When the campaign began for two-year-old Elver Hanover, no one knew what to expect. Would he follow in the success of his father or would he end up being more suited as a family riding horse?

Nine races and nine wins later, Elver Hanover showed he belongs on the racetrack. The son of Yankee Cruiser out of Edra Hanover by The Panderosa, Elver Hanover got better each race and was named the 2019 Ohio Horse of the Year. He earned $363,450 last year.

Jablonsky says Elver Hanover is charismatic, with an amazing personality. “He could easily be some kid’s riding horse because he’s that sweet and mellow. You’d walk by his stall and he would just be laying down and you couldn’t startle him. He’s totally relaxed, but then you press the ‘go’ button and the ‘go’ is there. He is special, he wasn’t going to be an average horse. He was either going to be good or not have the motivation.”

For Melillo, he did not know what they would have in Elver Hanover at the beginning. “We didn’t get too much information when he was down in Florida, but what we got was positive. Dr. J was high on him and you don’t get endorsements with a better resume than hers. The first time that I noticed that he was something special was the first race at Scioto. He came from nearly dead last at the three-quarters pole and won by almost three wide. I looked at (driver) Chris Page and was like, ‘wow, this horse is something.’”

Melillo says he never expected the horse to win all nine of his starts. “When you are talking about two-year-olds, you never know what you’re going to get. Some of them look great out of the gate and then they can’t find the rest of the way, but he was good all year round. He won from any part of the track you put him on; he could win from the front; he could win from the back.”

“‘There are very high hopes for this year,’ says Melillo. “He got a well-deserved rest on a very strong season and you don’t want to burn out a two-year-old chasing after a lot of trophies.”

Jablonsky says Elver Hanover is back in training after wintering in North Carolina, “He is about 150 pounds heavier, a much more solid horse.” Jablonsky says she thinks Elver Hanover will race more on the East coast and is optimistic about his three-year-old campaign.
The Ohio Chapter of the United States Harness Writers Association handed out its annual awards at the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association and United States Trotting Association’s District 1 banquet in January.

The Ohio Chapter honored Chris Page as the recipient of the Winner’s Circle Award for the Ohioan who has achieved outstanding accomplishments in the past year; Pierce Henry as the Peter Haughton Memorial Award winner as the young Ohioan who is an “up-and-coming” star among harness horsemen; and Scott Mogan as the winner of the Rambling Willie Award for the Ohioan who has done the most for harness racing over the past two decades. Ed Mullinax was enshrined into the Immortal Hall of Fame while Golly Too went into the Standardbred Hall of Fame.

Page recorded 435 seasonal wins and $5.9 million in seasonal earnings. He captured the Ohio Sire Stake’s Kaltenbach title for the fourth time in six years, piloting 23 winners and earners of $1 million in OSS earnings. He was the regular pilot behind divisional champions, Elver Hanover and Looksgoodinaromper.

Henry is a 23-year-old resident of Leipsic, Ohio. He enjoyed tremendous early career success with 238 driving wins and earnings approaching $1 million in purse money.

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Claude Brault, Equine Agent, Breeding Consultant
(973) 727-8321
(905) 520-3941
Email for complete list: cbrault2@cogeco.ca

Breedings for Sale to Top Sires for 2020
If you are looking for trotting or pacing mares or have a mare to sell, Call me!
Book early to avoid a shutout.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TROTTERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bar Hopping</td>
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<td>Enterprise</td>
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<td>Jimmy Freight</td>
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<td>Muscle Massive</td>
<td>Rockin Amadeus</td>
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<td>Volstead</td>
<td>Western Vintage</td>
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Trainer Scott Mogan was born and raised in Circleville, OH. He began in 1974 at the age of 15 and opened his public stable in 1983. He conditioned two Ohio Horses of the Year- KF Pro Sam and JJ Hall. He trained the winners of six Ohio Sire Stakes Champions. Mogan has been a director of the OHHA for six years.

