



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 €5 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.

Please note: Cost to attend the workshop is €20, **however**, all attendees will be able to avail of fully funded testing from the IEC, under the scheme, worth approx. €630.

| 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.

Environmental Testing Scheme Workshop – Format:

- Presentation (1 - 1.5 hours) in the RACE auditorium delivered by specialists from the Irish Equine Centre, covering the Environmental Testing Scheme, common environmental risk factors on breeding farms and how environmental sampling and laboratory analysis are conducted.
- Practical demonstration (1 - 1.5 hours) in the yard area, including a walk-through of the barn, stables, paddocks and isolation facilities. IEC experts will demonstrate how environmental testing is carried out and highlight key areas breeders should assess on their own premises.



[The Environmental Testing Scheme](#) is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) through National Breeding Services. The full value of the scheme is approx. €630, with breeders typically contributing €320 to participate.

This workshop is ideal for breeders who wish to strengthen biosecurity on their farms, improve environmental management practices and gain a deeper understanding of how environmental factors can influence breeding success.

Agreements & Confirmation:

- By completing the application form, you acknowledge that you agree to provide Horse Sport Ireland with access to the information supplied in this form. This is in accordance with HSI's General Data Protection Policy (GDPR) . I confirm that I wish to share my data with Horse Sport Ireland and permit Horse Sport Ireland to retain this data for future payment processing. I further confirm that my name may appear on a publicised list of awardees
- I acknowledge that attendance at the workshop is required in order to avail of the free environmental testing offered through the HSI Environmental Testing scheme with the Irish Equine Centre (valued at approx. €630)
- If I wish to avail of the free testing, I agree to comply with all relevant scheme requirements and deadlines as communicated by the organisers.
- I understand that event details, eligibility, and testing arrangements may be subject to confirmation and further communication from the organisers

Those who do not attend the event but do wish to avail of the Environmental Testing scheme will have their test partially funded at 50%. Where attendees sign up and decide not to attend, refunds can be offered less the €5 admin fee.

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.