

## **New Rider Protection System® Rail Installed At Prairie Meadows**

*Racetrack Updates Inside Rail and Marker Poles for 2017 Thoroughbred Meet*



*April 13 – Altoona, IA.* When the starting gates open at Prairie Meadows for the first race of the 2017 Thoroughbred meet, horses and jockeys will circle a brand new inside rail. The Thoroughbred season will kick off Thursday, April 27 at Prairie Meadows' one-mile track located in Altoona, IA.

Shortly after the live racing season ended in 2016, crews from Prairie Meadows and Horsemen's Track & Equipment in Kentucky began the work of removing and replacing the existing inside rail. "It was the original inside rail at this track; it served us well for over 20 years, but it was time for an update," said Lamont Marks, Track Superintendent at Prairie Meadows. "Our new Rider Protection System® rail upgrades Prairie Meadows to exceed industry standards, and it provides the utmost safety for our jockeys and horses."

"It's the same inside rail that's being used at tracks such as Churchill Downs, Keeneland, Turfway Park, Gulfstream Park, and Oaklawn," Marks added. According to information from Horsemen's Track & Equipment, the Rider Protection System® was created under a US patent. If an accident occurs, the rail is designed to help minimize injuries to horses and riders. Additionally, the top panels of the rail have been constructed to avoid deterioration when exposed to ultraviolet rays and to minimize shadows cast onto the track surface.

Following other major racing facilities' lead, Prairie Meadows has replaced its round-style distance markers with new squared-style poles. The new poles are a combination of red and white for the quarter-mile markers, green and white for the eighth-mile markers, and black and white for the sixteenth-mile markers.



For more information on Prairie Meadows racetrack, visit [prairiemeadows.com/racing](http://prairiemeadows.com/racing).

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