

August 2020
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PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:**
Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:**
Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:**
Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:**
Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

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- Racing and breeding news
- PA-Bred entries/results
- Rules, regulations, forms

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Dollinger grows her role in the Thoroughbred industry

by Nikki Sherman

With most of the world quarantined at home, there is plenty of time for reminiscing. Certainly one of the most intriguing memories for horsemen is how each and every one of us became a member of the Thoroughbred industry. Some have been members for generations, such as the Lymans of Maui Meadow Farm in West Chester, Pa. And then there are the newest members of the game—like 21-year-old Claudia Dollinger.

Although a newcomer to the Thoroughbred industry, she is a lifelong horsewoman. She began taking riding lessons at just 6 years old, was mucking stalls by 12 (in exchange for lessons) and was soon showing hunters with trainer Jody Vesty.

“Jody was the first person to introduce me to breeding,” noted Dollinger. “She bred a lot of Welsh/TB crosses and I was able to help start them when they were old enough.” She proudly purchased her first pony in 2014 for \$500 and switched to a new discipline and trainer. It was a success: in training under Hugh Cann, Dollinger qualified for both the 2015 Devon Horse Show and Pony Finals in show jumping. Connections in the show world helped her find a job in the equine industry.

She had grown up riding alongside Logan Charlton, daughter of Vintage Thoroughbreds’ David Charlton. When it was time for Dollinger to officially enter the workforce, Charlton’s wife told her to come on out to their farm. She began working on the weekends and slowly added more weekdays until she was a full-time employee. “The racing world is a lot different than the world I was used to. It was much more intimidating at first,” she admitted. “But I feel that the racing world is where I prefer to be. There are so many awesome people in the Thoroughbred world that have really helped me grow.”

The barn manager position became available in the spring of 2018 and Dollinger jumped at the opportunity. She was thrilled to gain even more



experience with the group of horses—which included broodmares, yearlings and even racehorses undergoing rehabilitation. “I was so lucky and excited to take the job because it was my dream to work with horses every day,” she said. “It was an incredible amount of responsibility and I am so thankful that David trusted me to take care of his horses.”

An even bigger opportunity arose when Charlton’s lease on the farm ended this past December. Dollinger decided to take a big chance of her own going into the new year—she now leases the property herself while also working full time as a customer service representative and accountant. At first the workload was a challenge, but she says that she has started falling into a rhythm, especially with the help of her boyfriend Alex Cavan. “He wasn’t into horses until he started dating me,” she said with a laugh. “He works at an auto body shop and helps with the

horses on the side. He is slowly learning to ride but prefers to just cuddle the horses.”

Before Charlton left, he offered a special deal to Dollinger. One of his broodmares was in foal to Hoppertunity. Once the mare gave birth, the foal would belong to him but Dollinger would be the new owner of the mare Judiane’s Jubilee (by Congaree and nicknamed “JJ”). That fateful day finally occurred March 22, nearly a month after JJ’s due date and causing Dollinger to lose plenty of sleep. “Oh my gosh, delivering for the first time was amazing and terrifying at the same time,” she said. “I went out to check on JJ around 8:00 in the morning and her water broke right as I walked up to her. It only took eight minutes before the foal came out. I immediately fell in love with the filly who I call Tallulah. It also gave me a huge appreciation for JJ. Now I can’t wait to do it again next year!” Next year she will hopefully bring her first three official homebreds into the world.

Dollinger was gifted a second broodmare named Champagne Rhythm (by Eddington), who was to be bred to Hoppertunity. Judiane’s Jubilee was also going back to Hoppertunity. A third mare, Magnawave, was sent to a show jumping stallion named Carasca Z.

Longtime breeder Justine Howell gave Champagne Rhythm to her this year. The two met when Dollinger still had her first pony and Howell allowed her to use the indoor arena during the winter. “[She] is a huge inspiration to me,” Dollinger said. “She lives down the road from me and has a wonderful breeding facility.

She has taught me a lot about getting into the breeding world and is always teaching me more.”

Dollinger also credits Curtis Beale “Woodberry” Payne as a major role model. Payne owns Ingleside Training Center in Virginia, which is located on the historic grounds of Montpelier, the home of President James Madison. “He was a hunter/jumper rider before being a race trainer and he does a wonderful job with the horses. He applies a lot of the basics from the hunter way of riding when he trains.”

Despite making the big change into breeding and racing, she still rides when time permits. Her personal riding horse, a Hanoverian mare named Kassandra, is currently on lease with a friend. However, she already has a new project horse—a retired Thoroughbred named Messy Marie. She hopes to compete with the mare in the Thoroughbred Makeover at the Kentucky Horse Park in both the show jumping and hunter/jumper divisions.

