

The Impact of Purse Subsidies On Horse Racing, Breeding, and Training in New Jersey 2020-2025



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

In 2019, the Legislature enacted Senate and General Assembly bills to create P.L. 2019, c. 36, which appropriated \$20 million annually from the state general fund to the New Jersey Racing Commission for the next fiscal year 2019 and the following four fiscal years. These funds were to be used as horse racing purse subsidies, split equally between the Thoroughbred and Standardbred industries.

Once again, in 2026, the Legislature and the Governor have fully funded the annual \$20 million purse supplement for New Jersey's horse racing industry, with the appropriation divided equally between the Standardbred and Thoroughbred sectors. This marks another year of full funding since the Legislature established the purse supplement program in 2019, reaffirming the State's ongoing commitment to preserving and strengthening New Jersey's horse racing and breeding industries.

That original statute not only created the appropriation, but also imposed detailed reporting requirements on the horsemen's organizations as a condition of receiving continued funding.

The reporting requirement tied to this funding remains in effect under N.J.S.A. 5:5-99.2, as amended. The law conditions future appropriations on the timely submission of an annual report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the New Jersey Racing Commission.

The statute is pretty clear on what must be included. The report needs to cover:

- 1) How the purse subsidy impacted handle (total betting), field size, and participation by New Jersey-bred horses (entries and winners);
- 2) Breeding activity, including the number of broodmares in New Jersey and the number of foals born in the State;
- 3) The impact on the New Jersey Sire Stakes program;
- 4) Comparative data covering the funded fiscal year against the prior five years, including number of races held, number of horses per race, number of bets placed, number of young horses stabled in New Jersey, and racetrack attendance and revenues.

HORSE RACING METRICS

Wagering on New Jersey races outside of New Jersey increased from \$318.6 million in 2020 to \$397.99 million in 2025, an increase of 24.9 percent. Live handle increased from \$19.10 million in 2020 to \$27.94 million in 2025, an increase of 46.3 percent. Total wagering increased from \$358.40 million in 2020 to \$433.20 million in 2025, an increase of 21.0 percent. This is a reflection of the quality of the New Jersey racing product. The closure of Freehold Raceway is also reflected in the 2025 combined track wagering summary where the numbers reflect only the Meadowlands and Monmouth Park track wagering.

Live attendance at New Jersey racetracks rebounded after a low in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Attendance ranged from 515,798 in 2021 to 550,297 in 2025, an increase of 6.7 percent. Number of race days remained relatively constant, except for 2020 during the pandemic; averaging 226.5 for the period 2021-2024. One must remember that the closure of Freehold Raceway in 2024 decreased the total number of race days for 2025. Total number of races held decreased during the pandemic and ranged from 2735 in 2021 to 1,800 in 2025, a decrease of 34.2 percent. Average number of horses per race remained constant, averaging 8 for the period 2020-2025.

While many of the wagering outlets have decreased over the period, the racing product from the Meadowlands Racetrack is still attractive to bettors outside of New Jersey where wagering increased from \$172.10 million in 2020 to \$235.09 million in 2025, an increase of 36.6 percent.

Attendance was greatest in 2019 before the Covid-19 pandemic. From 2022-2025 attendance ranged from 211,487 to 224,447. Number of race days remained relatively constant, averaging around 90. Total number of races held increased from 968 in 2020 to 1,346 in 2025, an increase of 39.0 percent. Average number of horses per race remained steady for the period, averaging 8.83.

For Monmouth Park, wagering from outside New Jersey remained steady throughout the period. Total handle increased from \$167.3 million in 2020 to 190.325 million in 2025, an increase of 13.8 percent.

Live track attendance increased from 107,308 in 2020 to 325,850 in 2025, an increase of 203.7 percent. Number of race days increased from 44 in 2020 to 49 in 2025, an increase of 11.4 percent. Total races held decreased from 476 in 2020 to 454 in 2025, a decrease of 4.6 percent. Average number of horses per race remained constant over the period, averaging 7.4 horses per race.

OTW decreased from \$17.10 million in 2020 to \$3.51 million in 2025, a decrease of 79.5 percent. Track wagering was down from \$2.9 million in 2020 to \$2.83 million in 2025, a decrease of 2.4 percent. Casino wagering increased from \$0.70 million in 2020 to \$0.93 million in 2025, an increase of 32.9 percent.

