

## Quality Samples Program Supported by USLGE and AQHA

The American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) with support from US Livestock Genetics Export (USLGE) sponsors international countries to participate in the US Foreign Agricultural Service's (FAS) Quality Samples Program (QSP). The QSP is a grant-based program to increase awareness of the benefits of using U.S. equine semen through artificial insemination technology to improve genetics, thereby leading to commercial trade between the U.S. and a selected country.

AQHA partners with a foreign organization, typically a recognized AQHA Affiliate, to promote offspring produced by export-ready semen from U.S. stallions and from foreign mares, in order to improve the gene pool in a selected country.

AQHA and the foreign organization will work together to complete the proposal application for the FAS QSP. If the foreign organization is approved for FAS QSP, the program will be held for one calendar year. For example, if the country is awarded in February 2025, the program will end on December 31, 2025. Due to this, it is important to start the program as early as possible in the approved year to ensure all mares are bred within the calendar year. *An extension to the program year is unlikely but can be considered in extenuating circumstances.* **Remaining semen cannot be used after the calendar year and must be destroyed per stallion contract.**

AQHA and the foreign organization will advertise the program and accept applications of interests into the program from mare owners. Openings are limited and only mares that fit the program criteria will be approved to participate.

When the mare owners begin the stallion selection, the only requirement is that the stallion must be U.S. based (ownership and physical location). Neither AQHA nor the foreign organization can put additional restrictions on the stallion selection process. With that said, not all stallions are vetted for international export from the U.S. and not all stallion owners wish to participate in the program.

AQHA requires approved mares to be officially registered in the current owner's within AQHA's database and the mare must have DNA recorded with AQHA. In the event the mare owner wants to breed to a stallion who is not completely negative on their health panel, the mare must complete health panel testing through UC Davis to avoid any potential genetic health defects. The mare owner must be an active AQHA member.

AQHA, with the help of the U.S. industry members, the foreign organization and the USLGE Equine Group, will conduct the technical activity/educational seminar. Mare owners are required to participate in the technical activity/educational seminar. The mare owners will learn state of the art techniques in equine reproduction and the benefits of using U.S. frozen semen samples. If mare owners do not participate in the seminar, they will forfeit their spot in the program.

After the technical assistance activity/educational seminar, AQHA and the foreign organization will begin obtaining U.S. semen contracts, completing shipping requirements and verifying program information. The foreign organization must identify and make arrangements for semen storage until all mares are bred. The foreign organization must also identify skilled veterinarian(s) in the country to complete the frozen semen breeding protocol.



Mare owners and/or the foreign organization will be responsible for the import fees and taxes. If shipping U.S. stallion semen from a storage located outside of the United States, mare owners and/or the foreign organization will be responsible for shipping costs. Under the QSP grant, shipping is solely covered from the U.S. to the first international location. For example, if the semen must first go through another country to qualify for importation into approved country, the second shipping/transportation fee will not be covered. Additionally, any costs in regard to the shipping container will not be covered by AQHA or the QSP grant.

AQHA will pay the stallion owner directly for the semen/breeding and the foreign organization/mare owner will be responsible for notifying the stallion owner of the breeding dates prior to November 15 of the breeding year. If the country participating in the QSP program is south of the equator, the stallion owner must be notified prior to December 31 of the breeding year. By providing the stallion owner with the breeding date(s), this ensures the stallion breeding report will be provided to AQHA without late fees. If the foreign organization/mare owner does not notify the stallion owner of the breeding date(s), the stallion owner may pass any late fees to the foreign organization/mare owner.

The foreign organization must keep track and document the entire program. Documentation includes, but not limited to consistent contact with AQHA representatives, photos of shipping containers arriving in country, photos of mare veterinary checkups, a final report of foals on the ground, etc.

The FAS Quality Sample Program is an extraordinary opportunity for international mare owners to obtain top quality semen for free or at a small out of pocket cost (which includes important fees/taxes).

**Our organization is fully aware of the requirements and constraints of the program. We confirm our commitment to proceed with the program and seek QSP grant funding through AQHA. We acknowledge that by submitting this application to AQHA, they will apply on behalf of our organization, although acceptance into the program is not guaranteed.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization/Association \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Mare Participation:                      15 Mares                      30 Mares

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_