



COUNTRY LIFE PRESS

Maryland's Oldest Breeding Farm: Established 1933

From Beginning To Winning



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Stakes Bound!

Partnership filly Monte Crista is heading to the \$100,000 TaWee Stakes at Indiana Grand on July 19th after three straight wins on the turf. The 3-year-old filly made her racing debut earlier this year on the dirt, before turf season opened, finishing off the board. She then ran on the turf at Laurel in April and won the Maiden Special Weight race by more than 4 lengths. A rainy May kept her from making another start until June 10th at Monmouth, where she defeated a good field of allowance runners on the grass. She returned at Laurel two weeks later and again defeated a nice allowance field by 4 lengths without being asked for her best.

The half-sister to Champion MD-bred runner Just Howard was bred for the grass, just like her sibling who is a multiple stakes winner on the turf with a win in the G3 Commonwealth Derby last year. Bred by the late Howard Bender from the Alphabet Soup mare Aruban Sandwich, the Cape Blanco filly has now earned almost \$75,000 in 4 starts. She'll look to add some blacktype to her pedigree by running in stakes the rest of the summer and fall. Trainer Mike Trombetta has managed the filly perfectly, picking her races carefully this spring.

The TaWee Stakes at Indiana Grand has a full field of 12 fillies entered. Monte Crista will ship west a couple days ahead of the race and she'll have regular jockey Julian Pimentel in the irons for the 1 mile turf stakes.



Monte Crista winning her 3rd straight on the grass at Laurel (top). Partners celebrate in the winner's circle after (bottom). Photos: Jim McCue

Successful Breeding Season Ends



Clockwise from top left: Divining Rod, Freedom Child, Friesan Fire and Mosler.

The 2018 breeding season started on February 14th and just finished up. 205 mares went through our breeding shed, with Divining Rod covering 102 of those mares in his first season at stud. More than 80 mares have been confirmed in foal to him so far.

Mosler bred the 2nd most mares in his second year at stud after having stellar first foals hitting the ground all over the mid-Atlantic. After breeding 102 mares in his first season at stud last year he has 69 live foals reported so far.

Last year's leading Freshman sire Freedom Child and leading General sire Friesan Fire both bred more mares this year than last year. Friesan Fire saw a flurry of late bookings after his son Army Mule won the G1 Carter Handicap. Army Mule's dam Crafty Toast and her daughter Toasty both visited Friesan Fire in the breeding shed this year. Super Ninety Nine bred a handful of mares before an injury sidelined him for the remainder of the breeding season. He has his first 2 year olds running this summer, including the colt that sold for \$100,000 at the Mid-Atlantic 2-year-old in Training Sale who has been breezing at Parx.

Last Foal of 2018!



Into Mischief—Bandstand filly,
born 6/21.

Owned by Country Life Farm/Bandstand
LLC

Our last foal of 2018 sure made us wait.
Her dam Bandstand went an incredible
372 days (normal gestation is about 342
days). She was worth the wait though,
and is a real character!

91 Foals delivered
49 fillies—42 colts



MHBA Yearling Show



Left to right: Country Life/Merryland General Manager Christy Holden, Kiley Turner-Heroux, Ashley Randall, Cheyenne Piccolo, Fabian Herrera, Kim Crowell, Avery Dedeo, Mollie Brooks, Armando Gutierrez, Jesus Gutierrez Sepulbeda.

The 84th Annual Maryland Horse Breeders Yearling Show was held on Sunday, June 24th at the Timonium Fairgrounds. The judge was NY trainer Rick Violette, who had a tough job of evaluating 96 yearlings that were foaled in Maryland last year.

Country Life prepped and exhibited a record 18 yearlings at the show. All behaved well during the long periods in the ring (classes averaged 24 horses and lasted over an hour each). Several made the first cut down to the top 8 in the class. The Freedom Child filly out of Hurricane Isabella earned 4th place in her class, which was the largest of the day with 32 fillies entered. Bred and owned by Linda Walls and George Busche, the filly is named Freedom Blayze. A "Grooms Award" was won by the Palace Malice filly out of Fifteen Moons, whose chestnut coat was glistening in the sun. The entire crew, led by Merryland broodmare manager Kim Crowell, should be commended for the excellent job they did getting so many horses ready for the day while in the midst of a very busy breeding and foaling season!



5 CLF yearlings wait their turn to walk and pose for the judge.



Kim Crowell celebrates a 4th place ribbon for the Hurricane Isabella filly in the biggest class of the day.



A busy barn aisleway as horses get their final grooming touches before going into the ring.