



COMHARCHUMANN CAPAILLINI PORTAIGH CHIARRAI TEORANTA

## THE KERRY BOG PONY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD

**11/10 2019**

*Under the current GLAS scheme, there is no requirement to meet the Breed Improvement objectives of the Studbook to qualify for payment of the Rare Breed premium.*

As a Rare Breed the Kerry Bog Pony is heavily dependent on the GLAS Scheme. Within a working population of about 300 ponies, currently 100 ponies are claiming premiums. We have no idea how many of these are adult breeding mares and whether they conform to the Breed Standard. The scheme requires that each female must produce 1 purebred offspring within the duration of the scheme. To qualify, stallions over 3 yrs of age must be inspected.

KBP Foal registration figures:

2018 (to date)	45 foals
2017	35 foals
2016	40 foals
2015	55 foals
2014	33 foals

As there is no requirement for mares or their offspring to be inspected in order to qualify for the grant, we have no idea if the foals being produced are in line with the Breeding Objectives of the Studbook.

The importance of the leisure market was recognised and it was noted that care should be taken to ensure that specific breeding goals and objectives cater for all market requirements. It was acknowledged that native breeds are an important element of the leisure market and that breed conservation is also a core consideration for the breeding improvement programmes for native breeds.

### THE FUTURE

The Kerry Bog Pony Co Operative society recognises that it is responsible for undertaking more actions to preserve and promote the pony, such as:

- Greater recognition of the value of what the breed has to offer. Greater utilisation of the ponies under a variety of different headings eg. Heritage, Tourism, Leisure.

Traditionally it was a small working pony. Its preservation should involve the protection of its original attributes, its appearance, its good temperament, its strength and its hardiness. Ponies benefit greatly from human interaction and actively enjoy being busy and working, whether that is under saddle or driving or walking with tourists. If the ponies are not brought out for inspection many of them are completely unhandled. An older unbroken pony has very little commercial value. In the past it has been noted that individuals leaving REPS, AEOS and GLAS have sold these unhandled ponies at very low prices to dispose of them, often to the Factory. They do not contribute positively to the image of the breed or the future of the breed.

**We would like to make the issuing of an increased premium contingent on the ponies meeting the basic handling requirements to participate in the Breed Improvement programme.**

Attending inspections would have the added benefit of identifying good quality ponies, especially stallions. This will benefit the owners as well as the breed. It would also ensure the production of a saleable product once it exits the scheme.

Mary McGrath

Secretary

Kerry Bog Pony Co-operative Society Ltd

