



Contact:  
Chad Keller  
Quarter Horse Racing Secretary  
chad.keller@prairiameadows.com  
515.957.3027

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **2018 Quarter Horse Futurity & Derby Nomination Forms Now Available**

*Payment Schedules for Prairie Meadows Quarter Horse Futurity & Derby Races Start April 1*

*March 1, 2018 – Altoona, IA.* The start of the 2018 live Quarter Horse racing season at Prairie Meadows in Altoona, Iowa is more than five months away, but the racetrack and horsemen are already beginning preparations. Horsemen planning to compete at Prairie Meadows beginning August 18 can access nomination forms for eight major stakes races on the schedule, including the rich \$225,000-estimated Valley Junction Futurity, which will be held on October 13.

Nomination forms, which include payment schedules and general conditions for each race, are available online at [prairiameadows.com/racing/horsemens-info/quarter-horse-meet](http://prairiameadows.com/racing/horsemens-info/quarter-horse-meet)

Quarter Horse owners and trainers should note that payment schedules begin April 1, 2018, for all Prairie Meadows and Iowa Quarter Horse Racing Association Futurity and Derby stakes races. The April 1 deadline for the initial payment applies to the Iowa Double Gold Futurity, the Iowa Double Gold Derby, the Iowa Stallion Futurity, the Iowa Stallion Derby, the Jim Bader Futurity (Iowa-bred), the Polk County Derby (Iowa-bred), the Valley Junction Futurity, and the Altoona Derby.

Quarter Horse Racing Secretary Chad Keller noted a number of changes regarding the Quarter Horse stakes schedule when compared to last season.

“The most significant change involves our \$45,000-guaranteed Grade 3 Keokuk Stakes. We have moved the Keokuk from its longtime opening weekend spot to Saturday, September 15. This race day also includes the Prairie Meadows Derby Challenge and the Prairie Meadows Juvenile Challenge,” Keller said. “Additionally, we’ve increased purses for two early season stakes races – The Iowa Double Gold Futurity on September 1 has increased from \$75,000 to \$85,000-added while the the Iowa Stallion Derby on September 2 increased from \$40,000 to \$50,000-added.”

Overnight purse structure for the 2018 Quarter Horse season will increase by approximately \$300 across the board. Bottom-level maiden claiming races will offer a \$6,800 purse, maiden special weight runners will run for a \$11,300 purse, and allowance race purses will range from \$12,000 to \$14,200. Iowa-bred purses will receive additional increases this season due to the increase in supplement percentage compared to 2017. Iowa-bred maiden special weight purses will be \$15,136 and allowance race purses will range from \$16,074 to \$19,021.

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Prairie Meadows expects that Quarter Horse Condition Book No. 1, which covers the first half of the 2018 season, will be available by April 30. The property also expects that stall application forms will be available by the end of April. Completed stall application forms will be due in the Prairie Meadows racing office in early or mid-July.

Out-of-Competition Testing (OOCT) will be conducted for the duration of the 2018 live racing season at Prairie Meadows. All Quarter Horses entering the stable area must have proof of a negative test for Theileria Equi (Piroplasmiasis) dated within the last 365 days. The current health requirements for the 2018 Quarter Horse meet at Prairie Meadows will be posted online by the end of April. These health requirements will also be explained in Condition Book No. 1 as well as stall application forms.

The 2018 Quarter Horse season at Prairie Meadows opens on Saturday, August 18 and the 26-day session concludes on Saturday, October 13.

### **About Prairie Meadows**

Prairie Meadows began operations as a non-profit organization in 1989 with the goal of promoting economic development, jobs, agriculture, and tourism in the state of Iowa. Through taxes, grants, and charitable donations, Prairie Meadows has given more than \$1.6 billion to the state of Iowa. Prairie Meadows offers more than 1,700 slot machines, table games, live and simulcast racing, hotel accommodations, entertainment, and more.

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