

Baden-Württemberg Young Breeders: A great team

BY ANTJE KURZWEG / IYB

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY BADEN WÜRTTEMBERG YOUNG BREEDERS

In the southern part of Germany, there is a special team: the Young Breeders Baden-Württemberg. The team comprises around 100 young people aged between 10 and 25 who come together regularly to pursue their common passion for sport horse breeding

Affiliated to the horse breeding association Baden-Württemberg, the young breeders are represented at many different events of the association, and actively support both the breeding association and its breeders. Presenting the mares at foal shows, assisting at auctions and licensings, or turning out horses are only some of the interesting tasks of the young breeders. They see many different horses and naturally train their ability to judge a horse. In addition, there are events specifically for young breeders, such as training courses, excursions, or competitions. These are always a highlight because you meet other young breeders' teams and make new friends.

That's it for the facts, but the young breeders should present themselves and have the opportunity to talk about their passion. Lisa Banzhaf, 24, said; "I really enjoy being a member of the young breeders. You learn everything about horses and you are actively at the centre of breeding events instead of just being there. In addition, you get to know incredible horse enthusiasts from all over the world and see how breeding is done in other countries during the young breeders' trips. My highlight was the International Young Breeders WBFSh World Championships in Canada."

Carolin Wolpert, 21, also enjoys participating and has even decided to become a professional in the horse sector: "My best young breeders' experience was the World Championships in Canada 2017. At every young breeders' competition you meet nice people who are fascinated with

horse-breeding, too, and the young breeders' parties are unique. But being a young breeder is also fun during the normal course of the year. You always have good conversations with experienced breeders and can take a lot with you. Sometimes a young breeder even finds his future horse through such contacts."

This year, the team was happy to achieve second place at the International Young Breeders' World Championship in Ermelo, together with the Hanoverian team. The often-mentioned IYB World Championship in Canada is not only fondly remembered because the team from Baden-Württemberg were victorious that year, but especially because of the feeling of adventure. Diligent training at home, followed by the plane trip, participating in the championship, and discovering that Canada was an experience of a lifetime, brought the team members even closer together.

In general, friendships formed within the team often last long beyond career activities, as again the young breeders find suitable opportunities to continue their involvement in horse breeding, for example in the breeding club, as judges or active breeders.

And that's what it's all about: giving young horse people the knowledge they need to form the next generation of horse breeders. But the best thing is that you don't have to come from a breeding family or have your own horse – anyone who wants to learn more about horse-breeding is warmly welcome to become part of the young breeders team Baden-Württemberg. ■



Silver medal in Ermelo



Baden-Württemberg and Hanoverian young breeders share the podium in 2022