



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 1, 2026**

**Media Contact:**

Sarah Sheehan

New York Sire Stakes

NYSS@caphill.com

518-694-5002

**Agriculture & NYS Horse Breeding Development Fund Releases 2026 New York Sire Stakes, Excelsior Series and County Fair Schedules**

*2026 race schedules now available online at the New York Sire Stakes [website](#)*

ALBANY, N.Y. – The Agriculture & New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund is pleased to announce the release of the 2026 New York Sire Stakes, Excelsior Series, and County Fair racing program schedules for the upcoming season.

The 2026 schedules highlight another exciting year of racing for New York-bred Standardbreds, with competitive opportunities for 2- and 3-year-old colt and filly pacers and trotters at racetracks and county fair venues across New York State. Full schedules and racing information are now available on the New York Sire Stakes website at [www.nysirestakes.com/racing/](http://www.nysirestakes.com/racing/).

*“The release of the 2026 racing schedules marks the beginning of another exciting season for New York’s harness racing community,” said Fletcher Whyland, Executive Director of the Agriculture & New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund. “These schedules reflect the continued strength of our state-bred racing program and provide owners, breeders, trainers, and fans with outstanding opportunities to compete and celebrate the success of New York-bred Standardbreds throughout the season.”*

**New York Sire Stakes**

The 2026 New York Sire Stakes season will feature premier races for 2- and 3-year-old colt and filly pacers and trotters at racetracks throughout New York State, culminating with the annual Night of Champions later in the season.

The Agriculture & New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund is a public benefit corporation established in 1965 by the Laverne Law (Chapter 567 of the Laws of 1965). The mission of the Fund is to promote agriculture through the breeding of Standardbred horses and the conduct of equine research within the state. To carry out its legislative mission, the Fund administers the New York Sire Stakes races, Excelsior Series races, and County Fair races.

### **Excelsior Series**

The 2026 Excelsior Series will once again provide additional opportunities for New York-bred horses to compete throughout the racing season, featuring 2- and 3-year-old colt and filly pace and trot divisions across New York State.

### **County Fair Series**

The 2026 County Fair Series remains an important part of New York's harness racing tradition, showcasing the sport at county fair tracks across the state and continuing to provide valuable racing opportunities in a community-centered setting.

The New York Sire Stakes is the state's premier harness racing program for 2- and 3-year-old Standardbreds. Established to encourage the breeding, buying, and racing of Standardbred horses in New York State, it is the nation's oldest harness racing program of its kind and has served as a model for state-bred racing programs.

To learn more and view the complete 2026 race schedules, visit the New York Sire Stakes website at <http://www.nysirestakes.com/racing/>.

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