



## April 2024

### HB 1524 Passes in Annapolis



The black tarp draped over the oldest section of the Pimlico grandstand will be a symbolic memory soon. Maryland House Bill 1524, passed in early April by state lawmakers, will see that the tarp comes down and a new Pimlico rises up.

To take effect on June 1 of this year, HB 1524 will pump \$400 million into Maryland's storied horse industry. A completely rebuilt Pimlico will come off the drawing boards. Maryland horse owners and breeders will assume control of their destiny.

The lesson from the sudden closure of Golden Gate Fields in northern California was not lost on Maryland legislators. HB 1524 empowers the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority to guide and oversee the industry's future.

Click link for Turfwriter Frank Vespe's [summary of the new legislation](#), and what it means for the future of Maryland breeding and racing.

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**Breeding Update:**  
**COUNTRY LIFE CONNECTION**  
**TO 2024 KENTUCKY DERBY**

Broodmare Partnership mare "KENDA" is sister to dam of  
Derby Prospect DOMESTIC PRODUCT



With stakes winner Kenda due to foal at Country Life any night now, we are watching with excitement the progress of her "nephew" Domestic Product. If workouts indicate readiness, get ready for a big run from Domestic Product; his last breezes at Payson Park for trainer Chad Brown ranked 1-of-58, 3-of-61, and 1-of-47. Read handicapper Byron King's notes:

**12. Domestic Product**

*This late finisher is a better horse than his modest speed figures suggest. He raced in a pair of tepid-paced races this year that made fast times challenging. A class evaluation seems a better way to analyze this colt. Second in the Feb. 3 Holy Bull Stakes behind Hades when Fierceness was a lackluster third, Domestic Product subsequently won the March 9 Lambholm South Tampa Bay Derby in a bunched finish. None of those behind him in the Tampa Bay Derby are leading players in the 3-year-old division, with the best of them being close third-place Grand Mo the First, a next-out distant third in the Florida Derby behind Fierceness.*

News that the nation's 2nd-leading rider Irad Ortiz, Jr., has accepted the Derby mount on Domestic Product is a strong sign that the colt is improving at the perfect moment.

Country Life Breeding Partners in Kenda are enjoying her "live" family. On advice from our longtime bloodstock agent John Stuart, Country Life bid \$70,000 for Kenda at the 2023 Keeneland November sale. The mare has a City of Light 2-year-old named Filosa, who brought \$210,000 as a yearling.

All this data drop is because Kenda's 1/2-sister, Goods and Services, is the dam of Domestic Product. His Grade 3-victory in the Tampa Bay Derby boosted the pedigree considerably. Imagine, though, what a Kentucky Derby would

mean to the catalog page?

At the moment, Kenda is stabled in the Country Life foaling stalls. Tune in to our [Foal-Cam channel](#) to check on her status. She is in foal to Gainesway Farm's popular young stallion Olympiad. She is booked for 2024 to freshman sire and 2022 Champion 2-year-old colt Forte at Spendthrift Farm in Kentucky.

## Through the Generations



The swings of fortune in the horse business often seem unfair. Witness this week's Ocala Breeders 2-Year-Old Sales pinhooks for Country Life's mother/daughter duo of Fifteen Moons and Moon Vision.

At last autumn's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Yearling sale, on behalf of the Fifteen Moons Broodmare Partnership, we sold the mare's Omaha Beach filly for a handsome price of \$80,000. This week, that filly turned in a swift :10 2/5 breeze for the Ocala sale, but she only brought \$12,000 on resale. Perhaps her X-rays failed veterinary approval?

Meanwhile, partners in the Moon Vision Broodmare LLC enjoyed a respectable update when her 2-year-old colt by Jimmy Creed brought \$115,000. We had sold him as a weanling for \$38,000; he was resold as a yearling for \$65,000. This week, he was purchased by Terry Finley's West Point Thoroughbreds after working in :10 flat, so maybe they will take advantage of the rewards available to Maryland-breds.

Pinhook successes make the headlines. Unreported are the swings and misses that pinhookers face. We wish the best of luck to the new owners of these Maryland-bred 2-year-olds out of Fifteen Moons and Moon Vision.

Both mares foaled 2024 babies at Country Life this spring. Fifteen Moons delivered a whopping big colt by (who else?): Jimmy Creed. She is in Kentucky being bred to Known Agenda.

Moon Vision just foaled a handsome colt by Florida Derby winner Known Agenda and is booked back to (who else?): Jimmy Creed.

Why so much Jimmy Creed blood? We are following the Federico Tesio inbreeding axiom of returning the best blood of the dam through the sire. Winner of the Gr. 1-Malibu Stakes, Jimmy Creed is out of Hookedonthefeelin, a mare sired by Country Life stallion Citidancer. And Jimmy Creed's sire, Distorted Humor, represents the Mr. Prospector sire line through Forty Niner.