Mullinax, one of the largest Ford car dealers in the United States, started buying harness horses in 1993. His P-Forty-Seven won the Little Brown Jug in 2005. He campaigned Dragon Again, who left his mark on the track and in the breeding shed. His Up Front Racing banner was a tribute to his dealership’s ‘up front’ pricing. He passed away in August 2018 at the age of 85.

Golly Too was a four-time Ohio Sire Stakes Champion. The Final Score gelding went undefeated in his two-year-old season. As a sophomore, he captured the American-National at Sportsman’s Park and was third in the Breeders Crown Final. He finished his four-year career with $694,000 in earnings, thanks to 29 wins in 49 career starts.

CORRECTIONS:
Charley Barley was mistakenly omitted from the 2020 Ohio Stallion Directory. His pedigree page can be found on page 41 of the on-line version located at ohha.com. The OHHA regrets this omission.

In the 2020 Ohio Stallion Directory, Byron Kuth was mistakenly listed as the owner of Ohio Hall of Famer Chrysta’s Best. Chrysta’s best was owned by J. Patrick Huber, Harold Breidenbach, Kathy Montgomery, and Thomas Biddle before being sold to Alvin Schockemoehle.
Aaron Merriman’s chase for his third straight 1,000-win season went down to the last day of racing at Northfield Park. He did not wait long to notch his next milestone, as Merriman won his 12,000th race just a week later.

On January 7th, Merriman became the 6th driver all-time to win 12,000 races when he drove Shady Grey to victory at The Meadows.

Merriman followed in his father Lanny’s footsteps. Lanny Merriman, a longtime trainer/driver, has won over 1,200 races in his career. The Younger Merriman said the 12,000th win was special because his father joined him in the winner’s circle. Regarding his father, Merriman said, “He enjoys it more than I do. He’s proud of his kids and grandkids, and it’s great to have that support.

“Every win is special to me, but when you get these milestones and hit the zeroes, it’s kind of cool.”

Mancino Speaks at Ohio Fair Managers Convention

BY THOM PYE

It was “one stop & shop” at the 95th annual Ohio Fair Managers Convention & Tradeshow at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in January. The exposition showcased vendors and services available to Ohio’s 95 fairs. Fair executives came out in droves to partake in the many interesting exhibits and informative meetings.

The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association, one of the many proud sponsors of the event, held a Harness Racing Workshop as Moderator Wade Flory, OFMA District 3 Director and Vice President of the Signature Series, welcomed speakers, such as United States Trotting Association’s Chief Operating Officer T.C. Lane, the Buckeye Fair Racing Consortium and Home Talent Colt Stake’s Elwood “Woody” Woolman, Ohio Colt Race Association’s President Dr. Bob Schwartz and Vice President Dennis Fricke, Ohio Colt Fair Conference’s Susan Schroeder, and Southern Valley Colt Circuit’s Steve Swatzel as they all expounded on the bright future for Ohio harness racing.

The keynote speaker on the morning was OHHA’s Executive Director Renée Mancino, who bolstered their statements by adding the fiscal facts. “Ohio has sixty-six fairs racing statewide, with over 2,500 stakes horses nominated to the 131 live race dates, that resulted in 8,138 racehorse starts at the county fairs.”

Racing is a multibillion-dollar industry that hosts over 240,000 jobs. Since 2015, Ohio Horsemen have invested over $21 million in capital improvement grants, stake purses, signature race grants, on-track insurance and the Little Brown Jug sponsorship, as well as a yearly $12,000 grant for each racing fair, including $2,000 to each of the 29 non-racing Fairs.

Mancino delved into insurance details and answered questions from the audience of over one hundred fair representatives.

“Harness Racing Money and its Important Usage” was the topic of a second racing related seminar, as Flory presented Woolman, OCRAs Treasurer Lisa Schwartz, and Fricke.

Schwartz reminded those in attendance that we “are here to help, get you those matching funds, and answer any questions that you might have.”

