



Agriculture & NYS Horse Breeding Development Fund

March 31, 2020

Dear County Fair Representative:

Enclosed please find information on the 2020 New York Sire Stakes County Fair Harness Racing Program, including the Schedule Booklet and Repair Reimbursement Program. Obviously, there is a lot of uncertainty right now and we are all trying to anticipate what the summer will hold.

While we have delayed getting this packet out to you in order to see if things became more clear, which they have not, we are choosing now to proceed as usual to collect your information and prepare for a racing and fair season as we normally would do. Please communicate with our office if circumstances force your fair to cancel in advance. In return, we will communicate with you if anything changes on our end. In the meantime, we hope that you and your staff and volunteers stay healthy.

The deadline to return all information is May 1, 2020, but given current conditions, if you need additional time, please let our office know so we can plan and support you.

2020 County Fair Racing Schedule Booklet

To assist you in updating your County Fair information for the 2020 schedule that will be published and distributed, we have enclosed your County Fair information from the 2019 schedule. Please review the information listed and update it for 2020, including dates, times, staff contact information, etc., as you would like it to be printed in the Booklet.

Again this year, all entries for NYSS races will be handled by a single central hotline, but if you host "overnight" races sponsored by the fair, those entries will still be taken by your race secretary. NYSS events will continue to have a four-day box (rather than three-day box), for taking entries.

You may return your updated information by:

- **Email:** Scan your information and email it to dawn.bennett@gaming.ny.gov
- **Fax:** 518-388-2791
- **Mail:** Agriculture & NYS Horse Breeding Development Fund, 1 Broadway Center, Schenectady, NY 12305, Attn: Dawn Bennett

2020 County Fair Repair Reimbursement Program Forms

The Agriculture & NYS Horse Breeding Development Fund continues to abide by the rule first adopted in 2010 that states: "Be it resolved that only fairs conducting harness racing under rules prescribed by the Fund be allowed to participate in the repair funding program."

If you plan on conducting Standardbred races during your fair this year, and if you plan on completing repairs to buildings and grounds that will enhance the harness racing experience for your patrons, please use the enclosed forms to prepare your application for possible reimbursement of your expenses.

(OVER)

Forms included in this mailing are:

- NY County Fair Racing Program Application (Form #101), during this time of social distancing, we will suspend the need to notarize
- Repair Project Justification (Form #102)
- Repair Project Information (Form #103)
- Cost Estimates for Repairs (Forms #104-A and #104-B), *must be signed*

County Fairs are eligible for up to \$6,000 of repair costs, of which 25% must be related to the improvement of harness racing facilities. The Fairs are also eligible for up to \$2,000 in administrative costs related to race day. Administrative costs may include expenses for an ambulance for the racing program, insurance for the racing or U.S. Trotting Association costs. The Fund will reduce the total reimbursement amount by the horsemen's fees paid directly to the Fair. Please remember that all repairs should be completed prior to your Fair's opening day.

The safety of horsemen and horses is critical and you must also provide assurance that an ambulance and emergency care will be available while your races are conducted. In addition, a quality racing surface must be established well before the race day(s) as well as providing adequate means of watering and grooming the track. This is to protect the safety of the human and equine athletes. Furthermore, the County Fair is expected to abide by the rules of racing as established by the Agriculture & NYS Horse Breeding Development Fund and the U.S. Trotting Association, as provided for in the County Fair racing conditions. Please ensure that you are hiring a currently licensed Presiding Judge.

The actual reimbursement forms will be mailed to you later in the season and will be due by November 2, 2020. Please be sure to maintain proper evidence to support your expenditures. Before and after photos are suggested. Further details will be sent to you upon project approval. Only claims prepared according to the instructions will be accepted.

You may return your updated information by:

- Online: The application and forms are available online at www.nysirestakes.com. From the home page, click on "Forms" at the top of the page. The documents are fillable online so you can type directly into them. Once completed, you can save as a new PDF and email them to dawn.bennett@nysirestakes.com
- Email: If you complete a hard copy of the forms, you can scan your information and email it to dawn.bennett@nysirestakes.com
- Mail: If you complete a hard copy of the forms, you can mail them to Agriculture & NYS Horse Breeding Development Fund, 1 Broadway Center, Schenectady, NY 12305, Attn: Dawn Bennett.

We have also included information and an application for the USTA's Matching Funds Grant Program if you are interested in enhancing promotion of harness racing at your fair. If you have any questions, please call Dawn Bennett at (518) 388-3697.

Sincerely,



Dawn M. Bennett
Office Manager