

Questions Mare Owners Should Consider

By Jim Dettmer



A stallion's quality is not the only factor that should be considered when selecting a stallion. What follows is a list of questions that you should ask yourself, the stallion owner/manager, the facility standing the stallion and the person breeding your mare. There will be no clear checklist that you will have to tell you the "right" stallion for your mare. These questions are meant to help guide your decision and provide you clarity in that decision.

Questions for yourself:

1. Is the stallion a good match for my mare?
 - a. Will his physical attributes and mental qualities balance well with my mare and give me a foal I will be happy with?
 - b. Will the value of the foal be more than my investment if I bought a foal?
2. Is live cover, on-farm AI or shipped semen most appropriate?
3. What's my budget? If things turn into a worst-case scenario, can I afford it?



Questions for the stallion owner/manager/stallion station

1. How much experience do you have with breeding this stallion?
2. What's the stallion's fertility like when shipping? On the farm?
 - a. What's his semen look like at 24 hours? 36 hours? 24 hours? Beyond?
3. What should I expect if I get a bad shipment?
4. What is your shipping schedule?
5. What fees can I expect from the shipping farm?
6. What is the stallion's 5 panel status?



Questions for the mare breeder

1. What procedures are you experienced at and willing to perform?
 - a. Different farms and localities have different regulations on what individuals can do if they do not have a veterinary license. In Indiana, for example, you can ultrasound to check for ovulation status, but not diagnose a pregnancy.
2. How much do those procedures cost?
 - a. Your mare will not likely need every procedure. Discuss your mare's breeding history with the person assisting you to get an idea of what your mare is most likely to need.

Find out more at <http://www.dettmersrisingsun.com>