



Environmental Testing Scheme 2026

Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) are delighted to re-launch the Environmental Testing scheme for breeders/owners who wish to determine the suitability of their environment for equine breeding and production. This scheme is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM) by National Breeding Services. Currently this service is offered by the Irish Equine Centre (IEC) and is widely utilised and subscribed to in the thoroughbred industry.

This scheme has been designed to help prevent enteric and respiratory disease in young foals. The scheme involves a farm visit by a microbiologist and/or environmental scientist to sample various aspects of the applicants breeding premises (foaling stables, foal paddocks, water and fodder). These samples will be analysed and reported back to breeders with regards to the hygiene status of the communal areas and the presence of any pathogens in the environment and the quality of forage. The scheme is worth €630, and is subsidised through National Breeding Services, applicants are required to pay €320 to Horse Sport Ireland for this scheme. Any refunds ahead of testing initiation will be processed less a €10 admin fee.

Breeders/owners will have the opportunity to apply to participate in the scheme by completing an online application or through attending the designated workshop only. This scheme is open to breeders with a minimum of one breeding mare or stallion under 20 years of age who are Irish bred as documented in their studbook passport OR registered/endorsed in a DAFM approved studbook. Funding will be allocated on a first come first served basis up to the maximum funding allocation and scheme eligibility. All applicants must provide a valid Equine Premises Registration Number (EPRN) or for NI applicants, an EEN number.

SCHEME DEADLINES		
	Application Closing Deadline	Testing completed & Reports returned
DATE	14 th August 2026	21 st August 2026 OR Two weeks after testing completion, whichever is earlier
*Subject to availability under the maximum budget allocation, this scheme may close earlier owing to demand.		

TERMS AND CONDITIONS - Equine Eligibility:

- Stallions/Mares must meet the following eligibility criteria:
 - Have a minimum of one mare/stallion that is 20 years or younger
 - That horse must be registered/endorsed in a studbook with a breed recorded (main or supplementary section)
 - The equine must be resident on the island of Ireland (inc. Northern Ireland).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS – Applicant:

- Applicants must be the registered owner of the stallion/mare at the point of application
- Applicants must submit a valid Equine premises number (EPN)/ EEN (N. Ireland) [DAFM Equine Operator Profile](#).
- Applicants may apply for this scheme on one occasion in any given funded year



- Incomplete applications will not be assessed, the onus is on the applicant to provide HSI with all of the required detail and evidence of verified registration, breeding and EPN/ EEN.
- Please note that applicant and horse application data will be shared with the relevant studbook to confirm breed, studbook, ownership, and any other relevant eligibility.
- Applicants must apply and complete the scheme before the scheme deadlines.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS – General Terms

- This scheme will operate on a first come first served basis up to the maximum allocation facilitated by the existing budget allocation. Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to close the scheme ahead of the advertised deadline.
- Horse Sport Ireland reserve the right to change, amend or update scheme terms and conditions. In the event of same, existing applicants will be notified.
- Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to reject any application.
- The scheme is worth approx. €630, and is subsidised through National Breeding Services, applicants are required to pay €320 to Horse Sport Ireland for this scheme.
 - HSI will pay the IEC directly following application approval, farm sampling and receipt of the relevant report.
- Applicants will receive a digital copy of the report from the IEC.
- All reports will be retained by HSI for research purposes and be provided to DAFM. This research may include the county location of the farm but will not publish any other identifiable animals/owners/breeders who participated in the scheme.
- Where an applicant has paid the scheme fee but does not proceed with or avail of the testing, a refund within the advertised deadlines can be issued. Refunds will be processed less a €10 administrative fee to cover non-refundable payment processing charges incurred through stripe.
 - Once the IEC have been engaged a refund can no longer be provided.
 - A refund cannot be issued once the scheme deadlines /year of funding allocation has passed.

By submitting an online application, I declare that:

- **I understand and agree to the terms and conditions of this scheme in their totality**
- **I provide my informed consent to participate in this scheme**
- **I understand that the drawdown of funding is subject to the completion of scheme feedback.**
- **I understand that HSI will publish a list of awardees (forename, surname, county and mare name) on the HSI website**
- **I understand that applicant details and results will be shared as necessary with the DAFM studbook of origin/endorsed DAFM studbook.**
- **I understand and provide consent for my equine's data to be used for research and studbook purposes, including but not limited to publication.**
- **I understand that if I do not adhere to the scheme's terms and conditions, I will not receive funding, even if the testing has taken place.**
- **I agree to indemnify and keep indemnified Horse Sport Ireland against all liabilities, losses, costs, demands, orders, recommendations, determinations, judgments, damages, actions, expenses, fines, penalties, interest, reasonable legal costs and expenses and all claims howsoever and whenever incurred by the Company:**



- i. **relating to any income tax, PRSI, levies, contributions and any other liability, deduction, contribution, assessment or claim arising from or made in connection with either the provision of the Services; and/or any payment or benefit claimed or received by any person engaged by me (or associates) in connection with the performance of the Services, where such recovery is not prohibited by law:**
 - ii. **as a consequence of any allegation or claim related to employment or alleged employment, transfer or employment, worker status or worker remuneration brought by me, or by any person or persons procured by me in the provision of the Services whether under contract, in equity, at common law or pursuant to statute (including, without limitation pursuant to the Unfair Dismissals Acts 1977 to 2007), or otherwise;**
 - iii. **relating to injury, loss or damage caused by an act or omission by me or by any person or persons procured by the me in the provision of the Services;**
- I confirm that I have reviewed Horse Sport Ireland's Data Protection and Privacy policies (available at www.horsesportireland.ie or on request) and I note that HSI only process personal data for legitimate business purposes and/or where required by law. All processing will have due regard to the DPA 2018 and GDPR 2016. I note that this personal data may include sensitive personal data, as defined within the DPA and GDPR, the processing of which requires my explicit consent. I note that HSI and selected/approved producers will honour the rights and freedoms of the data subjects at all times, as long as there is no other overriding law which limits those privileges.