2017.

NOTES

Standardbred Improvement Program
Contact Information

Program Administrator

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