

Workshop " Rare Breeds of the Balkan"

22-24 SEPTEMBER 2004. Dimitrovgrad, Serbia and Montenegro

Prof. dr Miroslav Plavsic:

Title: "**Presentation of Podolian cattle in Serbia-Montenegro**"

Short presentation of my work:

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From May, 1989, I was elected for Teaching ASSISTANT of subject Cattle management. The July 2nd 1996, Dean of Faculty of Agriculture promoted me into ASSISTANT for Cattle management and Animal husbandry, and from July the 13th became the Assistant PROFESSOR for both subjects at Faculty of Agriculture, Animal science Department in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. From June, 2003. I was promoted into Associate Professor for Cattle management and Animal husbandry.

As an author and co-author until now published 73 scientific and regular papers.

Other qualifications and interests:

- Experience with laboratory techniques for milk quality (Gerber; Milkotester; MilkoScan),
- Computer programs (Word; WordPerfect; CHI Writer; Lotus; Quattro; Excel; DBASE; Corel Draw; Corel Photo Paint and various statistical programs,

Languages: English, Serbo - Croatian, Hungarian.

Description of situation of the Podolian breed in Serbia and Montenegro

Species:	Cattle
Most common name:	Podolsko govece (serb.)
Other local names:	Podolska (serb.), Sivo-stepska (serb.), Yugoslav Steppe (eng.) Yugoslav Podolian (eng.)
Main use:	1. work: draught power, 2. food: meat, 3. food: milk
Birth weight male (kg):	35
Birth weight female (kg):	30
Milk yield per lactation (avg, kg):	1000
Lactation length (avg, day):	270
Milk fat (avg, %):	4
Total population size:	130
Additional information:	calving rate (%): 85
Horn shape and/or size:	huge, long horns (up to 100 cm)
Color:	uni color: grey comment: males darker and calves reddish
Area of distribution:	North Serbia, Vojvodina
Risk status:	endangered - maintained
In situ conservation:	Yes

Podolian breed was brought to Europe from Podolia province from Russia, at around IV century. From XIV, XV century this breed was spread all over Europe, from Ural until Atlantic ocean.

Podolian breed belongs to primigenius group of cattle and to production type of work. The breed is known for its adaptability to extreme conditions and is reported to have an unspecified disease resistance. This is a typical draft animal, known for its strong constitution and hardiness. In the past it was the main draft animal in agriculture of Serbia province of Vojvodina.

The Yugoslav podolian cattle is an indigenous native breed. The animals are grey, although males are darker and calves are reddish in color. Adult males weight on average 800 kg and females 500 kg with an average wither height of 150 cm and 135 cm, respectively. These cattle have huge, long horns (up to 100 cm in length).

The need of action to save the breed

It would be necessary to save Podolian breed in Serbia and Montenegro and therefore, it is indispensable to subsidy by governmental funds the produces interested that breed, which are traditionally bound for it, and to increase in the number of animals. It is necessary to change bulls with Hungarian producers and maintain several lines in order to avoid incest. Further, in order to conserve the genetic resources of the breed, it is necessary to carry out cryogenic conservation of semen and 500 embryos.

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