TRAINING CENTER METRICS

The training of horses for the purpose of racing increases the value of those horses and is considered agricultural production by the State of New Jersey.

Reflective of the positive impact of the purse subsidy legislation, the number of New Jersey-bred Standardbred horses in training increased for the period. Total 2-year olds trained increased from 103 in 2020 to 247 in 2025; an increase of 139.8 percent. Total 3-year olds trained increased from 88 to 172; an increase of 95.5 percent. Total 4-year olds trained increased from 31 to 47; an increase of 51.6 percent. Total number of older horses trained increased from 38 to 88; an increase of 131.6 percent.

Total trained Standardbred 2-year olds increased from 428 in 2020 to 703 in 2025; an increase of 64.3 percent. Total trained 3-year olds increased from 355 in 2020 to 524 in 2025; an increase of 47.6 percent. Total trained 4-year olds increased from 213 in 2020 to 284 in 2025; an increase of 33.3 percent. Total trained older horses increased from 446 in 2020 to 624 in 2025; an increase of 39.9 percent.

Like Thoroughbred farms, Thoroughbred training centers are concentrated around the Monmouth Park Racetrack. The racetrack is heavily involved in the training process for thoroughbreds. The three largest training centers used by Thoroughbred horse owners in New Jersey are Colt's Neck Training Center, Overbrook Farm, and Westampton Farm. These training facilities offer trainers practice tracks and stalls for their horses along with several amenities including equine pools, motorized equine exercise machines, and round pens. Both Overbrook and Westampton Farms had an average of 100 horses using their facilities in 2020. Colt's Neck registered a slightly lower average of 70 horses throughout the year. Horses at these training facilities cycle through several different locations for training throughout year. These locations included several of the Thoroughbred breeding farms and the Monmouth Park Racetrack.

BREEDING FARM METRICS

Horse breeding farms are key to the agricultural landscape in the State. The breeding and training of horses is recognized as agricultural production in the Garden State.

The number of Standardbred stallions standing in New Jersey in 2025 was 11, a decrease from 16 standing in 2020. While the number of stallions standing in New Jersey decreased during the period, the number of mares bred to New Jersey sires also decreased from 785 in 2020 to 689 in 2025, a decrease of 12.2 percent. The number of horses on SBOA-NJ affiliated breeding farms remained constant for the period, averaging 1665.

Total number of registered trotting foals decreased from 389 in 2020 to 294 in 2024; a decrease of 24.4 percent. Total number of pacing foals increased from 115 in 2020 to 140 in 2024; an increase of 22.0 percent. Data for 2025 continues to be collected and increases as foals may be registered at any time up to entry to race.

For the number of mares bred to New Jersey Thoroughbred stallions for the period 2021-2025, the number decreased from 55 in 2021 to 25 in 2025; a decrease of 54.5 percent. The number of registered New Jersey-bred foals also decreased from 118 in 2021 to 83 in 2025; a decrease of 29.7 percent. This may be a reflection of the reduced number of stallions registered in the State; thirteen in 2021 to seven in 2025.

The New Jersey Sire Stakes program has benefited well from the purse subsidies. Purses for stakes races rose from \$2.6 million in 2020 to \$4 million in 2023 and 2024; an increase of 53.8 percent. There was a decrease to \$3.5 million in 2025. Purses for stakes races are reflective of the number of horses entered to race.

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

New Jersey has a long history of horse racing, being one of the state's most important agricultural commodities. In 1870, Freehold Raceway opened, becoming the first dedicated horseracing track to open in the United States.

The people of New Jersey appreciate the socio-economic value of the horse racing industry which generates \$780 million of the \$1.1 billion economic impact of the New Jersey horse industry [1]. Two reports published by the Founding and Former Director of the Rutgers Equine Science Center found that New Jersey racehorse owners and breeders continued to remain non-competitive with New York and Pennsylvania, where horse racing purses were subsidized by revenue from casino gaming [2], [3].

Published in 2014 and 2019, The data presented convinced the Legislature and the State to subsidize horse racing purses to ensure the well-being of a socio-economic segment of New Jersey's history and important agricultural sector of the Garden State.

