



BRITISH EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION

BREEDERS QUALITY MARK

The logo that represents best practice



What is it and what does it mean?

The British public is used to seeing the Kite Mark, and other symbols of quality, which denote that the goods or services will be of the stated standard.

The BEF Breeders Quality Mark (BQM) Scheme defines the standards for studs and is designed to give confidence to those who use the services of such establishments. Applications are welcomed from all horse and pony breeding establishments including mare studs, racing, sport horse, indigenous breeds.

The BQM is proof that the stud has met the standards considered by BEF to be prerequisite for the operation of premises where the health, welfare and reproductive efficiency of the breeding stock are paramount; and where every effort will be made to ensure that mares/stallions/foals will return home free from disease and injury and that prompt and appropriate veterinary attention will have been sought where necessary.

In making assessments for the award the quality of the horses on, or produced by, the stud plays no part. As always, in the selection of a horse to purchase, or breed from, the maxim of *caveat emptor* applies. Queries about the graded status of stallions and mares

at the stud and the eligibility for registration of progeny should be addressed to the relevant breed society or Weatherbys in the normal way.

The BQM is a value-added marketing tool in that it can reasonably be expected that customers will look more favourably on studs displaying the BQM logo on their premises, vehicles, stationery and in their advertisements. However, to obtain the BQM status studs must reach and maintain the high standards set by *British Breeding*. These include complying with the appropriate Horseracing and Betting Levy Board (HBLB) and British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) guidelines; maintaining high standards of hygiene, building and facility maintenance; positive staff training; meeting Health and Safety statutory requirements and the keeping of detailed records for resident and visiting horses and ponies and, where applicable, the production, handling and shipping of fresh, chilled and frozen semen.

Logo

Successful studs are permitted to use the dated logo on their premises, vehicles, stationery and in advertising literature.

Procedures for gaining the BQM Award

Studs are required to complete a detailed self-assessment form on a simple YES/NO basis.

This is returned to British Breeding together with copies of the stud's policies on: -

- Staff duties and responsibilities
- Health and safety for staff
- Staff training and professional development
- Prevention of equine disease transmission by staff
- Prevention and control of contagious diseases
- Tetanus vaccination

If the self-assessment form is found to be satisfactory an inspection visit is made when the facilities are checked and a random audit sample of the stud records and procedures is made.

At the visit the inspector looks at the procedures for: -

- Veterinary call-out
- Disinfection of premises and equipment
- 24-hour supervision
- Insurance cover for staff, customers and resident and visiting horses/ponies
- Containment of horses which may escape from where they should be
- Safeguarding data in the event of loss or destruction of the originals.

Further checks are also carried out on: -

- The ratio of staff to horses
- Grazing density
- Veterinary supervision
- Condition of fences, boxes, service and collection areas
- Provision of non-slip surfaces in key areas
- Adequacy of isolation facilities

In addition, where semen is collected and processed: -

- The semen collection areas, preparation room and processing laboratories are checked to see that they reach the BEVA recommended standards
- Similarly checked is the equipment for collecting, handling and dispatching semen

The stud records are checked to ensure that there is a complete record maintained for every horse/pony from which any information can be extracted that might be required by the stud owner/manager for the efficient running of the stud or by a customer. This may include any of the following: -

- DNA and/or blood typing results
- EVA vaccinations/testing
- Endometrial swabs
- Influenza vaccinations
- Veterinary treatments
- Gradings
- Coverings
- Scanning
- Foalings
- Foaling difficulties
- Collections and inseminations made by qualified staff
- Agreements regarding the sale and disposal of surplus semen

The self-assessment form must be completed every year and a successful inspection visit made every second year in order for a stud to remain in the scheme.

Costs

The assessment cost is £300 plus a one-off admin fee of £25. This covers approvals for the year of application plus the following year. After two years, a further assessment and fee is required.

Objectives

The BQM scheme embodies transparency and accountability.

Achieving BQM status is necessarily rigorous but is well within the capabilities of an efficient stud.

The long term objective for the GB equine breeding industry must be to discourage casual breeders and encourage breeders with knowledge of blood lines and running efficient businesses which measure up to the high standards of the BQM Scheme.

In this manner the quality of British-bred horses and ponies should improve and result in both better returns for the breeders and better quality horses for the customers.

STUDS WHO HAVE the BQM (as of Feb 2007)

Summerhill Stud, South Lanarkshire (*Doreen Allison*)
 Meadow Stud, Gloucestershire (*Sharon Baldwin*)
 Cae Rhyd ar Wen, Carmarthenshire (*Edith and Fred Rutherford*)
 Twemlows Hall Stud, Shropshire (*Richard, Tullis and Edward Matson*)
 West Kington Stud, Wiltshire (*Jane and Tim Holderness-Roddam*)
 Catherston Stud, Hampshire (*Jennie and Antony Loriston-Clarke*)
 Country Farm Stud, Lancashire (*Karen Raine*)
 Glenwood Stud, Northumberland (*Rob Williams*)
 New Hill Farm Stud, Lancashire (*Mark Fitton*)
 Balcormo Farm Stud, Fife (*Dugald and Jacqueline Low-Mitchell*)
 Ingliston House Stud, Renfrewshire (*Claire Campbell*)
 End House Stud, Lancashire (*Trudy Goulding*)
 Etheridge Farm and Stud, Dorset (*Ann Bassett*)
 The Mendip Stud, Somerset (*John Calder and Lou Talintyre*)
 Coombe Cross Stud, Somerset (*Sharon Brooks*)

QUOTATIONS

Edith Rutherford

"It made me find time do all the things that I kept promising myself that I would do and knew I ought to have done sooner"

Richard Matson (Chairman of the BQM Steering Group)

"Studs attaining BQM status have every right to expect discerning mare owners to send their mares to them in preference to studs where no standards have been set. There is a cost for any stud to achieve the BQM, be it in improved facilities or additional and better trained staff; this cost will have to be passed on to mare owners but they should be able to sleep better knowing that their precious mare is in the best place, receiving every care and attention that you would wish. It is a small price to pay for peace of mind"

Val and Rob Williams

"We feel that being part of BQM will give confidence to mare owners regarding the handling and welfare of their mares and foals".

"We feel that being part of BQM will give confidence to mare owners that they are leaving their mares with a team of people who are dedicated to getting their mare in foal".

Jane Holderness-Roddam

"The BQM logo on our advert helps publicize the standard of stud management that will be expected at the stud, therefore giving stallion and mare owners confidence"

Comments made to the Senior Assessor

- 1 Not as much work as I had first thought to get ready for the inspection
- 2 Identified jobs that we had on our list for years and galvanised us into doing them
- 3 After reading the questionnaire it was only straight forward requests for information on the application form
- 4 Made us look at our own systems and tighten them up for OUR own good

- 5 It was an opportunity to share good practice
- 6 Gave us an opportunity to look at our own practices and improve them
- 7 You tend not to acknowledge the aspects that you do well or appreciate the impact of your own shortfalls
- 8 It was very good to have an outsider expert come in and appraise our systems

JR 2/07