

Rare Breeds Center in Vlahi.

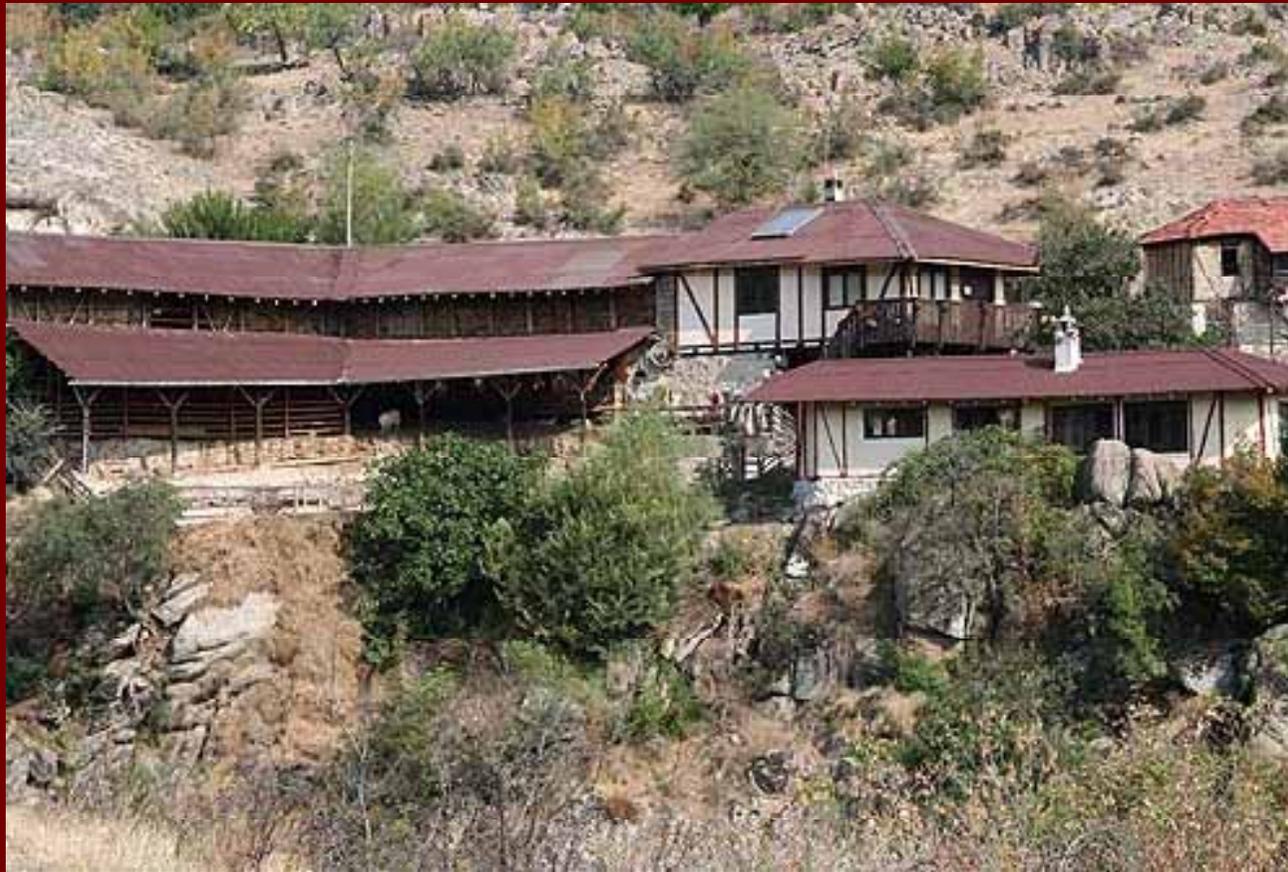
Ten years of Breed and Nature conservation



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Rare Breeds Center

Sheep farm



Rare Breeds Center goat farm



Rare Breeds Center

established in Vlahi village, year 2000

The main goals of the RBC are:

- Preservation of original type of breeds;
- Breeding *in situ* in typical conditions and historical, traditional area
- Investigation, research and education in the field of rare breeds conservation.

SEMPERVIVA started a long term project for conservation of the original type of three breeds:

- Karakachan sheep
- Karakachan horse
- Karakachan dog

Karakachan breeds conservation project



Supported by: SAVE Foundation, Frankfurt Zoological Society, & private donors

Karakachan nomads



Karakachan dog

SEMEPRVIVA started the work for saving the Karakachan dog in 1992. Since the beginning a breeding station has been established, where the breeding process is made on the base of aboriginal dogs. A breed standard and a herd book were worked out. An International Karakachan Dog Association was founded.