Fricke added that this year’s attendance at Allen County Fair in Lima, Ohio surged as the various entertainment they added to the Racing Program made a profit of $6,000. He reminded the Fair Managers that, unlike the tractor pulls or big-name band concerts, “they don’t have to pay for Harness Racing, …and our beer tent alone brought in $42,000!”

A win, win, and win situation!
**MORGAN HONORED**
by Harness Horseman International

The Executive Director and Facility Manager for New Vocations Racehorse Adoption, Dot Morgan will be honored with the Harness Horsemens International Appreciation Award.

Morgan founded New Vocations in Laura, Ohio, in 1992 after seeing a need for racehorses to continue with productive lives once their racing careers were finished. For the past three decades she has been the face and sounding board of the organization. Morgan also runs the annual Standardbred Stallion Auction and Little Brown Jug Benefit Auction during Jug Week.

Morgan has been immersed in the Standardbred industry, as she is married to a fifth-generation driver/trainer. To date she has helped to place and rehome more than 5,000 retired Standardbreds and Thoroughbreds.

Morgan will be honored at the HHI’s annual meeting at the end of February.

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**Ohio Horseman Active at Winter Sale**

Two of the top three sales at the Tattersalls Winter Mixed Sale have connections to Ohio. Trainer Virgil Morgan Jr. purchased Escapetothebeach on behalf of owner Dana Parham. The four-year-old gelded son of Somebeachsomewhere – Shelliscape by Artiscape was purchased for $250,000, the second highest price paid at the sale.

“There were a few horses that stuck out to us and Escapetothebeach was one of them,” said Morgan Jr. “We really loved his pedigree first and foremost. He didn’t win a lot of major stakes races, but he was competitive. His tactical gait speed put him in play.”

Morgan says they plan to race Escapetothebeach. “We’ll sit down and get a game plan for him and map out a schedule. I would imagine The Graduate is part of that, for the 4-year-olds. Then we’ll try to pick some other spots.”

The third highest sale also has Ohio ties. Jezzy’s Legacy sold for $150,000 to the Beachy Brothers, the agent for an Ohio owner that wished to remain anonymous.

Bobby Beachy says he liked Jezzy’s Legacy’s pedigree. “It’s a great pedigree, a great family.”

Morgan says purchases like this are good for racing and breeding in Ohio. “When there is money involved like we are racing for in Ohio, people see that and want to get involved.”

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**Ohio Connections to be Honored at Dan Patch Awards**

Harness racing’s best performers from 2019 will be honored at the Dan Patch Awards banquet on February 23rd in Orlando, Florida. The award winners are selected by the United States Harness Writers Associations.

The Buckeye state will be well represented.

Jazmin Arnold was named the 2019 National Amateur Driver of the Year. Arnold won 23 times in her first full season of driving.

Aaron Merriman will be honored as USTA / USHWA 2019 Top Dash Winning Driver. Merriman collected 1,000 wins in 2019.

Tom Charters, a Springfield, Ohio native, has been elected to the Harness Racing Hall of Fame. Charters worked his way through the ranks, starting as a caretaker. Charters became a race secretary before being hired by the Hambletonian Society as the Executive Director of the Breeders Crown. He was later promoted to president and chief executive officer. Charters’ work covered a range of areas, including increasing racing handle, simulcasting and television production, international racing and brand name establishment.

Phil Pikelnny has been elected to the Communicators Hall of Fame. Pikelnny served as the national publicity director for the U.S. Trotting Association. He was also the publicity director at Scioto Downs, president of the Harness Publicists Association and Ohio Chapter of USHWA. Pikelnny co-authored Rambling Willie: The Horse that God Loved with Don Evans.

