

Important “Take Home” Points from CSU Sesamoid Research Paper

- Grading system for sesamoid radiographic findings is based on vascular channel appearance, abaxial contour changes and sesamoid fragments.
- An enlarged vascular channel is defined as being ≥ 2 mm wide for more than one third of its visible length
- Grade 1 finding is one enlarged vascular channel
- Grade 2 finding is two enlarged vascular channels
- Grade 3 finding is three enlarged vascular channels
- Sesamoids will have multiple vascular channels < 2 mm wide but are defined as Grade 0
- Yearling findings associated with a significantly reduced likelihood of starting a race were:
 1. Grade 3 vascular channels in forelimb sesamoids
 2. abaxial new bone
 3. apical fragments or abaxial fragments in forelimb sesamoids
- Grade 3 vascular channels in forelimb sesamoids were associated with fewer race starts
- Grade 3 vascular channels in hindlimb sesamoids were associated with a delayed start to racing careers
- There were no statistically significant differences in the likelihood of racing for any hindlimb sesamoid vascular channel grades.
- Abaxial new bone in forelimb sesamoids was associated with lower total earnings and lower earnings per start
- There were no significant differences in the likelihood of racing for yearlings with abaxial concavity in forelimb or hindlimb sesamoids, abaxial new bone in hindlimb sesamoids or apical/abaxial fragments in hindlimb sesamoids.
- In comparing yearlings and the same horses as 2 year olds regarding Grades 1,2 & 3, both improvements and regressions were observed & we have specific percentages for both.