Karakachan breeds conservation project



Karakachan dog (Karakachansko kuche *in Bulg.*)



Karakachan dog









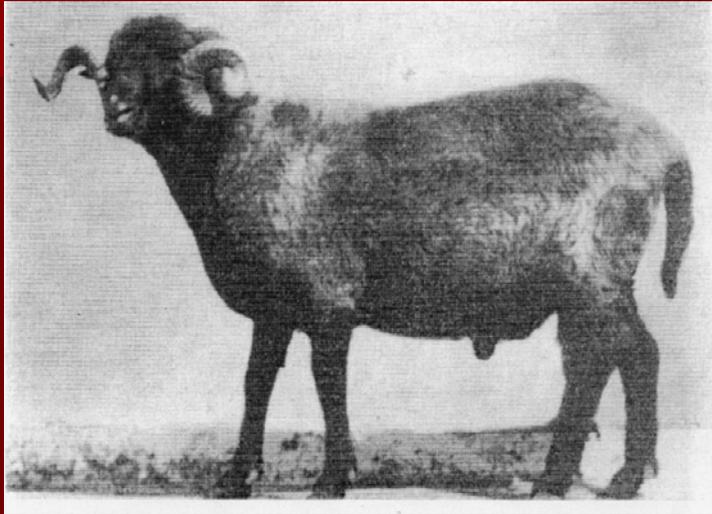






Karakachan sheep

(Karakachanska ovca *in Bulg.*)



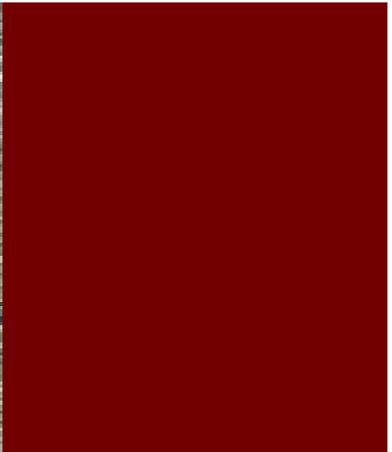


Improved karakachan sheep in state farms

















Transhumance

Maintenance of pastures



Summer grazing in Pirin mountain

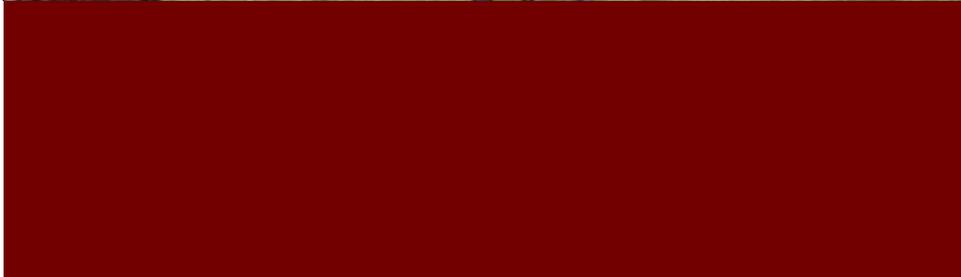












Pastures on 2000-2600m





Milking



Small scale production

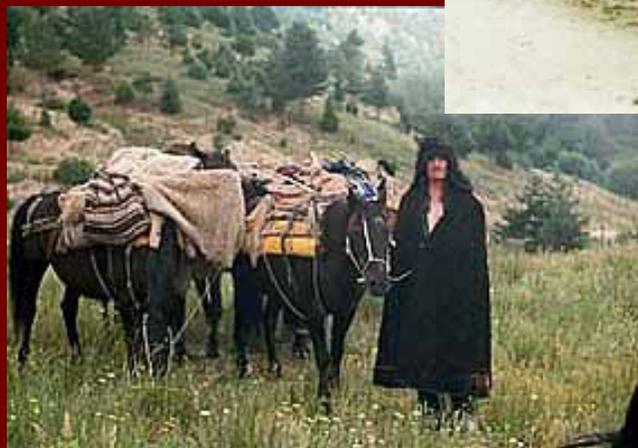


Presentation of milk products at Slow Food events





Karakachan horse (Karakachanski kon *in Bulg.*)





Kalofer long-hair goat
(Kaloferska koza *in Bulg.*)



Kalofer long-hair goat





Bulgarian screw-horn longhair goat





Problems

- The legislation is changed often and the farmers don't have possibility for long term planning
- RBC has no land – results in problems with subsidizing. Global problem for animal breeders
- Too wide criteria's about the breeds between experts and breeders
- All Karakachan rams in original type are coming from herd in Vlahi
- No difference is made between original type and improved type



Future..

- Development of second Ark farm
- Security double of nucleus Karakachan sheep herd in second base
- Purchasing of land
- Herd of Bulgarian screw-horn longhair goat
- Transborder cooperation and exchange of breeding animals



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