

# Buying a Brood Mare

## Introduction

The Sport Horse Industry in Ireland is a vibrant and diverse industry. Horses are produced for showing, show jumping, eventing, dressage, polo, driving, endurance and a myriad of different leisure activities.

## Products

- Competition horses – show jumping and eventing
- Showing horses – showing in hand or ridden hunter classes
- Leisure horses – trekking, hunting, hunter trials, driving, endurance, mounted games

## The Market

Potentially the market is world wide with sport horses being exported to places as far away as Australia and California. However the U.K. is our main market with mainland Europe being the second most important. The market opportunities for our top competition horses are excellent but it is more difficult to market the other horses unless they are properly trained and produced in a manner suitable for the customer. This is particularly important in the case of horses for the leisure market. Breeders must decide which market they wish to supply and select a brood mare that is likely to produce the kind of horse required.

## Production Systems

- Producing a foal and selling at 5-6 months
- Producing a foal and selling at 3 years unbroken and lunging over a fence or at 4 years broken and riding

## Critical factors to consider when purchasing a Broodmare.

- Personal knowledge and experience required to buy, breed from and manage a mare and her offspring.
- Facilities and labour available.
- Evaluation of registered breeding stock in relation to pedigree, conformation, performance and genetic indices.
- Temperament and the age of the mare.
- Veterinarian certificate for soundness.
- Previous breeding history
- Cost of initial purchase of the mare.
- Cost of foal production.
- Methods of 'adding value' to your foal/young horse when selling.



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*This is one of a series of fact sheets on income generating activities.*

*All fact sheets are available in the Advisory Section of the Teagasc Website*  
[www.teagasc.ie](http://www.teagasc.ie)

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Teagasc Fact Sheets present a brief overview of a topic. Further detailed advice should always be sought from relevant sources

The investment in foundation stock is most important, on it will depend the success or failure of the enterprise. The time period to the point of first sale depends on the type of foundation stock initially purchased. If a maiden mare is purchased, she must be put in foal and it will be 18 months before there is any return on investment. However if an in-foal mare is purchased, the return will obviously be much quicker.

## Costs

### Capital costs for buying a broodmare

	=	€
Purchase of mare	=	4,000
Stabling new	=	3,000
Fencing	=	1,900
Tack	=	<u>130</u>
<b>Total</b>	=	<b>9,030</b>

### Foal production to weaning costs:

	€
Stud Fee	400
Stud Keep	105
Hay	81
Concentrates	120
Bedding	45
Veterinary	350
Medicine	130
Farrier	165
Grazing	39
Foal Registration	70
Sales expenses	<u>30</u>
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>1,535</b>

## Returns

<b>Sale of Average price Foal</b>	€1,500	
Mare depreciation	€400	(purchase price €4,000 spread over 10 years)
Gross output	€1,100	
Minus expenses	€1,535	
<b>GM/mare</b>	<b>- €435</b>	

<b>Sale of Foal in Top 10%</b>	€5,000
Mare depreciation	€400
Gross output	€4,600
Minus expenses	€1,535
<b>GM/mare</b>	<b>€3,065</b>

Gross margins for selling 3 year olds unbroken will range from €165 for the average up to €4,000 for the top 10%.

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