

## **WBFSH Annual Assembly 2023, Orlando – Janice Tyndall**

Going to the World Breeding meeting was a little overwhelming with so many people from all the different studbooks. It was a very busy meeting with several seminars, and a workshop. I will say that the seminars were very interesting while some were maybe a little scary with the direction equine health science is going. The presentations were so full of information, one would have to watch them again online. I was hoping to have the links to them by now so the board members could have access to see and/or hear them.

There were 70 studbook representatives from 19 countries. To get a lot from the different registries (there were so many new people to meet), one would need to attend the assembly at least a couple of times to be able to be properly prepared. The first day was the welcome reception. There weren't a lot of people who attended. I assume many attendees were still arriving or were jet lagged.

On day 2, we were treated to a seminar on "increasing fertility through nutrition", followed by a seminar titled "The American perspective on Horse Welfare". In the afternoon there were 2 more seminars – the first was "Genomics for gate and movement in the sport horse" and the second was the "American racing prospective on horse welfare in the US".

We then broke for lunch, which was followed by a workshop. The workshop subject was "Welfare and Social License to Operate". The main topic was "is there a necessity for welfare-related common studbook rules or guidelines for breeding programs (selections, performance testing, foal and mare events, etc), and if so, what should they be?"

We broke into 7 groups and were given 3 Questions, (1) welfare issues with respect to sport horse breeding, (2) young horse management and (3) sustainability of horse breeding current strengths/good practices. I have attached the definition of "Social License" from the WBFSH website. This was part 2 of the workshop that was done last year in Dresden.

After the workshop, we were bused to the World Equestrian Center (WEC) in Ocala. It was great to walk through the grounds and to see such an amazing facility. Unfortunately there were no horse shows scheduled for the day we there, so we did not get to see any horses. Before we returned to our hotel we were treated to a BBQ.

On day 3, we attended a seminar on "New techniques in genetics", followed by another on "Gene doping". After lunch, there was the General Assembly, i.e., the actual annual meeting. In the evening, there was a gala dinner.

They announced their plans for next year's General Assembly, scheduled to take place in Portugal, co-hosted by the APCRS (Portuguese Sport Horse and Luso-Warmblood) and the Lusitano Studbook, 12-15 October 2024.