



# THE PROGENY

The newsletter of Standardbred Breeders Association of Pennsylvania

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—David M. Prushnok

2009 was a cautionary year for the Pennsylvania harness racing industry. Despite strong opposition from SBAP and other members of the PA Horse Racing and Breeding Coalition, PA legislators turned to the PA Racehorse Development Fund to balance the very difficult 2010 State budget. SBAP is especially concerned that such an ominous precedent has been set so quickly to tap our racing purses for other State programs. Constant vigilance is necessary, and reinforcing the importance of the racing industry to PA agriculture is paramount in the years ahead. This spring, SBAP is working with a major PA Thoroughbred breeder to conduct a tour of his farm and Hanover Shoe Farms by both the PA House and Senate Agriculture Committees.

On a brighter note, SBAP, PHHA, and MSOA are working with the PA Harness Racing Commission to expand racing opportunities for PA-sired 2&3 year olds in 2010. Last year's successful "Stallion Series" will be expanded to include a 3 year old program. PHHA and MSOA have renewed their commitment to assist racing at PA County Fairs. Finally, the Commission's new "Breeders Advisory Committee" is discussing the format for another approximately \$6M in restricted PA sired 2&3 year old racing opportunities at PA pari-mutuel tracks for 2010. SBAP appreciates the co-operation of PHHA and MSOA to make these new racing opportunities a reality.

SBAP has worked extremely hard to achieve these gains in a very difficult economic climate. Through SBAP's efforts, these new racing opportunities will help support demand for PA-sired yearlings. Every year, SBAP asks its supporters to provide financial support for the costly business of lobbying and government relations. In 2010, SBAP again requests that breeders consider a donation of 5% of their 2009 PA Breeders Award to help us represent you in Harrisburg. Please contribute your fair share when we contact you this spring.

## FAIR HARNESS RACING—A PENNSYLVANIA "STAYCATION"

When thinking of taking a family vacation, relaxation, good food and fun times come to mind.

With difficult economic times in recent years, the term "staycation" has become very popular in the United States. So why not promote your local state fair harness race as a great place for a "staycation" in Pennsylvania? Imagine the benefits:

- Close to home with little drive time from anywhere in the state.
- Lots of dates and locations to choose from.

- Supports state agriculture endeavors.
- Family-friendly atmosphere.
- No or low cost to attend.

### PLAN YOUR OWN "STAYCATION" NOW!

#### 2010 PA Fair Schedule

June 26-27: Meadville 2-day  
 July 1-3: Big Butler Fair  
 July 10-11: Gratz 2-day  
 July 17-18: Dayton 2-day  
 July 21-22: Lycoming County Fair  
 July 24-25: Honesdale 2-day  
 July 31-August 1: NEW Dayton 2-day

August 2-5: Clearfield County Fair  
 August 10-12: Wayne County Fair  
 August 11-12: Greene County Fair  
 August 16-18: Washington County Fair  
 August 18-19: Dayton Fair  
 August 23-26: Crawford County Fair  
 August 30-Sept. 1: Indiana County Fair  
 August 31-Sept. 1: Erie County Fair  
 Sept. 5-6: Great Stoneboro Fair  
 Sept. 7-8: Juniata County Fair  
 Sept. 13-14: York Fair  
 Sept. 19-20: Gratz Fair  
 Sept. 27-30: Bloomsburg Fair  
[www.pafairharness.com](http://www.pafairharness.com)

## PA STALLION SERIES EXPANDS IN 2010!

The Stallion Series had its inaugural season in 2009. The new series was established to give 2 year old horses, at a level just under Sire Stakes horses, a place to race. Dragon Again pacers and SJ's Photo trotters ruled their classes in 2009, and more than \$1.7 million in purses were given out. With the success of the 2009 program and the dedication of the PA Harness Racing Commission and various other industry organizations, a commitment has been made to return the series in 2010, as well as to expand it.

The Stallion Series will now include 3 year old PA sired horses, increasing total purse monies to approximately \$3.3 million. Combined with other PA stakes and fair races, Pennsylvania continues to prove its worth in the harness racing industry. A list of race dates for the 2010 Stallion Series has been posted on the SBAP web site.

Now Available:

**Pa Stakes Race Schedules!**

Check out the SBAP web site for Pa Sire Stakes racing schedules!

# SBAP POLITICAL REVIEW

## PA Budget Shortfalls Claim 16% of Slots Revenues From Racing Industry

### \$10,100,000 in Additional 2&3 Year Old PA-Sired Racing Purses For 2010

Recent legislative activity in Harrisburg resulted in a mixed outcome for PA Standardbred breeders. Lawmakers turned to the racing industry as a source of revenue during the 2010 PA budget crisis. SBAP and other members of the PA Horse Racing and Breeding Coalition opposed initiatives to tap slots revenues from the racing industry to close the budget gap. SBAP told legislators that PA Standardbred breeders were still reeling from continued reversals in the auction marketplace, where more attractive programs in NY and Ontario and the general economic downturn have dampened demand for PA yearlings. SBAP asked legislators not to compromise the revitalization of the PA racing program, especially since promised benefits to PA horse farms had not yet been delivered. Unfortunately, the PA Assembly decided over the Coalition's protests to claim 1/6 of PA racing industry slots revenues for the next four years to close anticipated State budgetary shortfalls.

Thereafter, table games legislation was promoted as part of a long-term revenue solution in PA. During the table games debate, SBAP strongly promoted legislation that would provide additional racing opportunities for PA-sired 2&3 year old horses to fulfill the original goals of slots legislation. During these discussions, representatives of the Pennsylvania Harness Horsemen's Association and the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association pledged an additional \$10,100,000 per year for racing opportunities specifically for PA-sired 2&3 year olds. The PA Harness Racing Commission appointed a new Breeders Advisory Committee to discuss the details of this commitment. The Commission has already approved the expansion of the popular "Stallion Series" for PA sired 2 year olds to include a 3 year old program in 2010. Both programs are estimated to provide about \$3.3M in purses, and will be partially funded by 2009 "PA Stallion" Awards. An additional \$1.4M will fund PA Fair Racing. Ongoing discussions center around the structure of racing opportunities for the remaining approximately \$6M of the horsemen's commitment.

Table games legislation also granted the Secretary of Agriculture authority to require reporting from slots revenue recipients about how their programs are meeting the goals of slots legislation. SBAP supports Sec. Agriculture Russell Redding's initiatives to "positively assist the Commonwealth's horse racing industry, <and> support programs intended to foster and promote horse breeding..."

Breeders will certainly appreciate the additional \$10.1M in 2010 purses for PA-sired 2&3 year olds, which may bolster demand for PA sired yearlings in the auction market. However, both horsemen and breeders are very concerned about the legislatively mandated 1/6 reduction in slots revenues to the racing industry. With the support of its membership, SBAP will continue to promote the interests of PA Standardbred breeders in future legislative activities.



In the past few months, our state's harness racing community has lost some of our breeding friends: Earl Beal Jr. and Dr. John Hurtgen.

SBAP conveys its condolences to the families and gives thanks to these gentlemen for their contributions to our many successes in Pennsylvania standardbred breeding.

Standardbred Breeders  
Association of PA

Representing the interests of PA  
Standardbred Horse Breeders in the  
future of the PA Harness Racing

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*"Good breeding is the result of good sense, some good nature, and a little self-denial for the sake of others."*

**Lord Chesterfield**