In 2019, the Legislature enacted Senate and General Assembly bills to create P.L. 2019, c. 36, which appropriated \$20 million annually from the state general fund to the New Jersey Racing Commission for the next fiscal year 2019 and the following four fiscal years. These funds were to be used as horse racing purse subsidies, split equally between the Thoroughbred and Standardbred industries.

Once again, in 2026, the Legislature and the Governor have fully funded the annual \$20 million purse supplement for New Jersey's horse racing industry, with the appropriation divided equally between the Standardbred and Thoroughbred sectors. This marks another year of full funding since the Legislature established the purse supplement program in 2019, reaffirming the State's ongoing commitment to preserving and strengthening New Jersey's horse racing and breeding industries.

That original statute not only created the appropriation, but also imposed detailed reporting requirements on the horsemen's organizations as a condition of receiving continued funding. At the end of the 2022-23 Session, the Legislature sought to extend the subsidy through Assembly Bill 5893 (A5893). However, Governor Murphy ultimately issued a pocket veto, rendering A5893 null. That veto was significant because A5893 did not fully replicate the statutory reporting requirements that had been built into the 2019 law. Finally, in 2024, the Legislature returned to the issue with Assembly Bill 2610 (A2610), which the Governor signed on September 12, 2024. A2610 formally renewed the \$20 million purse supplement through Fiscal Year 2029.

The recently enacted Fiscal Year 2026 State Budget includes a \$20 million appropriation for horse racing, once again split evenly between the Standardbred and Thoroughbred sectors. This is consistent with prior years and is a positive sign that the State continues to recognize the importance of maintaining a competitive racing industry in New Jersey.

The reporting requirement tied to this funding remains in effect under N.J.S.A. 5:5-99.2, as amended. The law conditions future appropriations on the timely submission of an annual report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the New Jersey Racing Commission.

The statute is pretty clear on what must be included.

The report needs to cover:

1. How the purse subsidy impacted handle (total betting), field size, and participation by New Jersey-bred horses (entries and winners);
2. Breeding activity, including the number of broodmares in New Jersey and the number of foals born in the State;
3. Impact on the New Jersey Sire Stakes program;
4. Comparative data covering the funded fiscal year against the prior five years, including number of races held, number of horses per race, number of bets placed, number of young horses stabled in New Jersey, and racetrack attendance and revenues.

The reporting obligation itself is not created by the budget bill; it lives in the permanent statute, N.J.S.A. 5:5-99.2 (“Requirements for receipt of funds”), originally enacted by P.L.2019, c.36 and amended by P.L.2024, c.76. The current codified text spells out exactly what must be filed and links the filing to continued eligibility for funding.

The statute requires that:

The report shall document the purposes for which these funds were used and the amounts allocated for those purposes, and shall include, at a minimum, the impact on handle or total amount bet, impact on total number of horses in races, number of broodmares in New Jersey, number of New Jersey bred foals, and impact on the New Jersey Sire Stakes program.

In addition, the law specifies that:

The report shall also include comparisons with the previous fiscal year and with each of the five years immediately preceding the first year in which funds were distributed, including, at a minimum, the number of races held, number of horses per race, number of bets placed, number of horses four years old or younger stabled in New Jersey for at least a majority of the calendar year, and number of spectators attending and revenue received from race track operations. This report is the fifth annual report of the state of the horse racing industry in New Jersey highlighting the results from 2020-2025.

It should be recognized that New Jersey is now home to two racetracks. The Meadowlands Racetrack, which hosts harness racing and a week-long turf grass meet for thoroughbreds in the fall, and the prestigious Meadowlands Pace in July, and Monmouth Park which showcases thoroughbred racing and is highlighted by the million-dollar Haskell held in July.

FINDINGS:

Impact On Racetrack Metrics

Displayed in Table 1 is the impact the subsidy has had on the three major racetracks in New Jersey, Meadowlands, Freehold, and Monmouth Park. Unfortunately, Freehold Raceway permanently closed on December 28 of 2024. This has inflicted hardship on harness racing owners and trainers whose horses are not competitive at the Meadowlands Racetrack and who need to find tracks out of state to race. This provides a hardship of time and expense commitment to race in other states. The closure of Freehold Raceway is also reflected in the 2025 combined track wagering summary shown in Table 1, where the numbers reflect only the Meadowlands and Monmouth Park track wagering.

