

# Current status of the local brachycerous cattle breeds in Croatia

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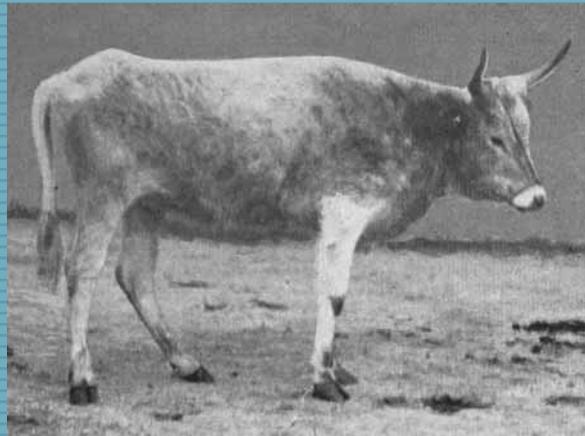
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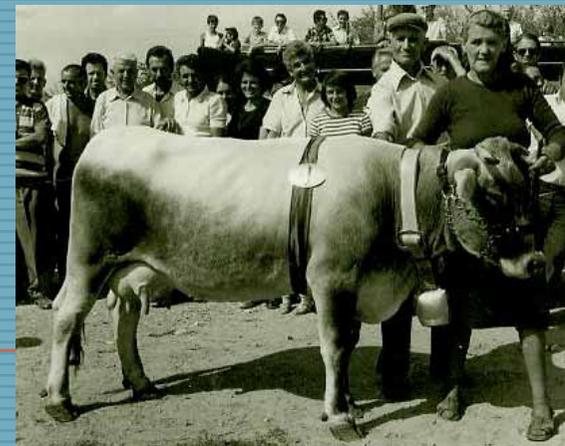
# Introduction

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- ❑ middle of the twentieth century-cattle production in Croatia was based on brachycerous and podolian cattle breeds
- ❑ till the Second World War - brachycerous cattle participate with more than half of total cattle population in Croatia  $\approx$  2 million cows



- ❑ beginning of XX. century – change in global animal production strategy
- ❑ **key point** for change breed structure
  - Breeders need more productive animals
  - Selection in "Pure breed" or "Crossing"
- ❑ start selection improvement of Busha
- ❑ the law from the year 1908. regulate merging Busha with Oberintal cattle because the opinions were "similar crossing with similar"
- ❑ in west continental area of Croatia, for selection improvement production traits was used Pinzgauer and latter was included Simmental breed



# Actual state of Busha population in Croatia

□ 2003. - status of **critically endangered** - list of autochthonous breeds

□ Plan of preservation of Busha

■ inventarisation

■ breed standard

■ establish Herd-book

■ 2007 - 125 cows + 16 bulls



□ On the area of Lika and Dalmatia few nucleus herds were establish

□ The sperm from several 'busak' bulls were collected (a.i.)

## Breed standard of Busha

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- ❑ small, resistant cattle
- ❑ wither height (103-108 cm)
- ❑ firm legs and hoofs
- ❑ small head
- ❑ long neck
- ❑ chest is small and quite deep
- ❑ pelvis is short,
- ❑ mucosa which can be seen and hoofs are darker color (black)



# Breed standard of Busha

- ❑ one colored cattle with variations
  - white color
  - different tones of red and brown
  - almost completely black color
  - tigress colored
- ❑ bright *eely stripe* line on the back
- ❑ skin is elastic and soft



## Breed standard of Busha

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- ❑ udder is poorly developed,
  - ❑ short lactation (50 to 150 days) – 600 to 1400 liters
  - ❑ bulls usually have one half of lower part of testis in black colour
  - ❑ body weight of calf is small (15 to 18 kg) - easy calving
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## Actual state of population of Grey Dalmatian cattle

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- Gray Dalmatian cattle in Croatia was established by continuous breeding work on autochthonous genome of Busha (*Bos brachyceros*)
- beginning of XX century - improvement of brachycerous cattle type (Busha) with Austrian *Tiroler Grauvieh*



## Actual state of population of Grey Dalmatian cattle

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- 1956. - Center for Artificial Insemination was established which provides semen of Gray bulls on the Dalmatian area
  
- Herd-book of Gray bulls (1947.)
  - 119 bulls (24 bulls from Austria, 95 domestic bulls) was introduced
  
  - Present number (*estimate*)  
**3 000 - 5 000 individuals**



# Grey Dalmatian cattle

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- ❑ medium body size
- ❑ relatively low production
- ❑ milk yield - 2 500 to 3 000 kg/lactation



