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## **News Release**

### **ORC releases Program Criteria for the Standardbred Improvement Program**

Toronto, ON – The 2009 Program Criteria guidebook for the Standardbred Improvement Program is now available from the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC). The guidebook includes the detailed requirements for Program eligibility, and forms to enrol mares in the Ontario Resident Mare Program for foals of 2009.

An electronic version of the 2009 Program Criteria guidebook (and all necessary forms) has also been posted on the ORC website and can be accessed from a link on the home page at [www.ontarioracingcommission.ca](http://www.ontarioracingcommission.ca). To request a printed copy of the booklet, contact the ORC at 416-213-0520, or email your request to [programs@ontarioracingcommission.ca](mailto:programs@ontarioracingcommission.ca).

The ORC has contracted with Standardbred Canada to provide administrative support for the new Ontario Resident Mare Program. Any administrative questions about the Ontario Resident Mare Program can be directed to either the ORC or Standardbred Canada at (905) 868-3060.

Any administrative questions about the Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) should be directed to the OSS Administrative Coordinator, Karen Hauver at (416) 213-0520.

The Ontario Resident Mare Program is a brand new initiative beginning with the foals of 2009. Participants are encouraged to make themselves familiar with the Program criteria to ensure that all of the requirements to enrol their mares are met. Mare owners (or their authorized agents) have until September 1<sup>st</sup> (2009) to enrol their mares, in order for 2009 foals to be eligible for Registered Ontario Bred status.

The September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline is only applicable for enrolling Ontario Resident Mares for the 2009 foaling year. Mare owners should be aware that for 2010 foals, the mare must be enrolled with the Program prior to date of foaling out in Ontario. Details on the 2010 requirements are included in the 2009 Program Criteria guidebook.

“We are pleased to see the launch of this exciting new program for Standardbred breeders,” said Wendy Hoogeveen, Director of Industry Development and Support. “The Ontario Resident Mare Program was one of the key recommendations that came forward from the industry for the Horse Improvement Program. These are the types of programs that can maximize the economic contribution from the Standardbred breeding sector to the local economy.”