Displayed in Table 1 is the Combined Track Wagering Summary for the period 2020-2025.

Combined Track Wagering Summary (\$Millions) 2020-2025						
Year	OTW	Track	Casino	Outside NJ	Live Handle	Total
2020	17.1	2.9	0.7	318.6	19.1	358.4
2021	25.8	3.5	1	399.8	29.8	459.9
2022	28.7	4.1	1	403	31.7	468.5
2023	26	4	1.2	432.1	32.2	495.5
2024	23.6	4.1	0.9	434.3	21.2	484.1
2025	3.51	2.83	0.93	397.99	27.94	433.2

OTW decreased from \$17.10 million in 2020 to \$3.51 million in 2025, a decrease of 79.5 percent. Track wagering was down from \$2.9 million in 2020 to \$2.83 million in 2025, a decrease of 2.4 percent. Casino wagering increased from \$0.70 million in 2020 to \$0.93 million in 2025, an increase of 32.9 percent.

Wagering on New Jersey races outside of New Jersey increased from \$318.6 million in 2020 to \$397.99 million in 2025, an increase of 24.9 percent. Live handle increased from \$19.10 million in 2020 to \$27.94 million in 2025, an increase of 46.3 percent. Total wagering increased from \$358.40 million in 2020 to \$433.20 million in 2025, an increase of 21.0 percent. This is a reflection of the quality of the New Jersey racing product.

Displayed in Table 2 is the Combined Race Day Summary 2020-2025.

Combined Race Day Summary 2020-2025				
Year	Live Attendance	Number of Race Days	Total Races Held	Average Number of Horses Per Race
2020	232,708	178	2,121	8.30
2021	515,798	232	2,735	7.90
2022	669,108	228	2,663	7.80
2023	644,936	224	2,650	8.00
2024	646,849	222	2,616	7.90
2025	550,297	146	1,800	8.125

Live attendance at New Jersey racetracks rebounded after a low in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Attendance ranged from 515,798 in 2021 to 550,297 in 2025, an increase of 6.7 percent. Number of race days remained relatively constant, except for 2020 during the pandemic; averaging 226.5 for the period 2021-2024. One must remember that the closure of Freehold Raceway in 2024 decreased the total number of race days for 2025. Total number of races held decreased during the pandemic and ranged from 2735 in 2021 to 1,800 in 2025, a decrease of 34.2 percent; again reflecting the closure of Freehold Raceway. Average number of horses per race remained constant, averaging 8 for the period 2020-2025.

Displayed in Table 3 (a) is the wagering summary for the Meadowlands Racetrack for the period 2020-2025.

Meadowlands Wagering Summary (\$ Millions)								
Year	Internet	Mobile	OTW	Track	Casino	Outside NJ	Live Handle	Total
2020	4.90	5.60	2.90	1.40	0.40	172.10	7.90	195.20
2021	5.90	6.70	4.40	2.00	0.50	244.20	12.30	276.00
2022	4.30	5.80	3.70	1.50	0.50	207.10	11.10	234.00
2023	4.10	5.70	3.50	1.60	0.50	247.80	11.60	275.20
2024	3.50	5.10	2.90	1.40	0.50	240.40	10.70	264.50
2025	3.43	5.36	2.01	1.03	0.47	235.09	11.22	258.61

While many of the wagering outlets have decreased over the period, the racing product from the Meadowlands Racetrack is still attractive to bettors outside of New Jersey where wagering increased from \$195.2 million in 2020 to \$258.61 million in 2025, an increase of 32.0 percent.

Displayed in Table 3 (b) is the Meadowlands Racing Summary.

Meadowlands Racing Summary 2020-2025				
Year	Live Attendance	Number of Race Days	Total Races Held	Average Number of Horses Per Race
2020	61,123	72	968	9.2
2021	141,245	95	1,237	8.6
2022	211,487	86	1,135	8.5
2023	221,352	89	1,228	8.9
2024	222,141	89	1,230	8.6
2025	224,447	97	1,346	9.2

Attendance was greatest in 2019 before the Covid-19 pandemic. From 2022-2025 attendance ranged from 211,487 to 224,447. Number of race days remained relatively constant, averaging around 90. Total number of races held increased from 968 in 2020 to 1,346 in 2025, an increase of 39.0 percent. Average number of horses per race remained steady for the period, averaging 8.83.