She may be new to the industry, but Dollinger is well aware of the current situation in Pennsylvania. Without even being asked about the political climate, she said that she very much hopes Governor Tom Wolf steers clear of his earlier plan to divert funding from the horse racing industry. “It is incredible to think about how many people are involved and employed through the Thoroughbreds in Pennsylvania. From farriers to feed mills to breeders and trainers... It would crush a lot of my future plans and dreams with the industry.

A few words from the Executive Secretary

I’m proud to announce that \$41,625 in breeder grants ranging from \$375 to \$1,500 were sent out in early July to help needy members with feed and veterinary bills. Prominent breeders like Chuck Zacney and Glenn Bennett stepped up to the plate with generous donations to the cause. Their donations, along with matching funds from the PHBA, made the grant program possible. We’d like to again thank them for their generosity!

PA Day at the Races will be held on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7 at Parx Racing with over a half-million in purses! The card will feature five PA-Bred Stakes and as usual the balance will consist of PA Restricted Races. With the threat of the spread of Covid-19,



Contact Information:

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Parx Racing
Bensalem, PA • 215-639-9000

Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course
Grantville, PA • 717-469-2211

Presque Isle Downs & Casino
Erie, PA • 866-374-3386

Pennsylvania HBPA
Grantville, PA • 717-469-2970

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association
Bensalem, PA • 215-638-2012



THE PA-BRED PREMIUM EARN MORE! JOIN THE PHBA

Whether you are currently a breeder or an owner, or if you are just considering getting involved in this exciting industry, there are many reasons to join the PHBA. The PHBA is devoted to those involved in Pennsylvania’s Thoroughbred breeding industry. A not-for-profit organization founded in 1948, we provide a number of services to members, including informational assistance, educational opportunities and a variety of social events.

The goal of the organization is to advocate on behalf of the state’s breeding industry. We are mandated by statute as administrator of the Pennsylvania Breeding Fund program, and as official registrar of the Pennsylvania-Bred roster of eligible program participants.

Working with industry leaders over the years, PHBA has achieved several goals that have brought reform and benefits to breeders, owners, racetracks and the public. The PHBA is vital to everyone involved in breeding throughout Pennsylvania. Your support and participation can help Pennsylvania’s breeding industry continue to grow and prosper.

there will be no luncheon. The ability of owners and their guests to attend and even be in the paddock or winner’s circle will depend on protocols in place at that time. Please note that late nominations for the stakes will close Aug. 24 and may be made by contacting the Parx Racing office. Good luck and Go Pa!!



2020 Pennsylvania-Bred Stakes Schedule

We are happy to say that with the help of PARX Racing and the PTHA we will be holding five Stakes on PA Day at the Races for purses of \$80,000 each. We will also be running the Nursery in December and most probably the Shamrock Rose in November. These races will be black type! With the uncertainty of a consistent revenue stream, it is too early to commit to any other Stakes at this time but please rest assured, that if it is at all possible, we will add to them going forward.

PHBA Stakes Committee

PENNSYLVANIA'S DAY AT THE RACES	PARX RACING	\$80,000 Banjo Picker Sprint Stakes 3 & up, 6 furlongs	\$80,000 Marshall Jenney Handicap 3 & up, 5 furlongs, turf
	Monday September 7	\$80,000 Mrs. Penny Stakes 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 ¹ / ₁₆ miles, turf	\$80,000 Storm Cat Stakes 3 & up, 1 ¹ / ₁₆ miles
	Late nominations: August 24	\$80,000 Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial Stakes 3 & up, fillies & mares, 6 furlongs	
	PENN NATIONAL	\$80,000 Shamrock Rose Stakes 2YO fillies, 6 furlongs	
PARX RACING	Saturday December 5	\$80,000 Pennsylvania Nursery Stakes 2YO, 7 furlongs	



PENNSYLVANIA'S **DAY** *at the* **RACES**



PA Day will be held on Labor Day, Monday September 7th at PARX Racing with over a half million in purses! The card will feature five PA-Bred Stakes and as usual the balance will consist of Pa Restricted Races. With the threat of the spread of Covid-19, there will be no luncheon. The ability of owners and their guests to attend and even be in the paddock or winner's circle will depend on protocols in place at that time.

Cancellation of the day was an option but we realized that many of our PA-Bred breeders and owners look to this day as a chance to showcase their horses and earn black type. With the help of PARX Racing and the PTHA, they'll still have that chance. Please note that early nominations for the Stakes will close on July 27th and may be made by contacting the PARX racing office. Good luck and Go Pa!!

Brian Sanfratello



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