



Leisure Horse Ireland

The Irish Clydesdale Horse Studbook Breeding Programme 2023

Contents

1.0	The Studbook and Location of the Studbook	3
2.0	Mission Statement	3
3.0	Aims of the Breeding Programme	3
4.0	Name of breed.....	4
5.0	Geographical Territory.....	4
6.0	Characteristics of the Breed.....	4
7.0	Breeding book	5
7.1	Main section.....	5
7.2	Supplementary Section	5
8.0	Identification Verification and Reproductive Techniques	6
9.0	System for Identifying Breeding Animal in the ICHS Studbook	6
10.0	Procedures for entering animals in the Studbook	7
11.0	Lifetime Identification Document (Passport).....	8
12.0	Certificates	8
12.1	Zootechnical Certificate.....	8
12.2	Supplementary Certificate	8
13.0	Database – System for Recording Pedigree.....	9
14.0	Breeding and Selection Objectives.....	10
14.1	Performance Testing and Genetic Evaluation.....	10
15.0	Derogation concerning Semen Collection Centres	10
16.0	Outsourcing of Technical Activities	10

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1.0 The Studbook and Location of the Studbook

The Irish Clydesdale Horse Studbook of Ireland (ICHS) is operated by the recognised breed society 'Leisure Horse Ireland' in accordance with the Animal Breeding legislation (Regulation (EU) 2016/1012).

The offices of Leisure Horse Ireland are located at Furbo Hill, Spiddal, Co. Galway, H91 VH04, Republic of Ireland. Leisure Horse Ireland is also approved as a Passport Issuing Organisation.

The Irish Clydesdale Horse Studbook is the daughter studbook of the breeding book of origin. The Clydesdale Horse Society located at 7 Turretbank Place, Crieff, PH7 4LS, Scotland, <https://clydesdalehorsesociety.com> and it follows the principals established by the breeding book of origin.

2.0 Mission Statement

Leisure Horse Ireland's mission statement commits to supporting the Clydesdale Owners/Breeders in the preservation and conservation of the breed, and to endeavour to establish the breed to excel in sport and recreation, through the provision of services of the highest standards of excellence, and to act in the best interests of its owners/ breeders.

3.0 Aims of the Breeding Programme

The studbook operates a breeding programme for the improvement of the breed in Ireland and is approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The aims of the breeding programme are:

- To promote the preservation and improvement of the breeding of purebred Clydesdale Horses.
- To assist encourage and record all information in respect of the breeding in Ireland of Clydesdale Horses
- To encourage breeders to breed for the characteristics of the breed standard by way of improved breeding practice and classification.

4.0 Name of breed

The name of the breed is The Clydesdale Horse.

5.0 Geographical Territory

ICHS'S Breeding Programme is focused on the 26 counties of Ireland, animals born into and / or entered into the Studbook.

6.0 Characteristics of the Breed

A Clydesdale should have a nice open forehead, broad between the eyes, a flat profile, wide muzzle, large nostrils, a bright clear intelligent eye, big ears and a well arched long neck springing out of an oblique shoulder with high withers.

A Clydesdale will normally stand between 16 hh and 18 hh with some mares being at the lower end of this range with stallions and geldings typically at the higher end.

The back should be strong, and the horse should have good spring and depth of rib. The quarters should not only be long, but well-muscled.

The most common colours are bay and brown with white markings, but blacks, roans and chestnuts are occasionally seen. Colour's out-with those listed here will generally not be recognised for registration purposes. The white markings are characteristic, and it is the exception to see a Clydesdale without a white blaze and considerable amount white on its feet and legs.

The feather on the Clydesdale should be plentiful and silky to touch. It should be attached to limbs of strong, quality flat bone with the legs set close together. The distance from the hock to the pastern should be lengthy, with an absence of a second thigh above the hock.

Essential Traits:

The Clydesdale Horse is a draught horse, typically of 16 to 18 hands high and weighing on average 1,600 – 1,800 pounds. Clydesdale horses are very docile, gentle, intelligent and have a 'majestic' outlook, with an average lifespan of 20-25 years. They are built for power and their large feet area have spring like capabilities which act like shock absorbers under the pressure of heavy loads. These feet, together with sound, well-built limbs and a powerful trunk, provide the power of the horse which was bred principally for moving large loads quickly and efficiently.

7.0 Breeding book

The Studbook has a main section and a supplementary section.

7.1 Main section

To qualify for entry into the ICBS Studbook an animal must:

- Be descended from parents that are entered in the main section of a breeding book for the same breed.
- have a pedigree established according to the rules of the breeding programme.
- Be identified in accordance with Union animal health law for equines and in accordance to the rules of the breeding programme.
- In the case of trade in or entry into the Union of an animal and that animal is intended to be entered in the breeding book that animal shall be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate
- Where the animal is produced from a germinal product which is traded or which entered into the Union and the animal is intended for entry in the breeding book, that germinal product shall be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate.