On the equine side, Ohio’s Bella Racing and Lisa Ezzo of Delaware are part owners of “The Dan Patch Three-Year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year” Bettor’s Wish and Ohio’s Go Fast Stables. Bruce Soulsby of Powell and Alan Weisenberg of Hilliard have a stake in “Three-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the Year” When Dovescry.
**TRACK NOTES**

The claiming box at Miami Valley Raceway was flooded on January 12th. Eighteen $30,000 claims were submitted prior to the racing of the three divisions of the “Claim To Fame” Series. After eliminating the duplicates by random draw, a total of eight horses changed hands for a total of $240,000, including a pair of first leg winners.

Southern Flight won the first leg for the $30,000 claimers, topping Best Man, Hanover and Class Six. Favorites Rock Out and The Dark Shadow were both claimed from the race but finished fifth and sixth in the first division.

Heavily favored Street Boy dominated the second division, besting The Book of Life. Both the winner and runner-up were claimed.

In the final division, Normandy Beach was the winner and one of four horses claimed. Others who shipped home in different trailers than they came were Lincolnjames, Get Around Town and Savage Seelster.

Southwind Amazon joined the millionaire club by winning the $15,000 Open Pace at MGM Northfield Park on January 20th. The 10-year-old went to the gate with 88 career wins and about two thousand dollars shy of the million-dollar mark. Starting from the outside post six, Greg Grismore settled near the back of the pack and worked his way to the lead at the top of the stretch, winning by ¾-length. The son of Camluck is trained by Paul Holzman and owned by Ameer Najor.

KJ’s Foxy Lady had her seven race win streak snapped February 1st at MGM Northfield Park. The winning streak started last November 30th. The 10-year-old mare now has 41 lifetime wins and has earned $295,700.

**Bookmyer Joins Hall of Fame**

By Ayers Ratliff

Gerald Bookmyer one of the most talented drivers to ever hail from Ohio, has been elected as the 46th member of the Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Fame. Bookmyer was elected by a vote of the members of the Ohio Chapter of the United States Harness Writers Association.

Known as “Bookie,” Bookmyer, 78, enjoyed success for many years. He was such a dominant force in the sulky that the Cleveland Plain Dealer referred to Northfield Park as “the house that Bookmyer built”.

Bookmyer was the nine-time leading driver over Northfield’s ‘flying turns’. His success did not end in Cleveland; he has a flock of Windsor Raceway championships, as well as being a chart-topper at Raceway Park, Wolverine Raceway and Scioto Downs.

According to official records of the United States Trotting Association, Bookmyer drove 3,316 winners with earnings over $8.4 million. Included in his win tally are five Ohio Sire Stakes Championships.

**RACING HANDLE UP**

By Ken Weingartner

Total handle, purses, wagering per race and per betting interest in the United States all increased, while the number of harness racing days decreased slightly in 2019 compared to 2018, according to the United States Trotting Association.

Total wagering increased by $48,525,862 (3.53 percent) from $1,376,360,696 in 2018 to $1,424,886,558 in 2019.

On average, the amount bet per race in 2019 was $39,991, a 4.54 percent increase from $38,253 the year before. The average wagered per betting interest increased from $4,850 to $5,008 in 2019, a 3.26 percent gain.

Total purses distributed in 2019 were $439,546,019, which was a $10,125,350 (2.36 percent) increase from the $429,420,669 in 2018.

Each of the above economic indicators showed increases despite a 1.33 percent decrease of 46 race days to 3,424 in 2019 compared to 3,470 in 2018.

Following are the comparative economic indicators for U.S. harness racing from 2019 and 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Wagered</td>
<td>$1,424,886,558</td>
<td>$1,376,360,696</td>
<td>+3.53%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per Race avg.</td>
<td>$39,991</td>
<td>$38,253</td>
<td>+4.54%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per Betting Interest</td>
<td>$5,008</td>
<td>$4,850</td>
<td>+3.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purses</td>
<td>$439,546,019</td>
<td>$429,420,669</td>
<td>+2.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race Days</td>
<td>3,424</td>
<td>3,470</td>
<td>-1.33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Roll Call: All Commissioners were present except Commissioner Patmon.

