STATE OF ANIMAL BREEDING IN ESTONIA

Veterinary and Food Board
VETERINARY AND FOOD BOARD (VFB)

- established in 2000
- under the government of the Ministry of Agriculture
- central office and 15 local agencies (county health centres)
- in total of 356 employees
STRUCTURE OF VFB

Director general

Deputy director general

Departments
(incl. Animal breeding and Market regulation department)

Office of Animal Breeding:
- Approving the breeding organisations
- Supervising the breeding organisations

Veterinary centres in counties
Supervising the breeders
ANIMAL BREEDING

LEGISLATION

Ministry of Agriculture
Food Safety Department
Animal Welfare and Breeding Bureau

SUPERVISION

Veterinary and Food Board
Animal Breeding and Market Regulation Department
Office of Animal Breeding
The main tasks of Animal Breeding and Market Regulation Control Department of VFB are:

- Organizing of supervisory
- Organizing the approval of breeding society, implementer of performance testing and preserver of endangered breed.
- Organizing the preservation of biological diversity and genetic resources.
- Collaboration by preparation of regulations concerning farm animal breeding.
APPROVED BREEDING ORGANISATIONS

- Estonian Animal Breeders’ Association*
- Estonian Native Cattle Breed Society*
- Estonian Pig Breeding Association
- Estonian Sheep Breeders Association*
- Estonian Horse Breeders Society*
- Estonian Poultry Society*

*Form Estonian Animal Breeder’s Association

- Estonian Native Horse Conservation Society
- Estonian Sporthorse Breeders’ Society
- Estonian Trotting Association
- Animal Recording Centre
- Akhal – Teke Association of Estonia
- The Old – Tori Horse Society
The management of farm animals in Estonia is regulated by Farm Animal Breeding Act launched on 1 January 2003.
NATIONAL PRIORITIES

- Secure existing genetic diversity
- Promote sustainable use and management of genetic resources
- Maintain the genetic variation within and among breeds
- Conserve breeds of Estonian origin
- Development of monitoring and characterisation
- Raising public awareness
BREEDS IN ESTONIA

Dairy cattle
- Estonian Holstein
- Estonian Red
- Estonian Native cattle

Beef cattle
- Aberdeen Angus
- Blonde Aquitane
- Hereford
- Limousine
- Simmental
- Charolais
- Scottish Highland cattle
BREEDS IN ESTONIA

Sheep
- ESTONIAN WHITEHEAD
- ESTONIAN BLACKHEAD

Goat
- ESTONIAN LOCAL GOAT

Pig
- ESTONIAN LANDRACE
- ESTONIAN LARGE WHITE

Hampshire, Pietrain, Djurok
BREEDS IN ESTONIA

Horse

TORI HORSE
ESTONIAN NATIVE HORSE
ESTONIAN HEAVY DRAUGHT
Trakehner
Estonian Sporthorse
Trotter
Akhal - Teke

Quail

ESTONIAN QUAIL
### BREEDS IN ESTONIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Local breeds</th>
<th>Imported breeds</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dairy cattle</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beef cattle</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pigs</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goats</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
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</table>
ENDANGERED BREEDS

- Estonian Native cattle
- Estonian Native horse
- Estonian Heavy Draught horse
- Tori horse universal type
- Estonian quail
PROBLEMS

- Estonian Native cattle
  - Small number of cows in the herd
  - Age of farmers, will stop farming
  - Low profitability, no niche products

- Horses
  - The role in the society has been changed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Herd size, cows</th>
<th>No. of herds</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1…2</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>63,7</td>
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<tr>
<td>3…4</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16,9</td>
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<tr>
<td>5…6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5,7</td>
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<td>7…8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4,0</td>
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<tr>
<td>9…10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,6</td>
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<td>11…20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4,8</td>
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<td>21…30</td>
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<td>0,8</td>
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<td>31…40</td>
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<td>1,6</td>
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<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0,8</td>
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</table>
STATE SUBSIDIES

- Two types of subsidies:
  - To breeding /conservation organisations
  - Directly to the farmers
    - Subsidies by environmental funds
    - Endangered breeds

- The state provides funding for animal breeding since 1993. The amount of funding is determined every year by the state budget on the request by the Ministry of the Agriculture.