7.2 Supplementary Section

Animals that are not eligible for classification in the main section of the Clydesdale Horse Studbook may be recorded into the supplementary section. A supplementary certificate located in the non-statutory section of the identification document will issue for these animals providing they meet the following criteria:

- Be identified in accordance with Union animal health law for equines and in accordance with the rules of the breeding programme.
- Be judged to conform to the characteristics of the breed standard. On application an owner/breeder must submit 4 photographs one of each side view of the animal and a front and rear view. If further information / evidence is required the owner / breeder will be contacted.
- Be required to have a Sire and or dam entered in the main section of a breeding book for the breed and the sire or dam entered in the main section of a Shire Horse breeding book

Upgrading of Progeny from the Supplementary Section

The progeny descended from a sire or dam recorded in the supplementary section of a breeding book for the Clydesdale breed and the other sire or dam entered in the main section of a breeding book for the breed shall be eligible for entry into the main section of the ICBS breeding book.

8.0 Identification Verification and Reproductive Techniques

- Where purebred breeding animals are used for the collection of semen (Germinal Products) the donor stallion is identified and his parentage is verified, by DNA analysis.
- Where purebred breeding animals are used for the collection of oocytes and embryos, the donor stallion and donor mare are identified and their parentage is verified, by DNA analysis.
- Clone animals are not currently accepted; however, this may be subject to review in the future.

9.0 System for Identifying Breeding Animal in the ICHS Studbook

All animals entered in ICH Studbook are identified by a Unique Equine Life Number (UELN). This UELN identifies the country and Studbook where the horse was first registered and the registration number within the studbook. All UELN numbers contain 15 digits.

The first three digits of animals registered in ICHS Studbook are 372 which is the code for Ireland; the next three digits are 003 which is the code for Leisure Horse Ireland the next two digits 00 are gap numbers and the remaining 7 digits form the registration number used to identify the animal in the ICH Studbook and also correspond to the last 7 digits on the microchip number where possible.

An animal entered in another studbook retains its original identification number as issued by the approved studbook keeping authority when classified in the ICH Studbook.

In addition, all animals are named in the ICH Studbook when first entered in the breeding book. Prefixes in addition to the animal's name may be used by breeders as follows:

- **Prefix Registration**

Breeders may have a prefix name registered with Leisure Horse Ireland. Any horse named with a registered prefix cannot have its name changed without the permission of the person who owns the prefix. Prefix forms are available to download or upon request from Leisure Horse Ireland and the following rules apply:

- i. The current fee payable will apply.
- ii. Prefix may have a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 25 characters.
- iii. Prefix may be one word only.
- iv. Breed names are not permitted.
- v. The prefix name will be registered with Leisure Horse Ireland only.

The maximum number of characters included spaces for animal's name and any assigned prefix is 60.

10.0 Procedures for entering animals in the Studbook

- Owner / custodian notify Leisure Horse Ireland of their intention to enter the horse in the studbook by ordering a registration kit i.e., registration form, LHI identification marking chart and DNA envelope. Alternatively, an owner / custodian may utilise a vet supplied marking chart.
- All animals entering the studbook must be parentage verified by DNA analysis.
- Owner / custodian appoints a registered veterinary surgeon at their own expense who confirms
- the animal details by taking the markings and scans for any pre-existing transponder.
- Where no transponder exists in the animal, the registered veterinary surgeon must implant a compliant transponder (see definition).

Where a pre-existing transponder is found the owner / custodian must check with the issuing authorities in Ireland to ensure the animal was not identified previously. If the animal was identified previously the only course of action is to apply for a duplicate passport from that issuing authority which can be provided to LHI for an application of an upgrade to the studbook.

- Where a pre-existing transponder is found and it is established that the animal was not identified previously,
 - a) If the existing transponder is of a compliant type, this number must be detailed on the markings by the vet and may be used for registration.
 - b) If the existing transponder is not of a compliant type, a compliant transponder must also be implanted by the vet and both (or all) numbers detailed on the markings.
- The vet takes a DNA sample, places it in the envelope provided and completes all sections thereof.
The owner should send all completed paperwork and the DNA sample to LHI.
- Where an animal has received a breeding and production identification document and is eligible for entry/recording into the breeding book as an 'upgrade' the breeder may submit an application accompanied by the animal's breeding and production identification document as follows.
 - Owner / custodian notify Leisure Horse Ireland of their intention to enter the horse in the studbook by ordering a registration kit i.e., registration form, LHI identification marking chart and DNA envelope. Alternatively, an owner / custodian may utilise a vet supplied marking chart.
 - All animals entering the studbook must be parentage verified by DNA analysis

Once pedigree have been proven by DNA typing the animal will be upgraded into the studbook. The proven pedigree and height will determine the class.

