An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Equine Viral Arteritis Update for the 2025 Breeding Season

Background

- Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) is a contagious viral disease that can affect all equine animals.
- Ireland is currently free from this disease, but it is in wide circulation worldwide including in mainland Europe, and therefore poses an ongoing threat of introduction.
- The virus can be spread by:
    - Mating (natural cover or artificial insemination)
    - Respiratory tract secretions from infected animals
    - Contact with aborted foetuses and associated tissues and fluids
    - Contact with contaminated equipment or fomites
- The clinical presentation and severity of the disease can vary widely and may include:

▪ Abortion in pregnant mares ▪ Fever ▪ Depression ▪ Inappetence ▪ Nasal discharge ▪ Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	▪ Swelling of the: • Scrotum and prepuce • Udder • Eyes • Lower limbs

- Post exposure to the virus, EVA can establish a long term carrier state in recovered stallions, whereby infection can be spread persistently through semen.
- EVA is a **notifiable disease in Ireland**, meaning any suspect case should be immediately isolated indoors and notified without delay to the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine.

EVA Vaccine Availability for 2025:

- An inactivated vaccine called Equip Artervac, made by Zoetis, is the only licensed vaccine currently available in the European Union (EU) for protection against EVA. However, this vaccine has not been available since early 2023.

- A modified live vaccine called ARVAC, also made by Zoetis and authorised for use in the US, was therefore made available under special license only, to breeders who demonstrated they could meet the biosecurity and quarantine conditions required for its safe use.

- This recent lack of EVA vaccine availability may contribute to an increased risk of a disease outbreak, which if it were to occur, may have significant negative consequences for the Irish equine industry.

- Appropriate precautionary measures should therefore continue to be applied.

Advised Actions In Advance and During the 2025 Breeding Season:

- All previously vaccinated stallions and teasers (Artervac or ARVAC) should submit pre-breeding serosurveillance blood samples for antibody monitoring purposes to the **IRISH EQUINE CENTRE, JOHNSTOWN, NAAS, KILDARE, W91 RH93.**

- Any new stallions commencing breeding in 2025 should also submit blood samples to confirm their EVA negative status before they start breeding activity.

- Additionally, all breeders are strongly encouraged to **review and optimise their biosecurity and mare testing protocols** on farm in advance of the 2025 breeding season in line with the International Codes of Practice.

- Management of imported horses (mares and stallions) should also be done in accordance with the advice provided in the International Codes of Practice.

- Although there are no EU requirements to test horses for EVA when moving between EU member states, a test should be requested before departing the country of origin to help protect the Irish horse population.

Advised Actions After the 2025 Breeding Season:

- At the end of the 2025 breeding season during the summer months, all previously vaccinated stallions and teasers (Artervac or ARVAC) should submit six-monthly serosurveillance blood samples for antibody monitoring purposes to the **IRISH EQUINE CENTRE, JOHNSTOWN, NAAS, KILDARE, W91 RH93.**

- **For more information on EVA see the EVA page on the gov.ie website**

- **Please send any queries in relation to EVA to ndcc@agriculture.gov.ie**