

# KEENELAND

## HISTORY:

- This land was granted to the Keene family by Patrick Henry in 1783.
- Keeneland racecourse began with 147 acres and now has over 1,000 acres – unlike any other racecourse facility in North America. Keeneland opened with the Fall Race Meet in October 1936.
- There are no fences or locked gates because the developers of Keeneland wanted a park-like setting open to the community year-round. That is just one of the reasons why Trip Advisor reviewers have made this National Historic Landmark the Number 1 attraction in central Kentucky.
- Racing takes place for approximately 3 weeks each April and October.
- Horses exercise on the main track most mornings between 5:30 and 10 a.m. You are welcome to come watch them any morning. However, the main track will be closed this year (2014) from May 19 until September to change the track from an artificial surface to dirt.
- After watching a morning workout, many visitors enjoy breakfast at the Track Kitchen which is open to the public.
- Keeneland has 57 barns (started with 6 in 1935) with 1,951 stalls for the horses.

## SALES:

- Keeneland is also the world's largest Thoroughbred auction house in the world with 4 sales per year. Buyers come from all over the world. During a sale, a horse is auctioned off approximately every 90 seconds whether it goes for millions of dollars or just the 1 thousand dollar minimum sale price.
- The highest price ever paid at Keeneland was \$13.1 million in 1985. That horse's total lifetime winnings were only about \$168,000. But, the 2012 winner of the Kentucky Derby (ILLHAVEANOTHER) was purchased at Keeneland as a yearling for \$11,000 and was sold to a group of Japanese horsemen in 2012 for \$10 million dollars.
- In 2012, Keeneland sold 5,552 horses for a total of \$410 million.
- Nearly half of all the Triple Crown Race winners of the last decade were sold at Keeneland.

## PADDOCK:

- Keeneland's paddock is divided into two separate areas. Horses are saddled under the numbered trees that correspond to their post position in the larger Saddling Paddock and then led into the smaller Walking Ring where the jockeys mount before going through the tunnel to the track.
- The paths around the trees in the Saddling Paddock, in the Walking Ring, and through the tunnel are covered with rubberized brick made from recycled tires that offer better footing for the horses and it is a non-slip surface when it gets wet. Safety for the horses is a primary goal at Keeneland.

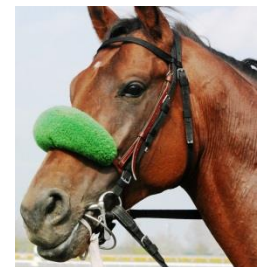
- The signature White Sycamore tree was planted in 1935 and often serves as a meeting place for people coming to Keeneland.
- Many movies have been filmed at Keeneland - *Secretariat*, *Seabiscuit*, *Dreamer*.
- Keeneland's official seating capacity is approximately 8,800 including the dining rooms and the grandstand. The largest crowd at Keeneland was on Toyota Bluegrass Day in 2012 when the crowd totaled 40,000+.

### JOCKEY STATUES:

- The jockey statues honor the winners of this year's top-level races. Next year, most if not all these colors will be different because the new winners will come from other farms. The patterns and colors of the racing silks are registered and must be a different pattern from all other thoroughbred farms. The names of thoroughbred racehorses also must be registered with the Jockey Club. Their names cannot be longer than 18 characters including spaces.

### GIFT SHOP:

- The Keeneland Gift Shop sells a wide variety of equine-themed gifts, jewelry, souvenirs, art work, and apparel.



When you go visit Keeneland, be sure to pick up a Keeneland Walking Tour document. It will suggest a path for you to take and will add information to what is above.

Carol Sue Ray