

Arc & Rescue Station Saldobosch

Colaboration of the international Partners:

- „Initiative zum Erhalt seltener Haustierrassen in den Karpaten e.V.“
- „Збереження агро-біорізноманіття Карпатських гір“
- local farmers
- breeding experts from Ukraine
- Carpathian Biosphery Reservate
- private engagement
- volunteers from all over the world
- media

Arca-Net

SAVE Foundation
ELBARN Net
Arca-Net
Vieh-eV



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Location

Saldobosch is located in Chust-Region of Zakarpatia Oblast Ukraine:

- we are renting an old farm where cows have been bred in Sowjet times
- more than 2000 qm stables available
- fields for animals in winter time are 2 x10.000 qm large
- close to the farm are 350 hectare of pasture fields
- located near the riverbank of Thisa
- historical buffalo breeding center in the village Steblivka
- villagers are used to buffalos from their childhood



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Situation of Buffalos in Ukraine

- › buffalos have been existing in Zakarpatia-Oblast region for more than 1000 years
- › in Sovjet times nearly 2000 buffalos
- › excursion in 2008 showed 38 individuals in Zakarpatia
- › today:43 buffalos and one isolated population of 50 animals in Kiev
- › EU-border limits the Ukrainian population to certain region
- › experimental cross breeding made in 1984 with Bulgarian buffalos
- › at least three different types of buffalos were found in the region

- › all buffalos left in Zakarpatia are in the ownership of people older than 58 years
- › only in Saldobosch research about alternative usage of buffalos is practiced
- › four more villages keep buffalos, but only two male bulls
- › Saldobosch has seven bulls, renting them to Kritschowo and Viljatenow

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Realisation of Breeding

Saldobosch is already center of buffalo breeding, from our herdbook we are managing breeding in the entire oblast.

- renting male buffalos or bringing females to Saldobosch for summer period for insemination
- all information about the population and the development is being collected at the farm
- marketing, commercialisation, as well as the selling of products and living individuals to other regions, will be observed
- inbreeding problems are managed by using new genetic material from Romania
- exchange of living individuals with other regions is going to be organized
- no female buffalo will be killed without our consultation

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Area of Interest:



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Buffalo types:

Mountain:



Panonian:



Bulgarian:



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Characteristics of Carpathian Buffalos

- short legs
- longer hair
- strait horns that turn up with certain age
- can become older than 40 years
- give milk with 8% fat and 6% proteins, but only 8l max. at one day
- extremely resistant against wet and cold climate conditions

They are used for:

- work
- meat production
- sheep protection in mountains
- designing of landscape
- production of milk products

But:

- farmers exchanged them against high breed milk producing cows during the last 15 years



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Buffalos help to preserve old heritage landscape

- less people are using agricultural land
- cows and goats are mostly kept by elderly people
- ➔ buffalos are able to produce ecological products for new markets and changing demand.

Available area at Saldobosch is bigger than 250 hectare:

- mostly wetland
- more than 50% trees *Salix* spp. etc.
- more than 100 hectare daily pasture fields with more than 63 identified herbs

Birds that have been seen on buffalo fields:

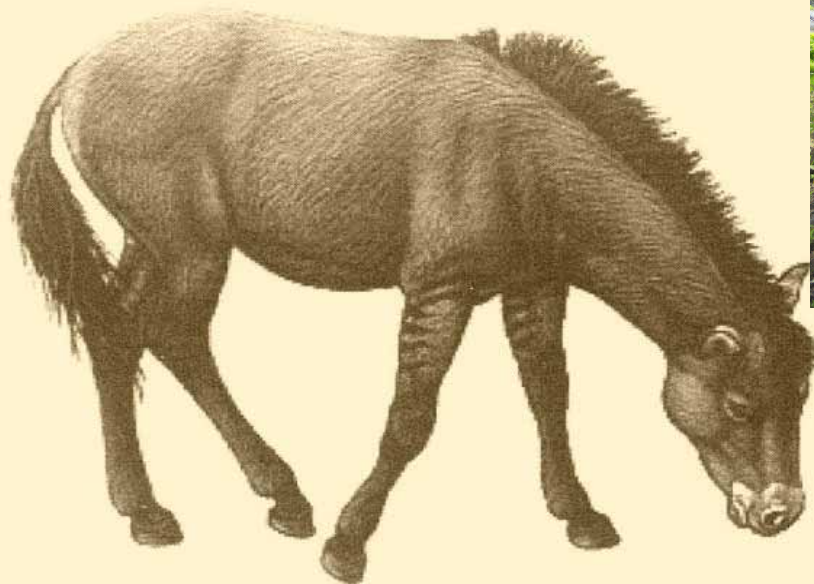
Oriolus oriolus, *Acledo atthis*,
Aquila pomarina, etc.



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Breeding of Hutan

Together with expertise with experience of breeding Konik horses in Poland and with the help of Hans Peter Grünenfelder (Save-Foundation) we started to realise the breeding of special Hucul type horses. Markings on the skin and special shape of body and collore showed, that in Carpathian Mountains of Ukraine, wild horses have been existing until humans started to breed own domestic horses. The first domestic horses like mountain horses, or now called Hucul-Horses, have had contact with wild horses named Tarpan and even mixed up with them.



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Current Projects

- scientific work for Diplom at Forestry and Inviromental Faculty in Freiburg by Michel Jacobi
- research of neophytic plants and planification for eradiation strategy by Benjamin Amann at the Save-Foundation
- registration of all buffalos in a herdbook
- renting animals for breeding
- volunteer program for education with a school in Uschhorod
- developement of cheese products in colaboration with goat and sheep breeders
- elaborating biological certified production



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Current Projects:

- › Huzul horse breeding programm for saving signs of extinguished Tarpan
- › coordination of pig breeding; types of Mangaliza
- › advising for selection of sheep breeds for local farmers
- › colaboration with CBR

finding financiatiion for 60t of hay for animals in Saldobosch



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Financiation of Project Saldobosch

Buffalo breeding could be realised by financing three Bulls with the help of small donations from private persons to the German NGO „Initiative zum Erhalt seltener Haustierrassen n den Karpaten e.V.“

Eight cows could be financed by help of „Save-Foundation“ with the animal lend system.

Private persons and personal engagement helped to find this 22 Buffalos.

Permanent voluntary workers like Waldemar Schmidt, Igor Wolovtschuk Olga Khomenko and Michel Jacobi made the realisation possible.



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International Connection and Networking

- › the Saldobosch Farm Project has the philosophy of open information and action project
- › education of every willing person
- › we connect knowledge which is gained within the region, with scientific knowledge from western Europe

first aim: save nature, biodiversity and productivity of ecosystems

second aim: teaching of sustainable lifestyle and showing innovations

- › also we are: networking to implement green tourism; making citizens of Zakarpathia aware of the value of this amazing country



Thank you for attention!



Any questions?



