

4th European Holstein Judging School

Hódmezővásárhely, Hungary

08-10., May 2023

The 4th European Holstein Judging School was held in Hódmezővásárhely, Hungary 08-10. May 2023. The School was organized by the Hungarian Holstein Association.

The European Judging WG was represented by Mark Nutsford, Soren Christensen and Tamás Sebők.

The program was visited by the following countries: Hungary - as the hosts country - Latvia, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Croatia, and Romania - all together 28 participants.

Considering that the previous Judging School was almost five years ago and the large number of new applicants, we summarized the parts of the main topics during the Theoretical session, like “working in the ring as a judge”, the “keys of the perfect reason” and the “evaluation of the animals in the ring”. In the last topic we determined the “functional, profitable and balanced cow” with help from Mark and Soren.

31 animals were involved in the Practical part; from young heifers up to the mature cows, in 7 classes. In addition to explaining the most common ring procedures, during the day we focused on the evaluation of the animals allowing every participant to ask questions and add comments any time, creating active discussion in the ring. We worked together with the whole group, but we set aside time for individual work as well. With a few classes we divided the participants into small groups and worked with the “Master Judges” in the ring, in a similar way as we did last time in Poland. The feedback was positive about the common work in small groups.

The day was closed with a presentation of the procedure of the Grand Champion ceremony for the winners of the day.

The European Judging School gives a great opportunity to the participants to gain insight into the “Judge’s word” and get to know and understand the possibilities and “beauties” of this work. Beside this to discuss about “modern European cows” the “take home message” is useful not just for the people who may be a judge in the future but also the participants who work with breeders or are themselves a breeder. Taking home the experience from this program could give some additional knowledge and experience to be an “ambassador” of the European showing and breeding philosophy.

I would like to give special thanks to the Hungarian Holstein Association and the breeders who supported the event with their additional work and the Hód-Mezőgazda Zrt., who provided the venue to the School. Finally but not least I would like thank you the EHRC Judging Working Group who holds this event among the official EHRC programs, together with special thanks to Mark Nutsford and Soren Christensen for helping to make the event a success with their work and experience.

If the EHRC Working Group agree, the 5th European Holstein Judging School will be organized by Slovenia as host country in 2025!