In normal business for the Commission, the Executive Director’s Report and approval items were introduced, and the December 18, 2019 minutes were offered for ratification. There were no documents related to the Executive Director’s approvals disclosed or provided to those in attendance. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Executive Director’s approval items and the December 18, 2019 meeting minutes.

Beverly Martin with the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) appeared to discuss the agency. The DAS provides administrative support to state agencies, boards, commissions, local governments, and state universities. Ms. Martin provided detail into the 25 agencies, boards, commissions, and DAS offerings. The largest agency they support is the Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board with 120 employees. The smallest agency has 5 employees. The DAS office staff is 5 ½ employees. They oversee over 400 state employees. DAS offers collective bargaining, equal opportunity, human resources, information technology, administrative support, and general services. They can do the entire job or act in a consulting capacity. One of the main initiatives that they offer is E-Licensing. The Ohio Department of Commerce-Division of Liquor Control uses this system for liquor licenses. In total the E-Licensing system handles over 850,000 licenses.

In other business, the Racing Commission considered the approval of Belterra Park and Jack Thistledown amended racing permit applications. In November and December 2019, the Racing Commission had deferred approvals pending sale and transfer of the Thistledown real property to VICI Properties, Inc. The Ohio Lottery and Casino Control Commissions have already approved the transaction. Appearing for Jack Thistledown were General Manager Angela Matthews and Senior Vice President of Government Relations and General Counsel Dan Reinhard. The main discussion concerned capital improvement monies earmarked after the property transitioned. The purchase price was $843 million with a $65 million yearly lease payment and 1% of net revenues on capital improvements, in addition to the normal allocation of capital improvement expenditures. They have earmarked $30 million in capital improvement monies for three years. That dollar amount is allocated one-half to the Cleveland Casino and Thistledown Racino. It will include the new outdoor gaming lounge for smokers. There were additional questions regarding advertising and promotion on racing and the patron’s experience. The Racing Commission unanimously approved Jack Thistledown’s amended permit application for 2020.

In consideration of Belterra Park’s amended racing permit application, Boyd Gaming’s Vice President of Legal Affairs James Adams, Belterra Park Vice President and General Manager Chris Corrado, and John Oberle with Ice Miller for Gaming and Leisure Properties (GLPI) appeared to discuss the amendment. Amendment of the permit was necessary due to Boyd Gaming’s interest in selling the Belterra Park real estate back to GLPI because they didn’t originally plan to purchase the real estate. Boyd wanted to revert back to the original plan for the facility, which was to triple-net lease the facility back from GLPI, the landowner. They described the same partnership in two other gaming jurisdictions with three other properties between GLPI and Boyd Gaming. Mr. Corrado discussed capital expenditures for racing. Belterra spent $250,000 to renovate the outside patio deck, $200,000 on roofing, $60,000 for a fourth tractor to groom the racetrack, and $30,000 on a new water truck. Mr. Corrado also discussed an increase in export and live wagering of 70%, with export being responsible for 80% of that increase. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified all requests.

There was consideration to approve the Standardbred Development Fund promotional and advertising budget held over from December’s meeting. The budget was originally reduced from $200,000 to $185,000 in December 2019’s Standardbred Development Committee meeting. January 16th the Standardbred Development Committee met and discussed additional reductions. The $50,000 to Eldorado for Super Night advertising and promotion, $25,000 for advertising and promoting the Consolation Finals night at MGM Northfield, and $10,000 to advertise and promote the Veteran Championships at Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway remained as originally proposed. The additional $100,000 for the Fund Administrator’s advertising and promotions was reduced to $51,890, for a combined 2020 budget of $136,891. The issue was tabled pending further discussion on reductions in the $51,890 budget.

