

**Ontario
Racing
Commission**

Suite 400
10 Carlson Court
Toronto, Ontario
M9W 6L2
Tel 416 213-0520
Fax 416 213-7827

**Commission
des courses
de l'Ontario**

Bureau 400
10 Carlson Court
Toronto (Ontario)
M9W 6L2
Tél 416 213-0520
Télééc 416 213-7827



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NEWS RELEASE

2010 Standardbred Program Books Now Available

Ontario Sires Stakes, Ontario Resident Mare Program

Toronto, ON – The Horse Improvement Program has published the 2010 program criteria for the Standardbred Improvement Program (SIP), which includes the Ontario Sires Stakes program and the Ontario Resident Mare Program. The book provides the specific details for the suite of Standardbred programs worth over \$26 million in 2010.

The 2010 criteria booklet, which includes all necessary application forms, is now available on-line and has been mailed to everyone who participated in the Program in 2009, as well as all Ontario-based breeder members of Standardbred Canada.

Changes to SIP criteria for 2010 affect entitlement to Ontario Bred Rewards. Previously, Ontario Bred Rewards for the offspring of an Ontario Resident Mare were payable only to the owner (or lessee) who enrolled the mare in the Program. Beginning in 2010, if an enrolled mare is sold during the 180-day residency period, the seller has the option to transfer the Ontario Bred Rewards to the purchaser of the mare. This new option may add value to the sale transaction and will encourage purchasers to maintain the mare's residency in Ontario.

Also new for 2010 is the *Resident Mare Change of Location form*, which must be submitted if an enrolled mare moves to a new residency location in Ontario. The form must be submitted whether the mare remains under original ownership, or the ownership of the mare has been transferred.

This year, there is a change to the deadline for Ontario Resident Mare enrolment:

- Breeders must enrol their mare(s) in 2010, before the date of foaling in Ontario.

The deadline for registering a stallion to the Ontario Sires Stakes remains unchanged from 2009:

- Stallion owners must register their stallion(s) by January 15th in order to avoid paying a late fee. Stallions can be registered for the OSS program at any point prior to having bred their first mare of the season. Please note that stallion application forms were mailed in mid-December, are included in the Criteria Book and are available on the ORC and OSS websites.

The Standardbred Improvement Program is a component of the Horse Improvement Program and offers incentives for the breeding and ownership of Standardbred racehorses in Ontario. In 2010, the Standardbred Program is worth more than \$26 million and includes

funds for the Ontario Sires Stakes, Ontario Bred and Ontario Sired Awards, marketing, promotions, equine research, performance reporting, web development and overnight purse supplements. The Horse Improvement Program is administered by the Ontario Racing Commission.

Program criteria and all Program forms required for 2010 can be accessed from the Featured Showcase section on the home page of the Ontario Racing Commission website at:

www.ontarioracingcommission.ca

Information specific to the Ontario Sires Stakes Program can be obtained at:

www.ontariosiresstakes.com

Contact : Wendy Hoogeveen, Director of Industry Development and Support
Email: wendy.hoogeveen@ontarioracingcommission.ca