Shown in Table 3 (c) is the wagering summary for the period for Monmouth Park.

Monmouth Park Wagering Summary (\$Millions) 2020-2025								
Year	Internet	Mobile	OTW	Track	Casino	Outside NJ	Live Handle	Total
2020	3.3	5	1.8	1.5	0.3	146.5	8.9	167.3
2021	2.6	4.5	2.5	2.3	0.5	155.6	14.3	182.3
2022	2.88	6.13	2.86	2.61	0.493	195.9	17.8	228.6
2023	2.39	5.55	2.56	2.43	0.519	184.3	17.4	215.1
2024	2.24	5.66	2.49	2.7	0.428	193.9	17.7	225.1
2025	1.80	5.15	1.50	1.80	0.455	162.90	16.72	190.325

Wagering from outside New Jersey remained steady throughout the period. Total handle increased from \$167.3 million in 2020 to 190.325 million in 2025, an increase of 13.8 percent.

Displayed in Table 3 (d) is the race day summary for the period.

Monmouth Park Race Day Summary 2020-2025				
Year	Live Attendance	Number of Race Days	Total Races Held	Average Number of Horses Per Race
2020	107,308	44	476	7.7
2021	285,661	55	556	7.4
2022	368,101	60	606	7.25
2023	327,818	51	504	7.71
2024	325,531	50	488	7.52
2025	325,850	49	454	7.05

Live track attendance increased from 107,308 in 2020 to 325,850 in 2025, an increase of 203.7 percent. Number of race days increased from 44 in 2020 to 49 in 2025, an increase of 11.4 percent. Total races held decreased from 476 in 2020 to 454 in 2025, a decrease of 4.6 percent. Average number of horses per race remained constant over the period, averaging 7.4 horses per race.

Displayed in Table 4 (a) is the participation by New Jersey-bred horses at the Meadowlands Racetrack.

Participation By New Jersey-Bred Horses At The Meadowlands								
Year	NJ Overnight NJ Sire Awards	Total Number of Winners	Number Of 2-YO Entries	Number Of 2-YO Winners	Number Of 3-YO Entries	Number Of 3-YO Winners	Total Starts	Total Winners
2022	432	53	453	36	263	26	1148	115
2023	513	59	479	25	272	31	1264	115
2024	706	69	439	39	384	30	1529	138
2025	1,046	128	492	70	488	66	2026	264

NJ Overnight Sire Awards increased from 432 in 2022 to 1,046 in 2025, with winners increasing from 53 in 2022 to 128 in 2025. This reflects an increase in quality of NJ-bred horses. Entries for 2 year-olds averaged 465.75 for the period. Three year- old entries increased from 263 in 2022 to 488 in 2025, an increase of 85.6 percent. Total starts by NJ-bred horses increased from 1148 in 2022 to 2026 in 2025, an increase of 76.5 percent. Total winners increase from 115 in 2022 to 264 in 2025, an increase of 129.6 percent.

Displayed in Table 4 (b) is the New Jersey Standardbred Sired Total Starts & Winners.

New Jersey Sired Total Starts & Winners		
Year	Total Starts	Total Winners
2022	1476	158
2023	1965	209
2024	2339	220
2025	2026	264

New Jersey Sired total starts increased from 1476 in 2022 to 2339 in 2024 an increase of 58.5 percent. Winners increased from 158 in 2022 to 264 in 2025, an increase of 67.1 percent.

Displayed in Table 4 (c) is the participation by New Jersey-bred horses at Monmouth Park.

Participation by New Jersey-Bred Horses At Monmouth Park						
Year	Total Number NJ-bred Starters	Total Number Of Winners	Total Number Of 2-YO Entries	Total Number Of 2-YO Winners	Total Number Of 3-YO Entries	Total Number Of 3-YO Winners
2022	781	96	103	15	201	30
2023	791	82	104	11	239	33
2024	851	95	91	10	288	35
2025	725	86	64	6	199	26

Total number of New Jersey-bred starters increased from 781 in 2022 to 851 in 2024; an increase of 9.0 percent. In 2025 there was a reduction in New Jersey-bred starters to 725. Total number of winners averaged 89.75 for the period. Total number of 2-yo entries decreased from 103 in 2022 to 64 in 2025; a decrease of 37.9 percent. Total number of 3-yo entries decreased from 201 in 2022 to 199 in 2025; a decrease of one percent.

