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NEWS RELEASE

2012 Standardbred Improvement Program Criteria Now Available INCLUDING THE ONTARIO SIRES STAKES PROGRAM AND THE ONTARIO RESIDENT MARE PROGRAM

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Toronto, ON – The Horse Improvement Program has published the 2012 Program Criteria Book 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 \$23 million in 2012.

The 2012 Program Criteria Book, which includes all necessary application forms, is now available on-line and has been mailed to everyone who participated in the Program in 2011 as well as all Ontario-based breeder members of Standardbred Canada.

Changes to SIP criteria for 2012 include changes or revisions to:

- *Ontario Resident Mares: Declaration of Compliance*
- *Ontario Sired Rewards*
- *Ontario Bred Rewards*



Reminder:

To be eligible to receive Ontario Bred Rewards for your 2012 foal's two and three-year-old racing seasons, your mare must be enrolled in the Ontario Resident Mare Program (\$50) before she foals in 2012 **AND** remain in Ontario for 180 consecutive days surrounding the day of foaling. For complete details regarding enrolment and eligibility, refer to Section 2.2 of the 2012 Ontario Standardbred Improvement Program Criteria book.

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 2012, the Standardbred Program is worth more than \$23 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 required forms for 2012 may 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 Standardbred Ontario Sires Stakes Program may be obtained at www.ontariosiresstakes.com.

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