



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 GERMANY

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WHO ARE THE GERMAN FARMERS INTERVIEWED?

In Germany, 40 equine farmers were interviewed.

LOCATION

- 8 of the farms surveyed are close to a major city, of which 1 is in a village, 1 is rural, 3 are isolated and 1 is in a sensitive area
- 17 in a village, of which 2 are close to a major city, 13 are rural and 3 are in a sensitive area
- 9 are isolated, of which 1 is suburban in a sensitive area; 1 is close to a major city and 4 are rural
- 6 are rural of which 5 are close to a major city and/or are isolated



FARM SIZE

- Utilised agricultural area from 2 to 2000 ha, average 70% of it is composed of permanent meadows
- From 3 to 500 horses per farm, the median is 40, average is 81
- From 2 to 150 births per year on farms, median is 3, average is 28



FARM WORKERS

- There is an average of 11 employees per farm
- 50 % are woman



ECONOMIC AND PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

- For 67,5 % of farms, this is their main activity
- Economic objectives: 5 % aim to achieve economical balance, 87,5 % aim to make a profit, 7,5 % have no economic objectives
- Economic performance (including salaries): 12,5% are in deficit, 27,5 % break even, 60% make a profit



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

In Germany, more than 100 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

- Adherence to and enforcement of existing guidelines (riding, breeding, and husbandry)
- Transferring science into practice (husbandry, feeding, training) and providing access to scientific knowledge for everyone
- Training the sports sector regarding animal welfare in training, husbandry, feeding

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OF FARMS

- Main theme: Land pressure
- Establishment of new grass varieties
- Ecological footprint of the entire horse sector
- Conflict of interest: species conservation in construction vs. animal-friendly reconstruction

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND RESILIENCE OF FARMS

- General bureaucratic hurdles
- Increase/consolidation of advisory services
- Promote knowledge transfer
- Optimize training occupations - more expertise in teaching

MORE INFO

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