

The Remit of Agroscope's Swiss National Stud

Agroscope's Swiss National Stud is the Swiss Confederation's centre of excellence for equids. Its remit is research and development, knowledge exchange, support for horse breeding and supplementing the assistance measures for agricultural horse husbandry. The Swiss National Stud represents a unique knowledge resource on all equine matters as well as a living cultural asset!

The original stud farm was founded in 1898 as a Swiss centre for horsebreeding and has undergone various stages with changing focuses. About ten years ago, the SNS was integrated into Agroscope and is thus now part of the Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG's centre of excellence for agricultural research.



ISME

Institut suisse de médecine équine

Schweiz: Institut für Pferdemedizin

Instituto svizzero di medicina equina

Swiss Institute of Equine Medicine



ZUCHTVERBAND CH-SPORTHEIDE

Schweiz: Institut für Pferdesport

FED. D'ÉLEVAGE DU CHEVAL DE SPORT CH

FED. D'ALLEV. DEL CAVALLU DA SPORT CH



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft

Confédération suisse

Confederazione Svizzera

Confederaziun svizra

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de la formation et de la recherche DEFR

Agroscope

Haras national suisse HNS



Schweizerischer Freibergerverband

Fédération suisse du franches-montagnes

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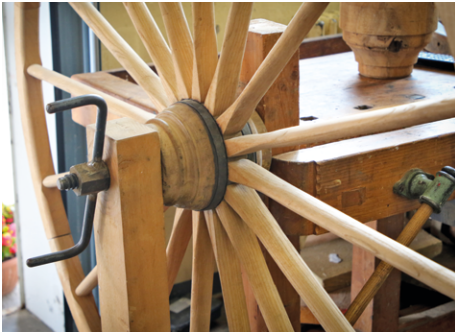
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Education and Research EAER
Agroscope

Swiss Confederation

A Short Timeline of the Swiss National Stud

1898	Founding of the Swiss Federal Stallion and Foal Barn in Avenches.	1998	The Swiss Federal Stud becomes the Swiss National Stud (SNS).
1910	Addition of an equine infirmary.	2000	The Swiss Federal Council assigns a performance mandate and global budget for the management of the SNS.
1927	The Swiss Federal Stallion and Foal Barn acquires 10 Franches-Montagnes mares, thereby becoming the Swiss Federal Stud.	2008	The SNS and the Agroscope Liebefeld-Posieux Research Station ALP merge to form the unit 'ALP-Haras'.
1942	Acquisition of the Domaine Peu Claude in the Jura.	2011	Anchoring of the SNS in the Swiss Federal Law on Agriculture.
1959	Construction of an Equine Clinic to round out the Stud.	2012	The Clinic of the SNS is merged with the Equine Clinic of the University of Bern Vetsuisse Faculty to form the Swiss Institute of Equine Medicine (ISME).
1969	Birth of first foal ('Icecream') from artificial insemination with frozen sperm.	2016	The SNS is incorporated into the 'Animals, Products of Animal Origin and Swiss National Stud' Competence Division within Agroscope. The priorities of the Stud are based on Agroscope's four-year Work Programmes.
1980	A Swiss Federal Council Ordinance declares equestrian sport to be a breeding objective. A number of stallions from the Swiss Federal Stud achieve success on the international stage, becoming the first stallions from state-run stud farms to take part in international sports competitions.		
1994	A Swiss Federal Council resolution to restructure the Federal Stud leads to the privatisation of the agricultural farm where the National Equestrian Institute of Avenches (IENA) is to be built.		



Preservation of the Franches-Montagnes horse breed and Avenches Farm

The activities of this group are oriented towards preserving the genetic diversity of the last Swiss horse breed, the Franches-Montagnes. They encompass purchasing and keeping valuable Franches-Montagnes stallions, making them available to breeders via breeding stations or frozen sperm, and supporting the Franches-Montagnes association in various projects.

The 'Horse Training' team consists of professional horse riders and drivers who train the horses under saddle and for carriage driving. These employees present the stud stallions to the wider public at competitions, events and shows, thereby helping to promote the Franches-Montagnes horse breed at a national and international level.

The team 'Horse Husbandry, Maintenance and Workshops' looks after the infrastructure linked with the Stud: stables and yards, green patches and garden areas as well as the equestrian and carriage-driving facilities. The three workshops on site are the saddlery, the wheelwright and the blacksmith. These three artisanal professions provide great added value for the Stud. The SNS promotes these varied equine trades through the training of apprentices.

The SNS is a member of the European State Studs Association (ESSA), which is committed to preserving Europe's national stud farms and their cultural heritage.

Equine Research and Knowledge Exchange

The Equine Research group conducts applied research for the promotion of sustainable husbandry, use and breeding of horses. To this end, it collaborates closely with universities and institutes of higher education in Switzerland and abroad, as well as with other Agroscope groups. The research questions dealt with often arise from close contact with the field – an exchange that helps to identify the current challenges and issues the equine sector is facing.

Scientific projects conducted by the members of the Equine Research team aim to find solutions for the husbandry, use and breeding of horses, taking into account animal welfare, cost-effectiveness and the environment. One of the main topics is the promotion of sustainable horse husbandry: improving animal health, decreasing the workload, increasing the profitability of horse farms and protecting the environment. Another priority topic is sustainable use and breeding, focusing on the social significance of horses in Switzerland and the breeding of healthy animals.

Making technical and scientific findings from equine research available to as many people as possible – this is the core task of the 'Extension' team. The members of this team offer courses to various target groups: horsekeepers, agricultural professionals, students of agronomy and veterinary medicine, etc. In addition to its teaching activities, the team has been running an advisory centre for all equine-related topics for over 20 years. Here, questions and concerns

from practitioners, government agencies, journalists, various institutions and other stakeholders are dealt with and answered impartially. Another task is the drafting of expert reports for insurance companies, courts or state agencies. In addition, Agroscope publishes dozens of factsheets and articles in professional journals and creates educational material for various levels every year.

Events

Various events are held on the grounds of the SNS over the course of the year, including our Open Doors Day in late summer. In addition, the Stud's stallions are presented by our employees at sporting and breeding events throughout Switzerland. You'll find our events calendar on our website at www.harasnational.ch.

Tours

The Swiss National Stud is open daily year-round from 7am to 7pm. Information panels are located throughout the site, offering visitors a glimpse into the world of horses and the Stud. We recommend visiting the Stud during the week in order to observe our horses at work in the courtyard or indoor riding arena.

Our feathered friends, the storks, can usually be found on the roofs of the Stud from early February until late July.

Guided tours of the Stud are organised by the local tourist office, Avenches Tourisme (www.avenches.ch).