The breeding and production passport will be rescinded, and the issuing body will be notified of the upgrade.

LHI will issue a new lifetime identification document (passport) with a zootechnical certificate (see section 13) where all criteria of the breeding programme are met.

- Where an animal is the offspring of a germinal product and the sire and/or dam are entered in another breeding book the application for entry must be accompanied by the appropriate zootechnical certificate
- Where a purebred Animal is entering the breeding book from another breeding book of the same breed it shall be entered into the same section or equivalent section as that of the breeding book.

11.0 Lifetime Identification Document (Passport)

All Animals are issued with a lifetime identification document issued by the L.H.I on entry of the animal into the ICHS studbook. This document contains the date of registration, the unique 15-digit identification number (UELN) applicable to that animal only, the registered name, details of microchip inserted by the veterinary authority, an authorized record of all individual markings as recorded on the marking chart, DNA verified pedigree, date of birth, breeder, owner, of the animal and a copy of the Zootechnical Certificate as issued by the L.H.I. This documentation must accompany the animal on all occasions.

The Passports shall state the category, i.e. "Leisure Horse Ireland – The Irish Clydesdale Horse Studbook

12.0 Certificates

12.1 Zootechnical Certificate

To comply with current EU legislation all purebred breeding animals are issued with a zootechnical certificate. The zootechnical certificate is issued in accordance with Chapter I of Part 2 of Annex V to Regulation (EU) 2016/1012.

The Zootechnical Certificate will be attached to the Lifetime Identification Document and be issued at the same time as the passport when the equine is entered into the studbook. Once the animals are entered in the studbook it will be issued within 2 weeks.

The zootechnical certificates shall be available on-line.

12.2 Supplementary Certificate

A supplementary certificate will issue for an equine recorded in the supplementary section and include the parentage and DNA results details. This certificate will be recorded on a non-statutory page at the back of the Lifetime Identification Document. Once the animals are recorded in the studbook it will be issued within 2 weeks.

13.0 Database – System for Recording Pedigree

In conjunction with Streamline Data Ltd, LHI have designed and on a continuous basis maintain and improve the Microsoft Access Database Software for LHI's Equine Registrations. The software has the capability to record the necessary information including pedigrees as required by relevant legislation and has the capability to report to the DAFM AIM Interface (the Central Equine Database of Ireland) all data as required in the format and detail specified.

The following fields (where applicable) are recorded for each individual animal in the breeding book:

Database Fields

Microchip Number, 2nd microchip Number 3rd Microchip Number
Owner / Keeper/ Breeder
Vet practice and Actual Vet Name
Date and place of markings
Equine premises Number
Horse Name
Country of Origin / Country of Holding / County
Date of Birth
Species
Sex
Colour
Breed
Replacement passport
Food chain status
Written description of vet markings
Passport over stamp
Duplicate Passport
DNA on file
Lab DNA reference number
Parentage test
Passport security tag number
Vets' registration details
Sire pedigree
Dam pedigree
Registration class
Registration Category i.e. Main stud book, Class, Supplementary Section
Registration Status
Passport status
Date registered
Completed registration history

14.0 Breeding and Selection Objectives

The breeding objective and selection for the breed is as follows;

- Animals for breeding must be registered in Clydesdale Horse studbook and they must be of the Breed type, with the distinctive recognizable white markings which are characteristic, and it is the exception to see a Clydesdale without a white blaze and considerable amount white on its feet and legs.

In selecting breeding animals to meet the objectives of the breed, Breeders should select on the heritable traits in relation to the conformation of the animal as referred to in the breed characteristics.

14.1 Performance Testing and Genetic Evaluation

Currently the breeding programme does not provide these activities.

15.0 Derogation concerning Semen Collection Centres

In general Commission Regulation 2016/1012 provides that only a breed society, the competent authority or a breeding body can issue a zootechnical certificate for germinal products. Zootechnical certificates are required to accompany germinal products when traded and when the offspring produced from these germinal products are intended to be entered in another breeding book. (Article 30(5)). For example, when semen from breeding animals is being exported to other Member States it must be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate where the offspring is to be entered in the breed book of that Member State. The model form for semen as provided in Commission Implementing Regulation CIR 2020/602. It will be noticed the zootechnical certificate for semen is in two parts with Part A providing information on the donor male and Part B on the identification of the semen. A derogation has been granted by the competent authority to the following centres:

EQUINE SEMEN COLLECTION CENTRES – Currently none of the stallions are A.I.

16.0 Outsourcing of Technical Activities

No activities are outsourced.