Impact On Breeding Farms

Horse breeding farms are key to the agricultural landscape in the State. The breeding of horses is recognized as agricultural production in the Garden State.

Displayed in Table 5 are the Number of Horses on all SBOANJ Affiliated Breeding Farms for the period 2020-2025.

Number Of Horses On All SBOANJ Affiliated Breeding Farms 2020-2025			
Year	Number Of Stallions	Number Of Broodmares Bred TO NJ Sires	Number Of Horses On Farm
2020	16	785	1696
2021	13	732	1800
2022	11	786	1767
2023	10	766	1343
2024	9	642	1689
2025	11	689	1694

The number of stallions standing in New Jersey in 2025 was 11, a decrease from 16 standing in 2020. While the number of stallions standing in New Jersey decreased during the period, the number of mares bred to New Jersey sires also decreased from 785 in 2020 to 689 in 2025, a decrease of 12.0 percent. The number of horses on SBOA-NJ affiliated breeding farms remained constant for the period, averaging 1665.

Displayed in Table 6 is the Number of NJ-Bred Horses on all SBOANJ Affiliated Breeding Farms for the period 2020-2025.

Number Of NJ Bred Horses On All SBOANJ Affiliated Breeding Farms 2020-2025						
Year	Trotters			Pacers		
	Total Registered Foals	Colt	Filly	Total Registered Foals	Colt	Filly
2020	389	201	188	115	63	52
2021	375	173	202	119	65	54
2022	322	158	164	190	105	85
2023	374	201	173	147	68	79
2024	294	138	156	140	64	76
2025*	145	67	78	104	52	52

**Continual updates*

Total number of registered trotting foals decreased from 389 in 2020 to 294 in 2024; a decrease of 24.4 percent. Total number of pacing foals increased from 115 in 2020 to 140 in 2024; an increase of 22.0 percent. Data for 2025 continues to be collected and increases as foals may be registered at any time up to entry to race.

Displayed in Table 7 are the breeding metrics for Thoroughbred farms.

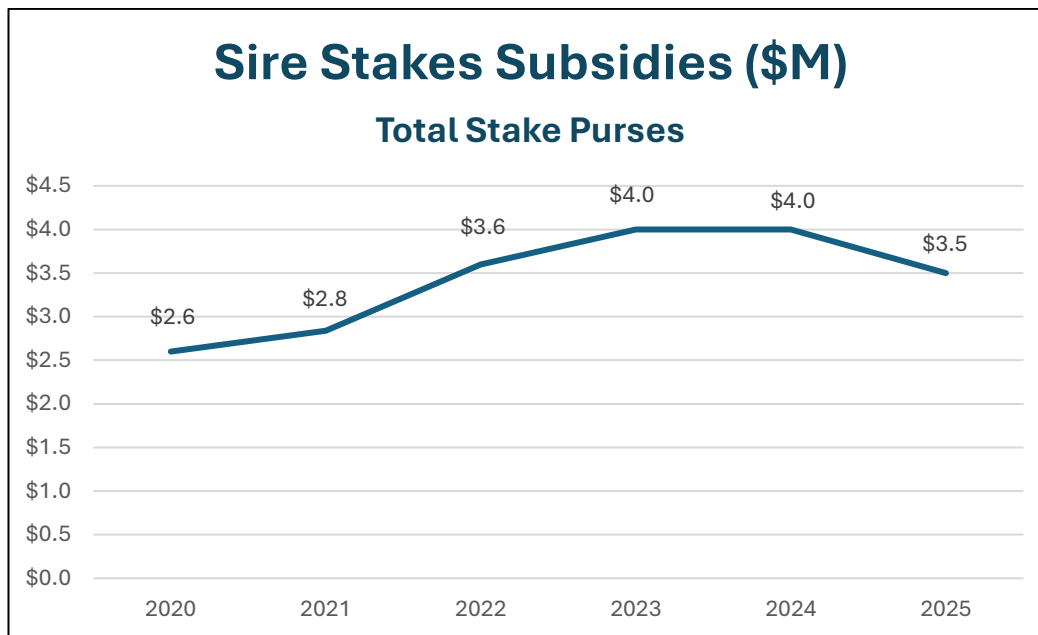
Number Of Horses On All NJTBA Breeding Farms 2020-2025						
Year	Registered NJ Bred Foals	Registered NJ Bred Stallions	Mares Bred To NJ Stallions	NJ Bred Restricted Races	Yearling Colts	Yearling Fillies
2020	115	11	23	*	37	48
2021	118	13	55	66	46	55
2022	100	13	21	79	57	61
2023	97	11	33	78	48	52
2024	79	11	44	78	49	48
2025	83	7	25	72	43	40

