



What is the ISH Young Breeders Programme?

The ISH Young Breeders Programme is run as a joint programme between Teagasc and Horse Sport Ireland. The programme focuses principally on the assessment of conformation and athleticism traits of both eventing and show jumping horses.

Additional topics which are discussed at training include amongst others:

- Husbandry and breeding
- Production and training
- Marketing
- Career options and advice

The main activities of the young breeders programme involves the provision of training days, national competition, and participation at world championship competition.



Is it for you?

The programme is aimed at those between the ages of 14 to 25 years who are interested in assessing, exhibiting, and breeding performance horses.

Participants do not have to be breeders themselves or necessarily come from an equestrian background. An avid interest and an eagerness to participate and learn is all that is required.



Competitions

Competition is part of the programme to test skills and knowledge learned and is not compulsory for participants in the programme, though encouraged.

National Competition

Competition is divided into three age groups 14-16 years; 16-19 years; and 20-25 years. Competition takes place as an initial selection process for world championship participation.

World Championship Competition

Competition is divided into two age groups 16-19 years and 20-25 years of age (age is determined as the age on Jan 1st in the year of the competition).

ISH teams have progressed from strength to strength at this level with outstanding team and individual performances accumulated over the years. Such accolades have included Reserve Studbook Champions; Junior Team World Champions and Individual Junior World Champion amongst many other excellent results which are a testament to the success of the programme, value of the training provided as well as the commitment of the individuals concerned.

What does it involve?

Competition consists of five different sections

1. Theory (multiple choice questions on stable management; sport/competition; reproduction husbandry; nutrition; health and welfare)
2. Assessment of conformation
3. Assessment of loose movement and loose jumping (athleticism)
4. Presentation of a horse in hand using the triangle system
5. Turnout of horses

More information is available on both the Teagasc and Horse Sport Ireland websites and also on www.young-breeders.com



Industry Involvement

The programme depends greatly on the involvement and support of industry leaders in terms of coaches, riders, producers, breeders and others. Every effort is made to create opportunities for participants to visit some of the best farms/ yards in the country and to interact with those who are experts in their field. Young Breeders are exposed to high quality horses across the country in an effort to train their eye to the benchmarks for quality and to understand the demands in terms of horse power for the sports of show jumping and eventing.

Benefits of the Programme

The skills and knowledge transferred through training serve as a foundation for those with an interest in developing their knowledge of the horse. These skills come into focus for varied uses including purchasing a new horse/pony; deciding about which mares/stallions to use for breeding; assessing offspring of mares/stallions; presenting horses for inspection, sale, show or competition.

The programme also provides a unique opportunity for young people to meet with their peers and make contacts across Ireland and throughout the world who share their interests.

International Young Breeders

Since 2009 at international level a structure has been in place to oversee the organisation of World Championships, the rulebook for World Championship competitions, to continually develop new initiatives for the improvement of the World Championships and to support the various competing studbook teams.

More information can be found at <http://www.young-breeders.com/>



Testimonials

“ *The ISH Young Breeders Programme has given me access to leading trainers, breeders and horses. It has opened doors for me that I never realised existed.*

I don't come from an equine background, and before participating in the programme I had no experience in presenting horses in hand or assessing conformation and athleticism traits. However, in less than a year I found myself representing the ISH Studbook in the World Championships at Calgary, in Canada during 2017.

The ISH Young Horse Breeders Programme has proved to me that regardless of whether you come from an equine background or not, if you show you are committed and willing to learn, anything is possible. ”

Arianna Mezzapelle

Junior Competitor at 2017 World Championships

“ *Through the programme I made some great contacts. I managed to secure work experience through one of the trainers, which in turn helped develop my riding. I hope to apply what I learned through the programme to my own breeding enterprise.*

The knowledge and experience that I gained through my involvement in the programme has been fantastic with insights behind the gates of top breeding and sport yards around the country. Also there was great fun and laughs along the way. The experience at Calgary World Championships will be a lifetime memory, impossible to forget. ”

David Browne

Junior Competitor at 2017 World Championships





“ Having being one of the first graduates of the young breeders programme it gave me a great starting ground for my own breeding enterprise Enniskerry Horse Farm, on ninety five acres in Co. Wicklow.

At the time I took advantage of a trip to Holstein in Germany through the programme and attended lots of on farm training sessions here at home. I was proud to be part of the bronze medal winning team at the World Championships in 2009 with a very strong individual performance, finishing in fourth position. I made an awful lot of contacts, particularly on the continent that I met at the World Championships and with which I am still in touch today.

I started breeding also in 2009 and my first foal now competes successfully at international 2 star level in eventing while her younger brother is just making the step up to 2 star international level.

I gained a lot of knowledge from the various professionals and trainers through the programme and encourage anyone with an interest in breeding to educate themselves first and be their mare's worst critic. The trainers have so much knowledge to share and are so willing to do so. Take advantage of the programme as it will make you a better critic. ”

David Bourke
Junior Competitor at 2009 World Championships



