

NYSS ANNOUNCES \$15-MILLION IN PURSES FOR 2008

Agriculture & New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund Executive Director Peter Goold today announced the New York State Sire Stakes purses and schedule for 2008. The total purses for 2008 are expected to be \$15 million. The season kicks off on June 8 with three-year-old filly trot races at Saratoga Gaming & Raceway.

The races are held at the seven pari-mutuel harness tracks throughout the State, the Goshen Historic Track and at 22 participating county fairs. The New York Sire Stakes (NYSS) racing season is June through September each year.

The NYSS kicks off at Saratoga Gaming and Raceway on June 8, 2008; Monticello Raceway June 11; Buffalo Raceway June 13; Vernon Downs June 28; Yonkers Raceway July 10; Tioga Downs, July 25; and Batavia August 2. County Fair races run from July through August.

The full schedule is listed on www.nysirestakes.com. 2008 NYSS schedule brochures are also available by contacting the Fund.

The NYSS offers a three-tiered racing program: The Sire Stakes and State Fair series; Late Closers series; and County Fair series. The unique program offers money-earning opportunities for horses of all ability levels.

The estimated purses for New York Sire Stakes legs at each track are as follows:

Track	Two-Year-Olds	Three-Year-Olds
Batavia Downs	\$195,000 E	No Events
Buffalo Raceway	No Events	\$215,000 E
Monticello Raceway	\$205,000 E	\$240,000 E
Saratoga Raceway	\$220,000 E	\$260,000 E
Tioga Downs	\$195,000 E	\$240,000 E
Vernon Downs	\$195,000 E	\$240,000 E
Yonkers Raceway	\$200,000 E	\$240,000 E

These estimates include approximate starting fees. Actual purses may differ depending upon the number of horses entered and the number of divisions required.

The NYSS season culminates with the lucrative \$1.4 million "Night of Champions" at Yonkers Raceway on September 13, 2008. Each division of the NYSS finals is worth \$175,000; there is no starting fee.

The State Fair events will carry estimated purses of \$100,000 divided. The State Fair series races will be held at Goshen Historic Track for three-year-olds July 5 & 6 and at Tioga Downs for two-year-olds and three-year-olds August 9, 10, 15, 16, and 17.

Legs of the New York-Bred Late Closers series now race for a guaranteed purse of \$10,000 plus starting fees in each division. This is an 11% increase from last year's purses. Late Closers finals are \$25,000 in each division. Sire Stakes eligible horses can enter the Late Closers series. Three-year-olds must be a non-winner of \$20,000 lifetime and two-year-olds must be a non-winner of \$7,500. The earnings cutoff and nomination deadlines are June 30 for three-year-olds and August 4 for two-year-olds.

Purses at the 22 New York County Fairs that have harness racing also increased this year by approximately \$1200. Estimated purses are \$5,000 for two-year-olds and \$5,500 for three-year-olds. Each division of the County Fair Finals has been increased by \$500 for a purse of \$8000 in each division for 2008.

If you have a question about New York Sire Stakes program and purses, please contact Peter Goold at 518-436-8713.

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