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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prairie Meadows Releases First 2018 Thoroughbred Condition Book, Adds New Incentive

New Starter Bonus Incentive Offers Increased Overnight Purses In First 12 Days Of Meet

February 1—Altoona, IA. Prairie Meadows Casino, Racetrack, & Hotel announces the release of Condition Book 1, which covers the first 15 racing days, April 26 through May 19, of the 2018 Thoroughbred season at Prairie Meadows' racetrack in Altoona, Iowa.

Condition Book 1, which is available at prairiemeadows.com or Prairie Meadows' Racing Office, includes the first four stakes races of the upcoming 67-day Thoroughbred season. The book also provides details on the new Starter Bonus Incentive, which offers potential increased overnight purses during the first 12 days of the meet.

"We worked with Iowa Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA) to develop the details of the Starter Bonus Incentive as part of our ongoing efforts to increase field sizes," said Chad Keller, Thoroughbred Assistant Racing Secretary at Prairie Meadows. "Any overnight race which leaves the paddock with at least eight betting interests will have its total purse increased by \$3,500."

The \$3,500 purse increase is reflected in the first 12 days of Condition Book 1. If an overnight race is carded with less than eight horses or leaves the paddock with less than eight horses, the purse will revert to the base purse amount for the meet.

"We've also increased overnight purses by \$500 per race for the entire 2018 season," Keller added. "And our Purse Participation Incentive, for horses finishing sixth through last place in overnight races, will be increased from \$125 to \$200 this season."

Keller also noted the 2018 Iowa Festival of Racing will be a two-day event beginning Thursday, July 5 and ending Friday, July 6.

"We'll card the three festival stakes races for the girls – The Saylorville, The Iowa Distaff, and the Grade III Iowa Oaks – on Thursday night," Keller said. "And we'll card the stakes races for the boys – Iowa Sprint Handicap, the Iowa Derby, and the Grade III Prairie Meadows Cornhusker – on Friday night."

Prairie Meadows will offer 33 Thoroughbred stakes races worth approximately \$2.1 million in 2018. Purses, including supplement money, are expected to average \$225,000 a day.

Horsemen are advised that Out-of-Competition Testing (OOCT) will be conducted for the duration of the 2018 live racing season at Prairie Meadows. Thoroughbred stall application forms are due Wednesday,

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March 21, 2018. Application forms are available at prairiemeadows.com as well as Prairie Meadows' Racing Office.

Prairie Meadows' backside stable area will open to horses on Friday, March 30. Training on Prairie Meadows' one-mile main track will begin Monday, April 2.

All horses shipping to Prairie Meadows, including ponies, must be accompanied by a valid health certificate issued within 14 days of arrival. Arriving horses must have been vaccinated for EHV-1 not less than 14 days and not more than 120 days prior to date of entry and be accompanied by a current negative Coggins test dated within 12 months. Any pony horse, other than a Thoroughbred pony, must have proof of a negative test for *Theileria Equi* (Piroplasmosis) dated within the last 365 days.

Condition Book 1, stall application forms, 2018 Thoroughbred Live Racing Schedule, and other racing-related documents can be found at prairiemeadows.com/racing/horsemans-info/thoroughbred-meet.

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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