



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LANSING

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To: Applicants for Michigan Standardbred Breeders' Awards

From: Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), Horse Racing Program

As a reminder, in order for you to be eligible for the Michigan Standardbred Breeders' Awards, all the proper registrations must be in place for any payment to be made. The key requirements are found in Act 279, the Horse Racing Law of 1995, as amended, Section 20(5) and in Regulation 808, Payment of Breeder Awards.

Be advised, that an eligible Michigan-bred Standardbred horse is a Standardbred horse which is:

- from a Michigan-owned Standardbred mare at the time of breeding, *and*
 - this mare is properly registered with MDA by *each* owner *before* a win, and
- sired by a Michigan-owned or leased Standardbred stallion
 - that is properly registered with MDA, *and*
 - that was leased or owned by a resident(s) of Michigan, *and*
 - that did *not* serve a mare at a location outside of Michigan from February 1st through July 31st of the calendar year in which the conception occurred.

Breeders' awards are only payable for wins *after* the date the Standardbred mare is properly registered with MDA. Therefore it is important that you register the mares promptly.

Similarly, the Standardbred stallion must be properly registered with MDA by *each* owner (or lessee) *by January 1st* of the year in which the stallion will be standing at service in Michigan for eligibility to qualify for Standardbred Breeders' Awards. Therefore the applications must be postmarked, faxed, or emailed to MDA by December 31st.

If you have *newly acquired* a Standardbred stallion there is a provision that you may register this stallion with MDA. However, the *newly acquired* Standardbred stallion must have not been in Michigan for breeding purposes before January 1 of a given year *and* must not have serviced a mare after December 31 of the preceding year. The Standardbred stallion must be registered with the department *before* servicing any mares if its get is to be eligible for breeders' awards.

Finally, in order for any person or business entity to receive a Michigan Standardbred Breeders' Award:

- the breeder(s) must be as listed on the United States Trotting Association's (USTA's) Foal Registration as the breeder(s) (owner or lessee of the dam at the time of mating) for the winning foal, and
- the breeder(s) must be domiciled in Michigan and must own the Michigan-bred mare (dam) at the time of breeding. "Domicile" is defined as the fixed, permanent, and principal home to which a person(s) intends to return. Examples of documents that may be used to determine your domicile are:

- voter registrations that show a Michigan address,
 - federal or state income tax returns that show a Michigan address.
- the breeder(s) (as listed as an individual/partnership or other business entity) on the USTA's Foal Registration) must be properly registered with MDA to include being properly registered on the State of Michigan's Office of the State Budget's Contract and Payment Express as a vendor/payee. Breeders that are registered as business entities must also be properly authorized to conduct business in Michigan.

Be advised that if the eligibility of a breeder to receive a Michigan Standardbred Breeders' Award is questioned, the burden of proving that:

- the horse is a Michigan-bred Standardbred horse, and/or
- the horse is in compliance with MDA requirements

rests with the *breeder(s)*.

If you have any questions please refer to our website: www.michigan.gov/mda for more information and forms, or call (517) 241-4331 with further questions.