*Data not available for 2020

For the number of mares bred to New Jersey Thoroughbred stallions for the period 2021-2025, the number decreased from 55 in 2021 to 25 in 2025; a decrease of 54.5 percent. The number of registered New Jersey-Bred foals also decreased from 118 in 2021 to 83 in 2025; a decrease of 29.7 percent. This may be a reflection of the reduced number of stallions registered in the State; thirteen in 2021 to 7 in 2025.

Impact On Sire Stakes Program

Displayed in Figure 1 is the Impact on the New Jersey Sire Stakes Program.



The New Jersey Sire Stakes program has benefited well from the purse subsidies. Purses for stakes races rose from \$2.6 million in 2020 to \$4 million in 2023 and 2024; an increase of 38.0 percent. There was a decrease to \$3.5 million in 2025. Purses for stakes races are reflective of the number of horses entered to race.

Displayed in Table 8 are the Number of Yearlings Nominated to the New Jersey Sire Stakes Program.

Yearlings Nominated to Sire Stakes Program NJ			
Year	Number Of Yearlings	Number Of Trotters	Number Of Pacers
2020	469	*	*
2021	605	*	*
2022	649	444	205
2023	671	427	244
2024	638	372	266
2025	686	436	250

**Data Not Available For 2020-2021*

The number of yearlings nominated to the Sire Stakes Program increased from 469 in 2020 to 686 in 2025; an increase of 46.3 percent.

Impact On Training Center Metrics

Displayed in Table 9 are the metrics for the Standardbred Training Centers.

Number Of New Jersey Bred Trained Horses On SBOANJ Affiliated Training Centers By Age 2020-2025				
Year	Total 2-Year Trained (NJ Bred)	Total 3-Year Trained (NJ Bred)	Total 4-Year Trained (NJ Bred)	Total 5 Year and Older Trained (NJ Bred)
2020	103	88	31	38
2021	151	93	32	46
2022	167	133	55	41
2023	207	131	52	42
2024	210	140	52	45
2025	247	172	47	88

Reflective of the positive impact of the purse subsidy legislation, the number of New Jersey-bred horses in training increased for the period. Total 2-year olds trained increased from 103 in 2020 to 247 in 2025; an increase of 95.0 percent. Total 3-year olds trained increased from 88 to 172; an increase of 95.0 percent. Total 4-year olds trained increased from 31 to 47; an increase of 52.0 percent. Total number of older horses trained increased from 38 to 88; an increase of 132.0 percent.

Like Thoroughbred farms, Thoroughbred training centers are concentrated around the Monmouth Park Racetrack. The racetrack is heavily involved in the training process for thoroughbreds. The three largest training centers used by thoroughbred horse owners in New Jersey are Colt's Neck Training Center, Overbrook Farm, and Westampton Farm.

These training facilities offer trainers practice tracks and stalls for their horses along with several amenities including equine pools, motorized equine exercise machines, and round pens. Both Overbrook and Westampton Farms had an average of 100 horses using their facilities in 2020. Colt's Neck registered a slightly lower average of 70 horses throughout the year.

Horses at these training facilities cycle through several different locations for training throughout year. These locations included several of the thoroughbred breeding farms and the Monmouth Park Racetrack.

Displayed in Table 10 are the metrics for the Standardbred Horses Trained by Age.

