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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**New York Sire Stakes Holds Virtual Banquet
Honoring U.S. Trotting Association District 8 2021 Award Winners**
Ahundreddollarbill Named USTA District 8 Horse of the Year

Schenectady, N.Y. – United States Trotting Association District 8 announces the winners of its 2021 year-end awards. George Ducharme has been named Trainer of the Year; Pari-Mutuel Driver of the Year goes to Jason Bartlett; County Fair Driver of the Year is Kyle Cummings and Horse of the Year goes to Ahundreddollarbill.

Ducharme had 22 starters and 90 starts this season with NYSS and Excelsior Series earnings of \$364,914. The leading money-winning trainer at Vernon Downs this year, overall he has posted the third highest earnings of his career this season - \$1.5 million.

A resident of Goshen, N.Y., Bartlett earned more than a million dollars traveling the Sire Stakes circuit this summer, while also posting more than \$5.3 Million at his home track of Yonkers. Bartlett is on pace to post his largest number of starts in a decade in 2021.

With 50 starts on the circuit, Cummings brought 26 home for the win. On his home circuit in Western New York, Cummings has already doubled his seasonal earnings from last year and directing horses to more than \$600,000 in purses so far this season.

Ahundreddollarbill, owned by District 8's Crawford Farms Racing and James Crawford IV, earned the top honor of the evening. The son of Chapter Seven won four NYSS legs, the Empire Breeders Classic and the Canadian Trotting Classic on his way to \$633,000 in seasonal earnings with 8 wins in 13 starts.

The awardees were recognized during the joint NYSS and USTA District 8 virtual banquet held Sunday, November 14th on [Facebook Live](#). The evening honored champion horses, trainers, drivers, owners and breeders of the NYSS, the Excelsior Series, the New York County Fair Series and the USTA divisional champions.

New York Sire Stakes Winners:

Leading Driver, Jason Bartlett
Leading Trainer, Ake Svanstedt
Leading Breeder, Winbak Farm

New York Sire Stakes County Fair Winners:

Leading Driver, Kyle Cummings

Leading Trainer, Claude Huckabone III

USTA District 8 Winners:

Valentina Blu – 2-Year-Old Trotting Filly

Owner: Crawford Farms Racing

Quincy Market – 2-Year-Old Trotting Colt

Owners: Harmony Oaks Racing Stable INC, James Crawford IV, Berg Bros. Stable, Yorwollahan Racing Team

Hamptons Babe – 2-Year-Old Pacing Filly

Owner: Crawford Farms Racing

JD – 2-Year-Old Pacing Colt

Owners: Ray Schnittker, George Zitone and Melissa Beckwith

Cindy Michelle – 3-Year-Old Trotting Filly

Owner: Peter Barbato and Sam Bova Racing LLC

Ahundreddollarbill – 3-Year-Old Trotting Colt

Owner: Crawford Farms Racing and James Crawford IV

Therewasthisgirl – 3-Year-Old Pacing Filly

Owner: George Ducharme Stable and Heather Marshall

Natameri – 3-Year-Old Pacing Colt

Owner: Purple Haze Stables LLC

“On behalf of our board of directors, I’d like to congratulate this year’s winners,” said USTA District 8 Chairman Todd Haight. “Every year, New York State delivers some of the best horses and horsemen our sport produces and continues to represent this district greatly.”

Awards plaques will be mailed directly to the 2021 winners. To watch the NYSS & USTA District 8 Awards Banquet, click [here](#).

About the Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund:

The Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund (the Fund) is a public benefit corporation established in 1965 by the Laverne Law (Laws of New York, 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/State Fair Series races, and County Fair Races.

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