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## KERRY BOG PONY NEWS

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# Breeders' Edition

As you already know the Kerry Bog Pony was officially approved by the Department of Agriculture in July this year.

Since then the Society has been working with the Irish Horse Board to ensure the smooth change over to Official Brown Passports. The first lot of applications have been sent in and the first passports are due any day.

It is now time for us to focus more on our Membership and Bog Pony Owners and Breeders. You are the key to a successful breed society and we look forward to working with you to get the most out of your ponies.

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### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Our mission is to maintain genetic biodiversity and increase herd numbers. It is therefore most important that as many mares as possible are put in foal each year to outcross stallions.

### FIRST INSPECTIONS FREE OF CHARGE—

These will be held during the month of October 2005. (See over for place and date) There will be a panel of 2 inspectors and a veterinary surgeon who will inspect and assess the ponies for classification within the stud book.. This year the Inspections will be performed **free of charge** in order to encourage breeders to bring out all their animals. This is a one time only offer, the next inspections will cost Eur 50.00 per pony.

According to our Official Rules, approved by the Department of Agriculture and the Irish Horse Board, all animals must be DNA tested, have a microchip inserted and have an up-to-date marking sheet. The Society is arranging for a veterinary surgeon to be present on the day to carry out the required procedures if these have not already been carried out beforehand. A charge will be made for these services.

**IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PONY THAT IS A KERRY BOG PONY OR IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS—NOW IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO BRING IT FORWARD FOR INSPECTION.** Under the derogation granted to us until 2009 ponies with unknown breeding that conform to the Breed Standard are eligible for inclusion in the Kerry Bog Pony Stud Book. on completion of agreed procedures. So bring out all potential candidates!

The new address for the Kerry Bog Pony Co-operative Society is:

**KBPS, Ellenborough House, Dublin Road, Naas, Co Kildare.**

**Tel: 045 886907**

**Society Mobile:  
087-7545642**

**Society Email:  
info@kerrybogpony.ie**

**Website:  
www. kerrybogpony.ie**



The Kerry  
Bog Pony Society

## INSPECTION VENUES

There will be three inspection venues this year. The first inspection day will be 15th October 2005 at the Red Fox Inn in Glenbeigh, Co Kerry. The second inspection will be held at Pat Byrne's Yard outside Kilcullen, Co Kildare on the 22nd October 2005. A third venue has yet to be arranged to facilitate owner/breeders in the Northern part of the country.

**Please read the attached Application form carefully.** Fill it out clearly and either **post, fax or phone** it through to Sinead or Pat Byrne at 045-485354 after 6.00 pm. In order to run the Inspections efficiently we need information in advance of the Inspection Day. These are **your** inspections for **your** ponies—**SO HELP US TO HELP YOU!**

## EQUISAVE

Discussions have been ongoing between representatives of Equisave in Ireland and the Institute of Technology in Tralee. Part of the Equisave programme in Ireland will focus on a Festival of Rare Breeds to be held in Kerry in 2006 and 2007.

On Friday 23rd September a conference on Agrobiodiversity was held at Scarriff, Co Clare. This was part of European celebration of neglected crops and breeds. Dr Leo Curran spoke about the Galway and Roscommon Sheep, Mary McGrath spoke about the Kerry Bog Pony., Chris Ball from England spoke about the Irish Moiled Cow. There were also fascinating talks about the Native Irish Grain collection and the work of the Irish Seed Savers association. The use of a horse to harrow narrow areas between rows of trees was demonstrated by Harrie Bartelinke.

Next year the Kerry Festival will focus on the many rare breeds of animals and plants native to that region. In doing this we will be showcasing a uniquely Irish collection which will more than hold its own in a European context. Each species celebrates an aspect of our history—together they represent a fragile and vulnerable collection. "The Celtic Tiger eats good land" was one of the quotes of the agrobiodiversity conference. Will our generation be the one responsible for their disappearance? Not if we can help it! Phone 045-432007 for further information.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Musgraves, Red Mills, Matt Shallow of Bewleys,  
Mary McGrath, Dr Leo Curran, J Galvin.

## THANK YOU AGAIN

The Keyes family represented the Kerry Bog Pony Society at the Tullamore Show in August this year

## HOW MANY KERRY BOG PONY-FOALS ARE BORN EACH YEAR?

**Answer: we don't know.**

The last year for which we have partial records seems to suggest that there are only about 10 foals born each year. In order for the breed to survive and prosper we must double that number at least—otherwise as older animals die they will not be replaced by purebred young stock. Younger mares can be used for breeding and a greater effort might ensure that more mares are covered by Kerry Bog Pony Stallions each year.



Kerry Bog Ponies in winter

## REPS 2006

The Department of Agriculture has promised to look into the possibility of Kerry Bog Ponies being listed as Rare Breeds eligible for grant funding under the Supplementary 3 heading. Only animals holding Brown Passports will be eligible for inclusion.

## PONIES FOR SALE

Let us know if you have any ponies for sale.

