



## Report Department Promotion 2013

### Jeager-LeCoultre supports WBFSH

The Swiss watch company Jeager-LeCoultre decided to support the WBFSH. Jeager-LeCoultre and WBFSH initiate a conference on innovation in sport horse breeding in Cean, France in August 2014. Worldwide best speakers on molecular genetics will be invited and share their latest knowledge with breeders.

### WBFSH / FEI Rankings

There is a great deal of interest in the WBFSH / FEI rankings. With the founding of the WBFSH in 1994, the rankings were set up as a type of "medal mirror" for studbooks, based on the results of top international competitions by the best horses per studbook. It is a concept comparable with the Olympic medal rankings for countries. The WBFSH / FEI recognizes three ranking categories for the Olympic disciplines of jumping, dressage, and eventing: individual horse rankings, studbook rankings, and stallion rankings.

In the individual jumper ranking, horses are awarded points for each international competition, based on their results and the difficulty of the competition: the more difficult the competition, the more points awarded; in addition, the higher a horse places, the more points it receives. All points earned in a ranking year are added up for each horse. The number of points earned determines its position in the ranking. For example, a horse that frequently wins major competitions will earn many points and, as a result, will rank high. The horse ranking says a great deal about a horse's talent, willingness, and durability. Similar point systems are used for the individual horse rankings in dressage and eventing; however, only a horse's best eight dressage competitions and best six events are counted in its respective discipline. In 2013 a small adjustment is made in allocation of points for dressage riders and horses by the FEI. As the WBFSH / FEI rankings are connected to this point system the change is also effective in those rankings. Horses which are competing at a higher levelled competition are given extra bonus points, for example at the Olympics, continental championships and world cup competitions. A same mechanism was already effective in the rankings for jumping and eventing.

The total scores per horse serve as the foundation of the studbook rankings. However, only the points from each studbook's top six horses in each discipline are counted in this category. The limitation of horses per studbook serves the purpose – at least to some degree - of compensating for the size of the smaller studbooks.

Stallion rankings are determined by adding all the points earned by offspring in FEI competitions per discipline. A stallion with many offspring in the international sport and which are successful in major competitions will earn many points and subsequently stand high in the ranking.

Although the rankings speak to the quality of the horses, studbooks, and sires included, they should not be considered a type of independent quality certification, as available data is insufficient, and the studbooks differ too much. So far, it is not possible to take the number of foals born in the various studbooks into account when calculating the rankings because the studbooks do not keep record of their numbers of dressage-, eventing- and jumping- foals and several studbooks breed horses for all three disciplines.

A simple sensitivity analysis shows that even small errors in estimated numbers will lead to different rankings. The Board is prepared to improve the WBFSH method but another method must be objective, controllable, and equally applicable to all WBFSH members, without interfering in the independent studbook policies, for instance, with respect to specialization.

The International Equestrian Federation, FEI, produces the world-rankings for horses and studbooks. WBFSH members delivers the pedigree information of the horses involved as good as possible. The starting data of the rankings is the first of October of each year. During the first three months of the calendar year – October, November and December – the final results of the preceding year are published. From January onwards results of the running year are published and refreshed.

Of course, the WBFSH considers the completeness and correctness of the presented information to be very important. Each individual studbook is responsible for the deliverance of the pedigree information of her own horses. The department promotion has given much attention to the coordination of the pedigree information supplied by the studbooks and the input of horse data in the database of the FEI. Regretfully this is still a lot of manual work. Hopefully in the future, the by WBFSH developed XML tool for data exchange, will be helpful. In several meetings between WBFSH and FEI the possibilities of this tool were discussed. This resulted in a first version of a draft agreement. Although both FEI and WBFSH pay great attention to the production of the rankings, no liability is accepted for the possible incompleteness or incorrectness of the presented information for possible consequences of this.

The studbooks are as usual rewarded during the General Assembly. The rankings are free for publication, so no exclusive rights for any newspaper. Of course the rankings are also published on the website.

### **Honouring Breeders**

During the World Championships for Young Horses in dressage (Verden) and eventing (Le Lion d'Angers) the breeders of the medal winning horses in each age class were honoured as far as possible by the President, Mr. Pedersen.

### **Website**

The aim of the website is to have a communication tool with our members and an easy entrance for new members. Actual WBFSH news can be found as well as news of individual members which makes the site more attractive. Hosting and updating of the new site is done at the Secretary's Office of the WBFSH in Denmark.

### **Magazines**

Editorials about the leading horses of the WBFSH / FEI rankings have been published in Breedings News. The articles are a soundingboard with which a broad, international public can be reached. This brings the WBFSH and the rankings under international attention. Of course much attention has been paid to the Young Horse Championships and the General Assembly. This however does not prevent the WBFSH from presenting WBFSH news in other magazines. In fact, the department promotion wants to stimulate individual members to publish as much as possible in their own magazines.

### **Billboards and flags**

Billboards and flags were offered to the organising committees of the Young Horse World Breeding Championships to put in prominent places alongside and in the arena. Beside each member can have her own WBFSH flags to present at events.

September 2013.