



HSI Environmental Testing Scheme 2023

Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) are delighted to launch an 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.

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. This preventative approach is more cost effective than being reactive and can greatly reduce treatment, loss of time in development of the animals, labour costs and loss of breeding outcomes for stallions and mares.

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 shown to reduce the incidence of disease in young foals by identifying any disease-causing microbes in communal areas, water, and forage, and rectifying any issues which may have arisen.

The objective of this scheme is to provide information on:

- The hygiene status of the main areas (foaling stables and stocks)
- Pathogen burden of the nursery paddocks
- Water quality
- Forage quality in terms of hygiene status for moulds and mycotoxins which could lead to fertility/health issues and nutritional quality

This scheme is open to breeders with a minimum of one breeding mare or stallion under 20 years of age whom are Irish bred as documented in the 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). The scheme is worth €525 (inc VAT), and is subsidised through National Breeding Services, applicants are required to pay €125 to Horse Sport Ireland for this scheme.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Tranche one			Tranche two		
Opening	Closing	Documents submitted	Opening	Closing	Documents submitted
19/05/2023	03/07/2023	31/08/2023	14/07/2023	17/08/2023	31/08/2023
* Tranche two will only open if the allocation has not been filled during Tranche one. Applicants approved in T1 must return their invoices before the T1 deadline. T1 invoices will not be accepted in T2.					

- 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 DAFM approved studbook **OR** documented as Irish bred in any other DAFM/WBFSH/EU pony Studbook passport.
- The equine must be resident on the island of Ireland (inc. Northern Ireland).
- Applicants must be the registered owner of the stallion/mare at the point of application
- Applicants must submit a valid Equine premises number (EPN)
- Applicants may apply for this scheme on one occasion in any given year
- 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.
- 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.
- The scheme is worth €525 (inc VAT), and is subsidised through National Breeding Services, applicants are required to pay €125 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 the 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.
- 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 veterinary clinics 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.

By completing this 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 HSI retain ownership of all reports produced under this scheme**
- **I understand and provide consent for my farm's quasi-anonymised data to be used for research purposes, including but not limited to scientific publication**
- **I understand that HSI will publish a list of awardees (forename, surname, county) on the HSI website**
- **I understand that drawdown of funding is subject to the completion of scheme feedback.**