- Since 2001 support for breeding is paid according to the Community Guidelines for State Aid in agriculture 2000/C28/02
CHARACTERIZATION, INVENTORY, MONITORING

- Yearly reports from breeding and conservation organisations and breed societies
- Development indicators to monitor status of breeds
- Apply EVA program by breeding organisations and breed societies
  - Estonian Native horse breed
- Elaborate national action plan for the management of genetic resources
Breeding organisations are divided among officers.

Risk analysis has to be done in the beginning of the year.

As the result of risk analysis, every officer makes a schedule, which breeding organisations should be supervised.

The aim is to supervise breeding organisations in every three years.
RISK CRITERIA

1. Violation in previous year
2. Objections from breeders
3. Mistakes on yearly breeding reports
4. Approved male breeding animals
5. Violations discovered by supervising the breeders
6. New breeding program or performance testing regulations
WHAT IS SUPERVISED?

Herd book or studbook keeping:

1. Correct studbook entries
2. Male breeding animals have to be approved according to the breeding program
3. Pedigree of the approved male breeding animals has to be controlled in accordance of breeding regulations
4. Herd book or studbook keeper has to have all required source documents for the entries in herd book or studbook
WHAT IS SUPERVISED?

Performance testing:
1. Performance testing
2. Trainings
3. Milk recording according to the ICAR rules
HORSE PASSPORTS AND CENTRAL REGISTER OF EQUIDAE

- Are the horse breeders organisations operating according to the regulation 504/2008
- Are the passports correctly filled
- Is correct information entered to the central database of equidae
  - [http://neptuun.pria.ee/hb-avalik/hobused.faces](http://neptuun.pria.ee/hb-avalik/hobused.faces)

- If necessary remove the warning in database (duplicate entry warning, warning of UELN not corresponding breeding organisation etc)
SUPERVISION OF BREEDERS

Supervising subjects:

1. Following the requirements of breeding programs / performance testing
2. Following the law, most important the identification and recording of breeding animals
3. On horses – the confirmation stallion’s pedigree with genetic test.
# WORKPLANS 2013 FOR OFFICENS IN COUNTIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Veterinary Centre</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th>Sum</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>Beef</td>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>Pig</td>
<td>Quail</td>
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<td>Pärnu</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lääne</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sum</strong></td>
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<td>65</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>257</td>
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</table>
Animal register in PRIA: http://neptuun.pria.ee/lr/
Performance centre: http://www.jkkeskus.ee/
Horse studbooks: http://www.jkkeskus.ee/uushobu/
http://www.traaviliit.org
www.vana-torihobune.ee
Sheep: http://www.jkkeskus.ee/Lambad/
PRIA (Estonian Agricultural registers and Information Board):
https://epria.pria.ee/epria/
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

- Estonia is partner in two EU-financed projects from March 2007
  - EURECA – Towards self-sustainable European regional cattle breeds
  - EFABISnet – An integrated network of decentralized country biodiversity and gene bank databases
- Estonia is partner in ERFP project
  - SUBSIBREED – How much support needs the breeds in high risk status?
RAISING OF PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Yearly meetings with stakeholders in the conservation and use of national genetic resources
- Exchange of information – the other countries experience in the filed of AnGR (Czech, Slovenia and Austria experience)
- Farmers visits to other countries – exchange of information (e.g. Estonian Native Cattle Breed Society visit to Tampere, Mouho and Seppäla agricultural schools and Pelso prison farm in Finland, end of August 2010)
RAISING OF PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Brochure of endangered breeds in Estonia was compiled and released in 2007
- Two new films about Estonian Native cattle and Estonian horse breeds, respectively, were released
- Special issues of Estonian Native horse were released in the journal „Oma Hobu/ Our Own Horse“
RAISING OF PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Journal “Tõuloomakasvatus/Animal Breeding”
- Journal „Oma Hobu/Our Own Horse“
- The breed monograph “History of Estonian Native cattle” was released in May 2007
Thank you!