



General Assembly in Dresden Tuesday 11, 2022
Annual report 2021/2022 from
Department Development
By Katy Holder-Vale

Working closely with Renai Hart the Vice President of the Department of Development based in New Zealand. Alongside Katy Holder-Vale, the Executive Director of the Department, based in the UK.

We will be following on from the extensive report that Edward Kendall and Chris Gould have published in 2021 on the state of the industry, we plan to develop what we hope will be current and relevant now, to enable the enhancement of the sports horse breeding industry for everyone.

Our objectives for the 2nd edition are to create constructive and productive engagement between WBFSH through to its member studbooks, their member breeders, the FEI and National Federations, and through to the riders. This starts first and foremost by obtaining and recording the correct horse identification information from all parties and leads to the accumulation of correct current data that can be used in more meaningful and beneficial analysis.

We want everyone to recognise they are an important part of our industry as a whole, and each are intertwined and has an effect on one another. And, the fact that we all can work together to make a better future for all those involved.

We wish to provide a report that not only encompasses the current state of the industry, but one that moves into the future.

With this next report we want to highlight emerging challenges, factors and, issues that affect the industry and hopefully this will lead onto identify new ones for the future. Where the first report was more of a snapshot of data, we want the second and the future reports to accumulate into more longitudinal data, that we can draw on for industrial movement. Seeing trends over many snapshots in time will enable us to see trends developing and changing, and this can add value to the further development of the industry.

Currently we have seen a positive bounce back of global activities. Perhaps Covid and lockdowns have not been so detrimental as it all seemed at the time! In a quick glance at the data that has been returned from the survey we have identified a positive increase in breeding.

Not only in Europe but in the Asia and Pacific regions we have seen an increase in breeding and international shows. The world is beginning to open up again.

This is the starting point of the 2nd Edition report. The Department of Development will look into the statistics of the returned surveys and look statistically at how the industry has changed with regards to business and economic movement.



WBFSH

WORLD BREEDING FEDERATION
FOR SPORT HORSES

Comparing numbers from the first State of the Industry report we will look into the industry growth within and a comparison between the different countries. We can identify where the trade and movement of horses has happened, and if this has been effected by global activities. We can hopefully look at data around the effects of disease on import and export countries and also investigate the movement between Europe and the Asia-Pacific.

With the interesting global events, we wanted to highlight the issues around the psychological welfare of, not only the horses, but also of the breeders and riders. The state of the world is relevant to the welfare of the industry as a whole and it is important to know that our global community is coping and adjusting in a positive way.

We are all experiencing an increased cost of living, no one has been immune to this. It will be interesting how the effects of war and COVID have had on the horse industry. The data on the surveys should reflect this impact. Although we might have seen an increase in breeding during this time of unrest, have the costs of living impacted our industry as well?

Another angle would be to look at if the growth in Europe has also been mirrored in other continents.

This topic is one that ALL the facets of the industry have an interest in.

In the 2nd State of the Industry report we wish to investigate some conditions that we think are at the forefront of the industry now, and some that are worth thinking about for the future.

The regional or temporary disease outbreaks that have happened recently are vital to review with regards to future outbreak management. How we can use past experiences to improve the management and response for future events can impact to restrict transmission and protect those we can.

There are so many conditions that effect the industry, it is hard to focus on what are the major ones! This, of course, is not a finite list of conditions. With this and future reports, we hope to focus on different conditions that will arise and are currently effecting the industry.

In a world where there is a need to be transparent about animal welfare in our industry we need to understand the needs of members with regards to the public expectations. We need to look at the obligations of the Studbooks and Federations and, investigate the legislation and codes of practice around this broad topic.

We ALL have a duty of care for this undertaking.

The 2nd Edition report would like to look at a snapshot of the global perception of animal welfare and how we can apply the needs of everyone to provide a positive perception of what we do as an industry. We realise there are many factors to look into with this topic, but with a more welfare conscious industry and public, we need to create an environment that is more transparent to the critics and more accountable across all the disciplines.



With the 2nd Edition of the State of Industry report, we wish to not only highlight the most relevant issues currently confronting our industry but, to be more transparent and accurate with our information sharing.

This will create an environment where we can monitor trends, create more longitudinal data and, help the industry plan for the future.

We want this report and those in the future to help make our industry more of a success for everyone that shares our love of horses.