

EUnetHorse

HOW TO IMPROVE THE
PERFORMANCE AND RESILIENCE
OF EQUINE FARMS IN EUROPE?

RESULTS of the EUnetHorse EUROPEAN PROJECT
PHASE 1: IDENTIFICATION of NEEDS in FINLAND

www.eunethorse.eu

WHO ARE THE FINISH FARMERS INTERVIEWED?

In Finland, 40 equine farmers were interviewed.

LOCATION

- 7 of the farms surveyed are close to a major city
- 3 are close to suburbs
- 22 are in rural areas, of which 1 are close to a village and 6 are isolated
- 0% are in sensitive areas

FARM SIZE

- Utilised agricultural area from 1 to 850 ha,
- From 3 to 84 horses per farm, the median is 15, average is 24
- From 0,5 to 20 births per year on farms, median is 2, average is 5

FARM WORKERS

- There is an average of 3 employees per farm
- 69% are wom

ECONOMIC AND PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

- For 40% of farms, this is their main activity
- Economic objectives: 50% aim to achieve economical balance, 43% aim to make a profit, 0% have no economic objectives
- Economic performance (including salaries): major (about 80%) of the farms break even or make a profit



WHAT NEEDS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND PRIORITIZED TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE AND RESILIENCE IN FINLAND?

In Finland, more than 25 needs were identified through interviews and the national workshop. Here are the ones shared with the European partners during the first European Workshop:

ANIMAL WELFARE AND HEALTH ON FARMS

- Feed quality (hygienic and nutritional quality)
- Management and keeping methods, social behavior needs of the horse
- Welfare of trotters and sports horses (training, competitions)
- Health of breeding horses (incl. possible genetic diseases).
- Overnutrition, obesity

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OF FARMS

- Manure management, manure storing and utilising
- Climate change
- Financing of all solutions and operations, motivating
- Use of energy
- Biodiversity

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND RESILIENCE OF FARMS

- The price of hay and fuel determines profitability.
- Poor image of the sector
- Introducing ethics, the acceptability of using horses
- Hobby nature of the entrepreneurship in many cases
- Challenges in getting motivated employees and locum workers

MORE INFO

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