Total Number of Standardbred Trained Horses at SBOANJ Affiliated Training Centers by Age 2020-2025				
Year	Total 2-Year Trained	Total 3-Year Trained	Total 4-Year Trained	Total 5-Year and Older Trained
2020	428	355	213	446
2021	468	349	241	469
2022	513	384	224	491
2023	562	387	217	550
2024	584	419	241	565
2025	703	524	284	624

Total trained Standardbred 2-year olds increased from 428 in 2020 to 703 in 2025; an increase of 64.0 percent. Total trained 3-year olds increased from 355 in 2020 to 524 in 2025; an increase of 48.0 percent. Total trained 4-year olds increased from 213 in 2020 to 284 in 2025; an increase of 33.0 percent. Total trained older horses increased from 446 in 2020 to 624 in 2025; an increase of 40.0 percent.

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

Under P.L. 2019, c.36, the State of New Jersey appropriates \$20 million annually to the New Jersey Racing Commission for purse subsidies, to be divided equally between the Thoroughbred and Standardbred industries. While the law mandates an equal 50/50 split between breeds, each industry has elected—by statute and longstanding practice—to allocate its portion differently in order to support the unique structure, racing calendars, and competitive needs of their respective racing programs.

Once again, in 2026, the Legislature and the Governor have fully funded the annual \$20 million purse supplement for New Jersey's horse racing industry, with the appropriation divided equally between the Standardbred and Thoroughbred sectors. This marks another year of full funding since the Legislature established the purse supplement program in 2019, reaffirming the State's ongoing commitment to preserving and strengthening New Jersey's horse racing and breeding industries.

Thoroughbred Allocation (Monmouth Park Only)

The Thoroughbred horsemen have elected in statute to direct 100% of their subsidy allocation to Monmouth Park's overnight purse account. This statutory choice reflects the nature of New Jersey's Thoroughbred program:

- New Jersey has one primary Thoroughbred racetrack, Monmouth Park.
- The Thoroughbred racing season is shorter and concentrated, requiring a single, robust purse account.
- Consolidating the entire subsidy into overnight purses maximizes the impact on field size, wagering attractiveness, and owner participation.
- As a result, the Thoroughbred share of the subsidy supports one unified purse structure, without internal subdivisions.

Standardbred Allocation (Mirroring Meadowlands and Former Freehold Purse Distribution)

The Standardbred horsemen have elected in statute to allocate their subsidy in proportion to the existing purse distribution historically used at the Meadowlands Racetrack and formerly at Freehold Raceway. This framework includes:

- 60% to Meadowlands overnight purses
- 16% from Freehold allocation to Meadowlands overnight purses
- 12% to New Jersey Sire Stakes purses
- 6% to New Jersey-bred purse bonuses
- 6% to New Jersey breeder awards

This approach supports multiple tracks and ensures vital funding for breeding, Sire Stakes, and New Jersey-sired incentives essential to the state's agricultural and equine economy.

Why the Allocations Differ

The Thoroughbred program is track-centric and seasonal, while the Standardbred program is year-round, and breeding-centric. These structural differences require distinct allocation strategies to sustain racing opportunities, preserve New Jersey farms, and stabilize purse levels. Each industry's allocation approach is designed to maximize economic impact and advance the legislative intent behind P.L. 2019, c.36.

The differing allocation formulas—each selected by statutory election of the respective horsemen's associations—enable the purse subsidy to support the unique operational and economic needs of both racing sectors while fulfilling the Legislature's objectives.

MOVING FORWARD

The State of New Jersey wisely passed in 2019 P.L., c.36, which appropriated \$20 million annually from the state general fund to the New Jersey Racing Commission for the next fiscal year 2019 and the following four fiscal years. These funds were to be used as horse racing purse subsidies, split equally between Standardbred and Thoroughbred industries.

Once again, in 2026, the Legislature and the Governor have fully funded the annual \$20 million purse supplement for New Jersey's horse racing industry, with the appropriation divided equally between the Standardbred and Thoroughbred sectors. This marks another year of full funding since the Legislature established the purse supplement program in 2019, reaffirming the State's ongoing commitment to preserving and strengthening New Jersey's horse racing and breeding industries.

This report, supported by the horse racing community, diligently meets the requirements of reporting on the impact these funds have had on the sport treasured by many New Jersey residents.

It also emphasizes the many positive impacts the subsidies have had on metrics related to horse racing; including agricultural production and the socio-economic impact of racing in New Jersey which so many New Jersey residents value.

The State of New Jersey should continue to invest in this valued treasure of New Jersey history and a sector which generates over \$780 million in economic impact annually; similar to that of the ag biotech and golf course industries.

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