

FRESHMAN SIREs *at the Sales*

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breeders will pause after the yearling sales and decide which high fashion numbers they want to gamble on next year. Since not everybody can send their mares to Tapit or War Front, the targets are invariably one of the leading first-crop sires with yearlings.

A look at first-crop sires through the September sale

Foals resulting from these matings will come to market as weanlings two years from now and as yearlings three years from now. Predicting which of these sires is going to be not only a successful sire but a viable commercial entity that far into the future is a very uncertain science.

An unproven stallion remains so until his 3-year-olds have shown what they can do. More than a few top-ranked freshman sires have been known to drop off the charts as the foal crop matures and the progeny of other sires grow into themselves. A few names such as Dunkirk, Henrythenavigator, Spring At Last, Flashy Bull, or Chapel Royal should remind everyone of the unpredictable future that can follow ranking among the leading freshman sires.

Then again, sometimes the cream rises immediately to the top and stays there. Tapit was the leading freshman sire of his year (2008) as was Tiznow (2005), Street Cry (2006), and Scat Daddy (2011). First-crop yearling averages would not have consistently predicted these sire successes. Tapit's first-crop yearling average was \$50,857; Tiznow's, \$143,593; Street Cry's, \$103,517, and Scat Daddy's, \$52,285.

While yearling averages have an uncanny way of following stud fees, highest to lowest, there have been instances of cheaper horses exceeding expectations and high-priced horses disappointing. Trappe Shot stood for just \$10,000 and no one could have predicted that he would lead the 2014 freshman sires of sales yearlings with an average of \$115,713. His contemporary, champion Uncle Mo,

LEADING FIRST-CROP SIREs OF 2015 BY AVERAGE (3 OR MORE SOLD; INCLUDES 'SHORT YEARLINGS')

Name	Offered	Sold	Gross	Average	Median	High
Bodemeister	101	71	\$12,768,500	\$179,838	\$125,000	\$850,000
The Factor	79	66	\$9,792,000	\$148,364	\$100,000	\$750,000
Union Rags	72	54	\$7,396,000	\$136,963	\$120,000	\$460,000
Tapizar	68	51	\$4,763,000	\$93,392	\$90,000	\$250,000
Jersey Town	22	18	\$1,658,500	\$92,139	\$34,000	\$500,000
Creative Cause	46	29	\$2,235,000	\$77,069	\$50,000	\$400,000
Shackleford	84	52	\$3,982,500	\$76,587	\$38,500	\$340,000
To Honor and Serve	64	47	\$3,544,500	\$75,415	\$47,000	\$450,000
Gemologist	91	69	\$4,034,570	\$58,472	\$45,000	\$280,000
Stay Thirsty	58	44	\$2,525,500	\$57,398	\$37,500	\$250,000
Hansen	62	49	\$2,739,705	\$55,912	\$40,000	\$250,000
Mission Impazible	23	18	\$983,000	\$54,611	\$40,000	\$155,000
Aikenite	9	4	\$213,000	\$53,250	\$36,500	\$120,000
Astrology	62	43	\$2,157,200	\$50,167	\$25,000	\$425,000
Dialed In	61	44	\$2,158,500	\$49,057	\$26,500	\$270,000
Acclamation	8	7	\$321,500	\$45,929	\$17,000	\$200,000
Dominus	24	19	\$811,400	\$42,705	\$15,000	\$250,000
Maclean's Music	54	43	\$1,612,820	\$37,507	\$20,000	\$200,000
Soaring Empire	6	5	\$162,500	\$32,500	\$16,000	\$100,000
Caleb's Posse	20	15	\$476,883	\$31,792	\$15,000	\$110,000
Americain	19	11	\$347,200	\$31,564	\$30,000	\$100,000
Brilliant Speed	7	6	\$173,500	\$28,917	\$14,500	\$80,000
Algorithms	54	42	\$1,145,000	\$27,262	\$15,000	\$110,000
Coil	12	10	\$266,583	\$26,658	\$19,500	\$65,000
Rule	6	3	\$77,000	\$25,667	\$20,000	\$55,000
Calimanco	6	5	\$123,500	\$24,700	\$33,000	\$40,000
Boys At Tosconova	4	3	\$72,000	\$24,000	\$15,000	\$50,000
Country Day	4	4	\$95,500	\$23,875	\$22,250	\$42,000
Star Guitar	16	10	\$185,200	\$18,520	\$4,500	\$95,000
Atta Boy Roy	12	12	\$219,900	\$18,325	\$14,250	\$50,000
Bullet Train	20	16	\$287,559	\$17,972	\$13,000	\$62,000
Smart Bid	5	3	\$50,000	\$16,667	\$20,000	\$22,000
Biondetti	29	22	\$323,700	\$14,714	\$9,250	\$50,000
Field Commission	16	10	\$144,000	\$14,400	\$13,500	\$26,000
Get Stormy	23	16	\$220,005	\$13,750	\$8,500	\$37,570
Bold Warrior	5	3	\$41,000	\$13,667	\$14,000	\$20,000
Redeemed	11	9	\$121,700	\$13,522	\$7,500	\$45,000
Cal Nation	5	3	\$38,000	\$12,667	\$4,500	\$30,000
Overdriven	21	17	\$203,000	\$11,941	\$6,000	\$45,000
Mad Flatter	7	6	\$60,500	\$10,083	\$5,750	\$25,000
Calibrachoa	7	3	\$24,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$11,500
Musketier	5	4	\$27,014	\$6,754	\$5,007	\$15,000
Redding Colliery	16	14	\$84,300	\$6,021	\$4,000	\$15,000
Nicanor	5	5	\$30,000	\$6,000	\$4,000	\$17,000
Sway Away	3	3	\$17,600	\$5,867	\$5,000	\$11,000
True Sense	6	5	\$25,213	\$5,043	\$5,460	\$9,289
Eye of the Leopard	9	8	\$39,100	\$4,888	\$4,750	\$11,000
Heavenly Chorus	3	3	\$8,720	\$2,907	\$1,896	\$6,218
Lentenor	4	3	\$5,400	\$1,800	\$1,200	\$3,200