The Racing Commission unanimously passed Resolution 2020-01, the distribution of casino tax revenue. Based on total revenue of $2,056,072.24 for the fourth quarter of 2019, the breakdown was: $390,653.73 each to the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund and Standardbred Development Fund for the quarter. For Standardbred racetrack purse pool support that included: Miami Valley Raceway $114,869.02, Northfield Park $314,920.76, Dayton Raceway $96,716.88, and Scioto Downs $109,385.56. Also included in the revenue disbursement were distributions to each of the Standardbred permit holders for commercial operations of $77,102.71, and a $102,803.61 (5%) distribution to the Ohio State Racing Commission to pay OSDF and TRF administration staff, and costs or fees associated with Miami Valley Gaming and Racing, Northfield Park, Belterra Park and Scioto Downs.

There was no monthly status update on the Permit Holder and Horsemen’s Agreement Negotiations between Belterra Park and the Ohio Horsemen’s Benevolent and Protective Association (OHBPA).

A recap on the horse racing fatalities to December 18, 2019 was provided by Racing Commission Veterinarian, Dr. James Robertson. It was noted that the numbers reported since 2009 are for training and racing related to catastrophic breakdowns, analogous to the Jockey Club’s reporting requirements for sudden deaths that occur during and up to 72 hours after a race. For 2020 there are no Thoroughbred and one Standardbred fatality. Year-to-date 2020 total catastrophic losses are no Thoroughbred fatalities and one Standardbred racing related fatality. For 2019 the recap numbers
are 37 Thoroughbred and 4 Standardbred catastrophic losses, a 14% decrease year-over-year.

The Monthly Racing Commission financial report was provided by Fiscal Officer Sherry White. Revenue shows a $50,000 increase year-over-year; however that is due to adding the track fine account monies to the Commission's reporting, and an IT refund. The expense categories are all within ten percent of their average balances. The operating fund has a little over $2.3 million. Although it fluctuates, the fund doesn't typically drop below $2M at any time during the year.

Agenda items regarding the Settlement Agreements of Steve Carter, Herman Hagerman, and Jason E. Moore: No documents related to the Settlement Agreements were disclosed or provided to those in attendance. Staff recommends adoption of the Settlement Agreements. There was discussion related to Jason E. Moore and a 2020 Court Judgment for approximately $2,000. The Staff recommended suspension of Mr. Moore's license. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified all staff recommendations.

Commissioner Hansen provided an update on the Medication and Testing Committee. The next committee meeting will be scheduled in February 2020. Chairman Hansen provided added detail that formal resolutions will be introduced, following that meeting for adoption by the Racing Commission.

For a transcript of the meeting, contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled racing commission meeting date is February 26, 2020. The meeting will be held at the Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., Columbus, Ohio.
Ohio Breeders Award Requirements

Mares registered in 2016 (Foals of 2017) mare registration date 12/31/16
Foal Age                  Membership Requirement
Bred 2016                     Grace Period, No Membership Required
Foal Born 2017                No Membership Required
Yearling 2018                  No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2019, 2020     Membership Required

Mares registered in 2017 (Foals of 2018) mare registration date 12/31/17
Foal Age                  Membership Requirement
Bred 2017                      Membership Required
Foal Born 2018                 Membership Required
Yearling 2019                   No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2020, 2021     Membership Required

Mares registered in 2018 (Foals of 2019) mare registration date 11/30/18
Foal Age                  Membership Requirement
Bred 2018                      Membership Required
Foal Born 2019                 Membership Required
Yearling 2020                   No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2021, 2022     No Membership Required

Mares registered in 2019 (Foals of 2020) mare registration date 11/30/19
Registrations received from 12-1-19 to 12-30-19 must be accompanied by a $100 per-mare late fee in addition to mare registration fee.
Foal Age                  Membership Requirement
Bred 2018                      Membership Required
Foal Born 2020                 Membership Required

Registration Fee: $20 per mare

Membership Requirements: All owners of the mare (including those in businesses or stables) are required to join as Active OHHA Members. All business entities or stables listed as owners are required to join as Associate Members.

Mare Residency: Mare must be Ohio resident, foal in Ohio and remain in Ohio for 187 consecutive days.