This family has been very good to Country Life and our breeding partners. It started with the Allen's Prospect mare Prospective Joy in the 1990s. She produced Gr. 1-winner Hookedonthefeelin, in turn the dam of Gr. 1-winner Pussycat Doll, in turn the dam of Gr. 1-winner Aquaphobia.

A 1/2-sister to Hookedonthefeelin, Fifteen Moons is the dam of Ariel Moon, a promising 3-year-old by Mosler in the farm's racing stable. Her other foals include Lunar Rille, dam of a 2-year-old Bolt d'Oro colt presently at the Middleburg Training Center earning Virginia certification. Lunar Rille produced a 2024 filly by Vekoma, and the mare is back in foal to Cyberknife, a son of Gun Runner.

Yet another daughter of Fiteen Moons in the Country Life broodmare band: Fifteen Royals. A fleet filly who earned \$100,000, Fifteen Royals is the dam of an excellent yearling filly by Divining Rod, and she is in foal to Maximus Mischief for next spring.

Good broodmares are few. We are happy to have a select few from the fine family of Country Life's foundation mare Prospective Joy.

Scroll through the photos of our March foals (below) to see the Vekoma filly out of Lunar Rille and the Jimmy Creed colt out of Fifteen Moons. Click on the photos to go to Ellen Pons' superb "Foal Galleries" collection. No other farm provides such an artistic record of the first breaths and the first steps of their foals.

## THE SAGA CONTINUES...



Second careers for Thoroughbred racehorses allow many horses to fulfill a different destiny. Love Saga, a stout bay filly by Mosler out of the stakes-winning Malibu Moon mare Sagamoon, tried but failed to win on the flat. On April 6 at the Old Dominion steeplechase meet in Virginia, Love Saga jumped around in front from start to finish to win a \$30,000 hurdle event.

Veteran Country Life Partner Lucy Howard campaigns Love Saga in her storied Ivy Hill Stable silks. The 5-year-old neophyte jumper Love Saga is trained as well as ridden by Sean McDermott. Interestingly, Sean also rode/trained Vivian Rall's 5-year-old Icandothat, by Divining Rod, to another front-running \$25,000 conditioned claiming hurdle win the following weekend at Tryon.

The hurdle race was a National Steeplechase Association sanctioned event. The Virginia-certified Love Saga thus earned a Virginia Certified Developer Award for her former Country Life racing partnership members. Should she come home to Maryland to win another N.S.A.-sanctioned event, she would

earn a Maryland-breeders award. How important it has become for racehorses to be eligible to the lucrative programs available to Mid-Atlantic horse owners.

Keep up the good work in your new career, Love Saga....

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## TOURING THE FARM



An example of the regard Marylanders hold for horses was evident when Country Life hosted a tour for the "Upper Falls Retiree Activity Club" on Thursday, April 18. Appropriately, they came on Cigar's birthday. Remember Cigar? He was foaled here at Country Life in 1990. He ranks as the leading Maryland-bred earner of all-time with \$9,890,000, and winner of an historic 16 straight races.

While Ellen Pons hung out the Happy Birthday Cigar banner on busy Route 1 at the foot of the farm, The Upper Falls Club walked through fields of mares and foals, saw the stallions Friesan Fire, Divining Rod, and Mosler, and enjoyed a brief history of Country Life while gathered in the farmhouse surrounded by images of famous horses.

Perhaps with the good news that Pimlico will be restored, the Maryland Horse Breeders Association may once again arrange for Open Houses for the beautiful farms of Maryland, raising the foals to fill the races at Pimlico.

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**March Foals**  
(click on picture for link to gallery)

