



Horse Sport Ireland

The National Equine Breeding Service

The National Equine Breeding Service provides for the operation of a breeding incentives, breeding scheme design and breeder training and knowledge transfer programme, that combines elements common to the breeds concerned, alongside a representational and advisory function for Irish bred animals. Horse Sport Ireland is required to:

- promote the use of proper equine breeding techniques and design and implement innovative and appropriate breeding schemes to incentivise breeders of sport horse breeds entered in breeding books recognised by the contracting authority in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 to maximise the genetic gain through the engagement of scientific approaches.
- identify and assist in defining breeding goals and design of programmes in conjunction with the studbooks for the various breeds as required. Defining heritable traits and the use of relevant breeding data to achieve genetic gain and establishing breeding values for a breed should be considered where appropriate.
- provide training, education and knowledge transfer programmes for breeders regarding optimal equine breeding and production techniques to maximise the benefits to be gained by breeders from the breeding and producing of Irish sport horses.
- represent the interest of breeders on various bodies and co-ordinate for matters of concern between the body itself and other groups / bodies including DAFM.
- establish structures for breed societies and breeders to interact with the body itself and to ensure the breeding schemes developed are reflective of the industry's views
- deliver and promote all services administered efficiently and effectively.
- engage with research organisations to develop further services for breeders.
- apply proper financial controls to the use of State monies as defined by DPER Circular 13/2014
- advise the Minister periodically on equine breeding policy matters and breeders on technical matters.

Monies available are subject to the amount allocated in the Budget on an annual basis and are paid in arrears on the basis of invoices. A sum of €2.9m will be available for the Breeding Incentives Schemes in the first year. The costs of administering the Breeding Incentives Schemes is provided for in the €1.5m operational funding.