

SAVE-News 2/2000

This newsletter is issued four times a year by SAVE Foundation (Safeguard for Agricultural Varieties in Europe)

European Network of Rescue Stations

Recently the SAVE project office completed the pilot study on the project "European Network of Rescue Stations". Many partner organizations from different countries helped with this preparatory study. The purpose of the project is to establish an inventory and evaluate establishments which are appropriate for the short and medium term caring of breeding groups of endangered domestic animals. One aim should be the creation of an infrastructure for urgent short term actions to save last herds of endangered breeds across national borders. This must be planned within a more general concept still to be elaborated. This pilot study was financed by the Avina Foundation and aimed to analyse different types of institutions and their potential as rescue stations. The report is written in German language only.

The following points were evaluated:

- Which establishment in each country is concerned with saving domestic breeds
- In which category can they be classified
- How appropriate are they as rescue stations (advantages and disadvantages)
- How can they be integrated into a strategy (experience of each country)

As expected, there were big differences between groups of countries depending on their cultural and economical background. It is important to note that rescue stations may have to be differentiated between reception and transit stations for urgent situations ("rescue stations" strictly speaking) and breeding stations for long term conservation.

Rare Breeds Show in Belgium

On August 20, 2000 the Belgian rare breeds association V.B.Z.H. (Vereniging voor het Behoud van Zeldzame Huisdierrassen) will organise its 5th Rare Breeds Show. All old breeds of Belgian farm and husbandry animals will be present at the show: Belgian draught horses, Flanders cattle, Belgian white-blue mixte, old Belgian breeds of sheep and goats, typical Belgian breeds of dogs, rabbits, poultry, ducks, turkeys, ... Some foreign rare breeds, such as shire horses, belted cattle, will be on exhibiton as well. During the afternoon of August 19 and 20, V.B.Z.H. will organise the expertise of rams of old breeds of Belgian sheep to be admitted to the flockbook. Both events take place in Balegem-Oosterzele (Pontslag) near Ghent, Belgium.

Annual meeting 2000 of SAVE Foundation

The annual meeting of the SAVE Foundation will take place this year on September 28-30 in Thessaloniki, Northern Greece. This year's meeting is particularly important since all the members of the SAVE bodies will be elected (end of three year mandate). New vacancies must be filled in the Board of Directors as well as in the Commissions. Partner organisations will also be able to have their word over these matters. The dates have been fixed so that the participants will be able to visit the Zootechnia fair taking place in Thessaloniki. According to the organisers, this fair will have two special exhibitions this year : one on indigenous Greek farm animal breeds and the other on dog breeds. A day excursion to the Kerkini Lake with a visit to the buffalo herds in the wetland area is also planned. Furthermore, a visit to the University farm with a nucleus herd of Skyros Ponies on the mainland (see our special report in the SAVE report of Spring 2000), a visit to the Greek plant genetic material bank, as well as a presentation of different projects from our Greek partners organisation « Workshop for Ecological Practice » on the topic of protection of Mediterranean cultivated plant varieties will be organised.

Important dates (extract)

4-6 May: Symposium on "Preservation and Utilization of Agrobiodiversity", Varosliget, Hungary. E-mail: lholly@agrobot.rcat.hu

17-25 June: „The 7th European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism: recognising European pastoral farming systems and understanding their ecology: A necessity for appropriate conservation and rural development programmes“, place: Ennistymon, County Clare, Ireland. Fax: 0035-356/7 07 88. E-mail: heritage@heritage.iol.ie

20 August: 5th Rare Breeds Show in Balegem-Oosterzele near Ghent, Belgium (program see above). Contact V.B.Z.H.: Fax 32-16-44.31.67, E-mail: staf.vandenbergh@bbl.be

25-30 August: "IFOAM 2000 – The World Grows Organic " (World Conference of Organic Farming Associations): various manifestations in Basel and Zofingen, Switzerland. Contact: FIBL, Postfach, CH-5070 Frick; Fax: 0041-62/865 72 73 (info at: www.ifoam2000.ch).

28-30 September: Annual Meeting SAVE Foundation in Thessaloniki, Greece (program see above). E-mail: office@save-foundation.net

=> Further information is available from:
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