

## The Most Suitable Stallion For Your Mare

From Phryso Jan. 96

*Periodically, the FPS publishes in PHRYSO an index of traits which seem to be characteristic of the get of each stallion who has been approved on offspring. Most of these stallions are not available to North American breeders, however the guidelines included with the index provide a useful checklist for every breeder.*

Both the FPS and the breeders are faced with the challenge of improving the Friesian horse. You can use this schedule as a resource. To be able to use this schedule to your advantage, it is necessary that the breeder has a profound knowledge of his own mare. Only if you know your mare's strongest and weakest points can you take advantage of the schedule.

In our breeding program we can choose from all the available Approved Stallions. Our starting point is the fact that every Approved Stallion can play a role. It is your task, with the help of this schedule to choose a stallion who can improve the weaker points in your mare.

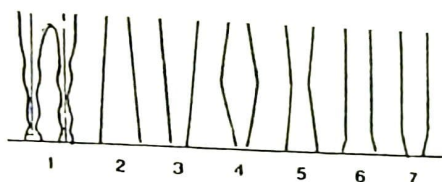
There are many open spots in the schedule ( □ ) because our information is not sufficient to give an accurate opinion or because the stallion does not seem to make a difference positively or negatively. A ( + ) indicates that the stallion confirms this point most of the time and a ( - ) means that this is negative.

We advise you to read the following in conjunction with the schedule:

1. Use - We breed horses for different uses: recreational, driving and dressage. Some stallions produce offspring that are suitable for dressage under saddle or in driving and other stallions might breed more consistently in the direction of the old fashioned "tuigpaard" (show driving horse). Of course the influence of the dam is also important. Breeders who want to get a "tuigpaard" can give more attention to the stallions marked with a "T".
2. Side View - We like to see horses with enough "space" in build and movements. From the side view, we see that the horse is longer than his height; more like a rectangle, although the back may not be too long. With a sloping shoulder and a sloping croup with enough length, with the proportions between forehand, center part and hindquarters can be 1:1:1.
3. Mass - We find different types in mares, as well as in stallions. Some horses have a heavy build by nature, others are more slightly built. We do not advise breeding a very heavy mare with a heavier stallion. But it won't hurt to use a heavy stallion on a very fine mare once in a while.
4. Size - Our FPS mares come in all sizes. We still have too many small horses, smaller than the 1.60 (15.3 hands) we would like to see at age three. If the mare is small, or if the mother of the mare is small or breeds small, it is useful to breed with a stallion who proved pre-potent in breeding taller offspring. The indication in the schedule is based on the percentage of daughters under 1.58m (15.2 ¼ hands). Again the influence of the mare has to be taken into consideration.
5. Length of the front leg - The front leg plays an important role in the modernization of the Friesian horse. Too many horses are still too close to the ground and could use a stallion who can bring more length, especially in the forearm, which will improve the ability to cover more ground. Some stallions bring more improvement than others.
6. Neck - The breeding plans mentions this ideal: the neck should not be too short or poorly muscled, and needs to come sufficiently high out of the shoulder. We do not like a convex neck (ewe-neck).

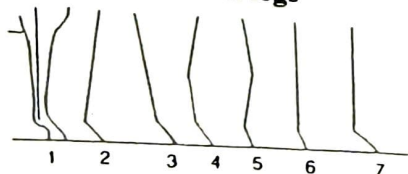
7. **Shoulder** - The ideal is long and sloping.
8. **Withers** - The breeding plan looks for a well developed withers, gradually blending into the back. They should not be too flat.
9. **Back** - Be careful of a back that is too long. A slightly low back is allowed.
10. **Loins** - Like well-developed withers are the bridge between the forehead and the center part of the horse, loins which are wide, short and muscular must make a strong connection between the center part and the hindquarters. We still have too many stallions who score a negative on this point.
11. **Shape of the croup** - This is very important. In order to use the hind leg well, the croup must have enough length. The line between the point of the hip and the point of the buttock should be sloping. Length and slope of the croup should have the utmost attention of the breeders because we must improve on this point. Straight or sloping, a short croup is undesirable. A horse can sometimes perform well in spite of a lesser skeleton, but never because of. The skeleton needs to have the favorable conditions for performance to enable the horse to bring the hind legs under the body.
12. **Formation of the legs** - The following outline can assist you

#### Front view of front legs



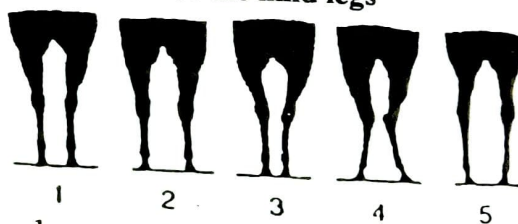
1. normal or correct
2. wide at the base
3. narrow at the base
4. wide at the knees (bow legs)
5. toes out
6. pigeon toed

#### Side view of front legs



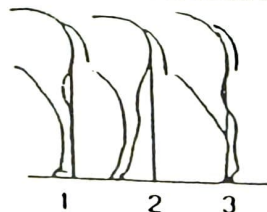
1. normal or correct
2. standing under
3. standing over
4. calf kneed
5. over at the knee
6. upright pastern, too straight
7. weak pastern

#### Rear view of the hind legs



1. normal or correct
2. wide at the hocks
3. narrow at the hocks
4. cow-hocked, splay footed
5. bow legged, pigeon toed

#### Side view of the hind legs



1. normal or correct
2. standing under
3. standing off hocks, camped out



**Hind leg**

The ideal is: Hind view: straight

Side view: correct formation, with the hock at an angle of approximately 150 degrees.

A hind leg that is too long is not desirable.

13. Quality of the legs - Stallions with a ( - ) indication do not give sufficiently "dry" legs. If your mare has some puffiness, look for a stallion with a ( + ) indication.
14. Movements - The breeding plan emphasizes movements with good action from the hindquarters. It would be nice if all stallions would score positively, but that is not yet the case. The hock angle is also very important. We have several stallions who score positively on sufficiently roomy movements from the forehand.
15. Balance - Balance and regularity of the movements are important (see the remarks under #11)
16. Walk - We look for a powerful, ground-covering walk.
17. Trot - Many stallions breed a spacious trot, but the action from the hindquarters and light-footedness could often be better.

What else....

The "feeling" of the breeder is important. This breeding indication can only be a small contribution. But there is more information available: the reports of the central examination of stallions; the performance of the stallions in sports; the percentage of star mares.

Inbreeding - We follow this rule: keep inbreeding out of the first three generations of the lineage. When you make a pedigree of the foal you want to breed, you don't want to see the same name twice or more in the first three generations of the foal's pedigree.

Quality - It is to our mutual advantage to improve the quality of the Friesian horse. We need to do this on the basis of our own free will and by working together.