## Direction in developing brachycerous cattle type in Croatia

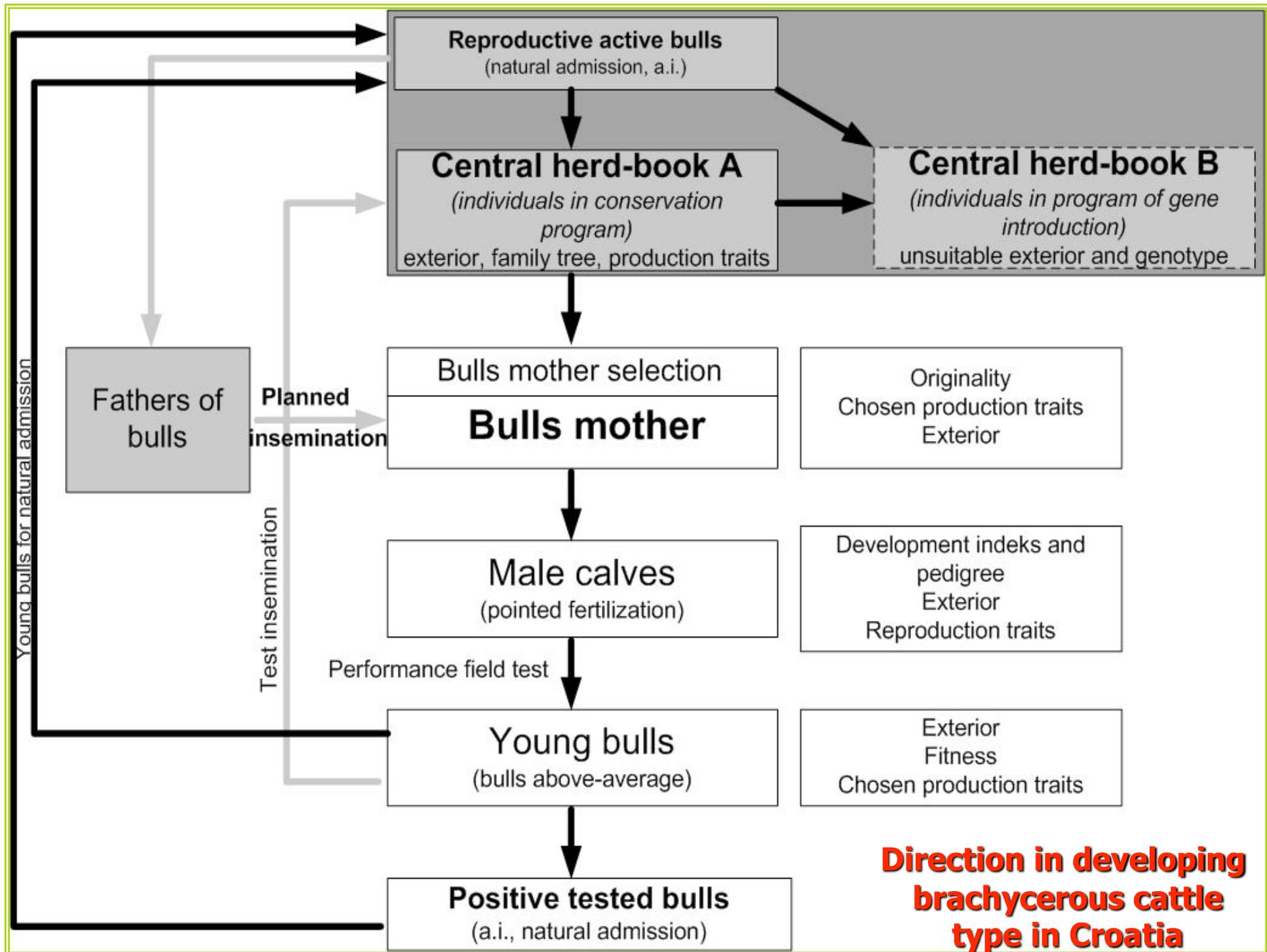
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- Conservation programs of Busha are active
  - Busha - include in subvention system
  - actual *in situ* conservation model includes several nucleus herds and several minor Busha breeders
  - Stimulation for reanimation of Busha breed
    - semen from several bulls which are used in artificial insemination
    - new national breeding program gives directions to consolidation and reaffirmation Busha
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## Direction in developing brachycerous cattle type in Croatia

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- ❑ Dalmatian Grey cattle - not on the list of autochthonous cattle breeds
  - ❑ New national breeding program (2007) supports making breeding programs for Dalmatian Grey cattle
  - ❑ New reactivating of **Herd-book** of Grey Dalmatian cattle
  - ❑ Dalmatian Grey cattle can be useful in less intensive programs of milk and meat production
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## Direction in developing brachycerous cattle type in Croatia

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- ❑ Breeders who have valid autochthonous cattle primary are motivated with government subventions
  - ❑ Breeding strategy is consists of monitoring of habit with little active progress inside breeding situation
  - ❑ Corrections of conservation strategy AnGR in Croatia
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## Direction in developing *brachycerous* cattle type in Croatia

### □ suggestion:

- ✓ state subsidies from government should be focused on exact number of individuals and on reproductive active individuals
- ✓ establish Professional Services which lead conservation programs (Croatian Livestock Center)
- ✓ Economic exploitations programs



**Thank you for attention**

