

TOP 5 BREEDERS OF THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Source: Equi-Stat

Note: Statistics compiled from Jan. 1, 2010 through Dec. 15, 2015

1. Bill and Debbie Myers, St. Onge, South Dakota
Earnings: **\$1,360,941**
High Earning Horse: Guys Famous Girl (Frenchmans Guy x Disarray x Dash Ta Fame)
Earnings: \$110,786

2. Jud Little, Ardmore, Oklahoma
Earnings: **\$1,325,642**
High Earning Horse: JL Dash Ta Fame (Dash Ta Fame x Dynas Plain Special x Special Feelins)
Earnings: \$186,945

3. Timothy and Kelly Bagnell, Ronan, Montana
Earnings: **\$1,181,384**
High Earning Horse: An Oakie With Cash (Biebers Okie x Lady Kaweah Cash x Judge Cash)
Earnings: \$1,177,464

4. Victory Farms, Ada, Oklahoma
Earnings: **\$1,042,264**
High Earning Horse: VF Hi N Famous (Dash Ta Fame x High Steppin Fancy x Band Of Azure)
Earnings: \$125,936

5. Gene Strickland, West Valley City, Utah
Earnings: **\$894,817**
High Earning Horse: MP Meter My Hay (PC Frenchmans Hayday x Miss Meter Jet x Bar Tonto Jet)
Earnings: \$891,027

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TAKE ME TO YOUR BREEDER

By Abigail Boatwright

As breeding for barrel racing becomes more sophisticated, horses that excel under the unique demands of this specialized discipline often originate from straight barrel-bred stock. Sharing some of their success strategies with us here are those who lead the ranks of successfully producing top-earning barrel horses. According to Equi-Stat, the horses these breeders have produced collectively earned the most money in barrel racing in the last five years. Here's a bit more about each of their breeding operations.

No.1. Bill and Debbie Myers

Without doubt, Bill and Debbie Myers of St. Onge, South Dakota, have helped shape the path of barrel racing genetics. As owners of leading barrel sire, Frenchmans Guy, the couple—and their sons—have built a reputation for quality performance horses and broke 2-year-olds. Bill grew up ranching, and Deb grew up barrel racing, and together the pair trained and bred horses for those disciplines. Myers Ranch got its start with race and performance horses, but when their horses showed a real aptitude for barrel racing, they began breeding for barrel racing performers as well.

“We never intentionally started out (breeding barrel horses), they just happened to be natural at doing it,” Bill says. “They won pretty darn good right off the bat, so that’s the reason we started raising horses in that direction.”

In the last five years, horses bred by Myers Ranch have earned \$1,360,941 (as of December 15,

2015). A great example of the ranch’s product is Guys Famous Girl (Frenchmans Guy x Disarray x Dash Ta Fame). The 2007 mare has earned \$110,786 since 2010. Guys Famous Girl captured the \$100,000 Slot Race championship at the Lance Graves Pro Classic in 2011.



The Myers family.

Myers says that with respect to breeding for barrel horses, the ranch has always tried to breed athletic horses that move well.

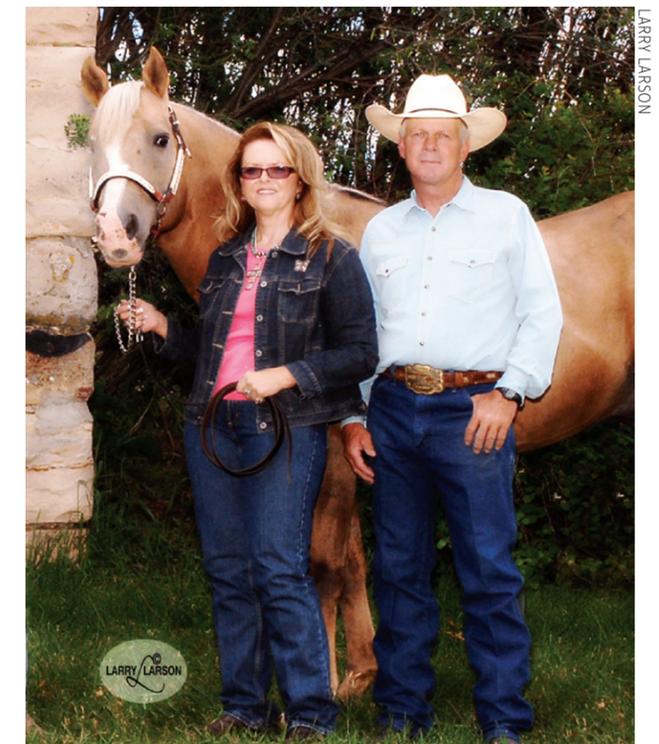
“We really like a horse to have really good conformation,” Bill says. “Conformation, pedigree and then a great mind and great movement. We’re a big stickler about movement because that’s why they win so much. They are great moving horses with good feet. And they are also really easy to train. A horse with a good mind is really important.”

Myers Ranch tends to breed a racehorse and performance cross, which Bill says seems to be a combination of the best of both worlds for them. He says breeding is a slow process, and seeing results takes time.

“You have to be critical of the dam more than anything,” Myers says. “You have to try different crosses and experiment. Some of them are going to work, but it’s a learning process all the time. You need to be patient—it takes years and years.”

Myers says for their program, they tend to breed horses with similar qualities for a more consistent product.

“When you breed a like stallion to a like mare, you get a better overall result,” Myers says. “I don’t like breeding say, a really big stud to a really little mare, or vice versa. I don’t think you have near the chance of getting a uniform, balanced horse.”



LARRY LARSON