ended the year second with an average of \$108,642.

While Round 1 went to Trappe Shot, Round 2 seems to be going to Uncle Mo, who is currently the leading freshman sire by a wide dollar margin over Twirling Candy. Trappe Shot is further down the list, and at present has yet to see his first stakes winner while Uncle Mo has three, a pair of them graded.

Trappe Shot has three months to catch up, and being one of the best early sons of Tapit, it wouldn't be a surprise if he does well in the long run, but his second-crop yearling average has fallen to \$45,644 so far this year.

Few are surprised Uncle Mo is making such an outstanding start with his first runners. His impressive good looks translated into impressive first yearlings and now good early racers like their sire. His 2015 yearlings have averaged \$90,198 so far.

Second on the first-crop sire list by earnings is Twirling Candy, whose first-crop yearling average in 2014 was just \$43,009, although he was one of the surprising developments at the 2-year-old sales this winter and spring. Buyers obviously liked them better in motion than standing still. His 2015 yearling average was up to \$57,735.

In 2013 the leading first-crop year-

FIRST-CROP YEARLING SIRES AT THE KEENELAND SEPTEMBER SALE

Name	Offered	Sold	Gross	Average	Median	High
Frankel	4	2	\$1,300,000	\$650,000	\$650,000	\$800,000
Acclamation	1	1	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Bodemeister	76	48	\$8,572,000	\$178,583	\$120,000	\$850,000
So You Think	1	1	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Union Rags	56	41	\$5,169,000	\$126,073	\$105,000	\$430,000
The Factor	59	47	\$5,842,000	\$124,298	\$95,000	\$600,000
Nathaniel	1	1	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$110,000
Redoute's Choice	2	1	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Tapizar	44	36	\$3,358,000	\$93,278	\$90,000	\$250,000
Jersey Town	9	8	\$653,000	\$81,625	\$32,000	\$270,000
Stay Thirsty	35	25	\$1,847,500	\$73,900	\$50,000	\$250,000
Shackleford	49	34	\$2,455,000	\$72,206	\$35,000	\$260,000
Star Guitar	3	2	\$135,000	\$67,500	\$67,500	\$95,000
Creative Cause	34	21	\$1,413,000	\$67,286	\$42,000	\$400,000
Excelebration (IRE)	3	2	\$130,000	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$75,000
To Honor and Serve	52	37	\$2,221,500	\$60,041	\$47,000	\$250,000
Astrology	32	25	\$1,460,500	\$58,420	\$15,500	\$425,000
Gemologist	52	38	\$2,059,000	\$54,184	\$45,000	\$210,000
Soaring Empire	2	2	\$102,500	\$51,250	\$51,250	\$100,000
Hansen	41	32	\$1,596,500	\$49,891	\$41,000	\$200,000
Dialed In	33	23	\$1,026,000	\$44,609	\$22,000	\$175,000
Maclean's Music	27	20	\$880,000	\$44,000	\$29,000	\$200,000
Americain	15	10	\$344,200	\$34,420	\$30,500	\$100,000
Brilliant Speed	4	3	\$95,500	\$31,833	\$11,000	\$80,000
Dominus	11	8	\$249,500	\$31,188	\$27,500	\$67,000



Yearlings from Bodemeister's first crop are averaging \$179,838 in 2015

ling sires by sales average were Blame (\$182,512), Eskendereya (\$126,489), Quality Road (\$109,750), Super Saver (\$91,640), and Lookin At Lucky (\$83,247). Quality Road wound up as the 2014 leading freshman sire by earnings with Super Saver and Lookin At Lucky in hot pursuit. With 3-year-olds running, all five of these young sires have been overtaken by Munnings, the nation's current leading second-crop sire by about \$600,000 over Lookin At Lucky and sire of 11 2015 stakes winners.

Munnings' first-crop yearling average was a mere \$43,963. This year, his third crop, through Keeneland September, averaged \$52,271. The market hasn't caught up with his success yet.

Clearly, early yearling averages are not a solid indicator of sire success. As far as banking on it by breeding to one of these higher-priced, unproven sires for commercial purposes two or three years down the road, good luck. **BH**