**In It For The Gold -  
Authentic filly**

March 3rd 2024 at 9:41 pm



Foaled at Country Life Farm

**Bred by Country Life Farm &  
In It for the Gold Broodmare LLC**

**Determined Honour -  
Vino Rosso filly**

March 4th 2024 at 2:33 am



Foaled at Country Life Farm

**Bred by Tanterra Stables LLC**

**Candystand -  
Independence Hall filly**

March 5th 2024 at 11:33 pm



Foaled at Country Life Farm

**Bred by Marie Trombetta**

**Yougottabekitten -  
Raging Bull colt**

March 6th 2024 at 6:39 pm



Foaled at Country Life Farm

**Bred by Mike Samotowka**

Lunar Rille -  
Vekoma filly

March 7th 2024 at 2:36 am



Foaled at Country Life Farm

**Bred by Country Life Farm &  
Lunar Rille Broodmare LLC**

Poronui -  
Golden Pal filly

March 10th 2024 at 4:23am



Foaled at Country Life Farm

**Bred by Charles Parker  
(Barak Farm)**

Belloma -  
Divining Rod filly

March 13th 2024 at 9:17 pm



Foaled at Country Life Farm

**Bred by Tony & Ruth Bashore**

E Dubai's Humor -  
Blofeld filly

March 17th 2024 at 7:24 pm



Foaled at Country Life Farm

**Bred by Randy Ridgely**

**Important -  
Mosler filly**

March 17th 2024 at 4:42 am



Foaled at Country Life Farm

**Bred by Bobby Flock**

**Bells Of War-  
Maximus Mischief colt**

March 19th 2024 at 5:00 pm



Foaled at Country Life Farm

**Bred by Marie Trombetta &  
Commonwealth New Era Racing**

**Fifteen Moons -  
Jimmy Creed colt**

March 21st 2024 at 11:47 pm



Foaled at Country Life Farm

**Bred by Country Life Farm &  
Fifteen Moons Broodmare LLC**

**Trendy Wendy -  
Mosler colt**

March 22nd 2024 at 3:46 am



Foaled at Country Life Farm

**Bred by Tony & Ruth Bashore**



Palace Lush -  
Mosler colt

March 26th 2024 at 12:01am



Foaled at Country Life Farm

Bred by Daniel Eubanks

Oh What A Delite -  
Blofeld colt

March 29th 2024 at 3:02 am



Foaled at Country Life Farm

Bred by Wendy Komlo

Foaling Webcam

## Country Life Bred or Sired Winners

### DIVINING ROD

**BO'S BOURBON:** 3/7 at PEN, Claiming (breeder Clover Hill Farm, Inc.; owner Larry Metz and Robert D Bone; trainer Kieron Magee)

**RUSTYS GFIVEFIFTY:** 3/8 at PEN, Claiming (breeder Bowman & Higgins Stable; owner Robert Derr; trainer Tim Kreiser)

**DIVINE FASHION:** 3/8 at CT, Starter (breeder Susan Wantz; owner Richard Burnsworth; trainer Anthony Farrior)

**JUDGEMENT DAY:** 3/9 at CT, Allowance (breeder Tim & Judy Grams; owner Grams Racing Stable LLC; trainer Tim Grams)

**DAZZY:** 3/15 at AQU, Waiver Claiming (breeder Robert T. Manfuso; owner Tee N Jay Stable; trainer Tim Hills)

**QUANTICO CREEK:** 3/22 at CT, Claiming (breeder Gainesway Thoroughbreds Ltd; owner Timothy Freitag; trainer Donald Barber)

### MOSLER

**TOUISSET:** 3/1 at LRL, Allowance (breeder Country Life Farm, Paul Berube & Karen Linnell; owner Paul Berube, Karen Linnell and Heather B. Hunter; trainer Michael E. Gorham)

**QUINT'S BREW:** 3/2 at LRL, Maiden (breeder Paul Berube, Karen Linnell & Spinnaker Hill Farm; owner Paul Berube, Karen Linnell and Heather B. Hunter; trainer Michael E. Gorham)

**MY SUZIE Q:** 3/7 at MVR, Maiden (breeder Adele B. Dilschneider; owner Jason DaCosta and Stacey Ondercin; trainer Jason DaCosta)

**EDESTER:** 3/16 at LRL, Maiden (breeder/owner BTR Racing, Inc.; trainer Brittany Russell)

**SAPPHIRE BEAUTY:** 3/23 at LRL, Claiming (breeder Country Life Farm & Rock Sapphire LLC; owner Randy Frock; trainer Charles Frock)

**MOSLER TIME:** 3/24 at LRL, Claiming (breeder Carl Lanier; owner Durr Racing Stable & Shawn Newsome; trainer Cathal Lynch)

**LUV YA BYE BYE:** 3/29 at LRL, Claiming (breeder Country Life Farm & Winding Creek Farm; owner Jose Gallegos; trainer W. McMahon)

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### **FRIESAN FIRE**

**THENCOMEMORNING:** 3/15 at LRL, Claiming (breeder Donald Clifford Wilson; owner Roger B. Sterling; trainer David Howard)

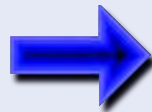
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### **OTHER COUNTRY LIFE/PARTNERSHIP-bred or OWNED winners:**

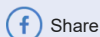
**ACE NINE NINE (Super Ninety Nine - Smash Review)** - Starter Allowance win on 3/22 at Laurel. Bred by Country Life Farm; owned by Robert R. Beck and trained by Kieron Magee. This warhorse has now earned \$273,554 in 53 starts.

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training videos and more!**



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