



## **EMERALD DOWNS ANNOUNCES HORSEMEN INCENTIVES**

AUBURN, Wash. (January 9, 2015) – Larger purses and lower costs will greet horsemen for the 2015 live racing season at Emerald Downs.

The track has announced several incentives to complement last month's announcement that daily purse distribution would increase approximately 20 percent for the 70-day meet that runs April 18 through September 27.

The new Trainer Participation Incentive Program includes: Early-Bird Move-In Bonus (February–May), reduced start-up costs (first eight bags of bedding per stall provided), and lower fees on both dorm rentals and mechanical hot-walkers. Also, trainers have the opportunity to recover up to 100 percent of per stall per day costs based on a stall efficiency factor and conservation of utilities.

"After many years of increased expenses for trainers and owners, we're grateful to be involved in creating positive incentives that deliver good economic news to horsemen," said Washington Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association Executive Director MaryAnn O'Connell.

"A program that translates cost savings and productive participation directly into bonus dollars for horsemen is empowering as it fosters and rewards a team effort for success of the new ownership."

The 2015 season marks the 20<sup>th</sup> season of live racing at Emerald Downs. The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe is actively working towards acquiring the track. The Tribe is currently working on the required WHRC license application to own and operate Emerald Downs and its off-track wagering facilities.

In addition to the 20 percent increase in average daily overnight purses, every unplaced starter will receive a \$200 participation fee (up from \$125) and horses competing in races at 1 1/16 miles or longer will be offered additional purse money.

Emerald Downs' stable area opens Saturday, January 31 and training begins Monday, February 2. Stall applications are available online at [emeralddowns.com](http://emeralddowns.com) in the horsemen section.