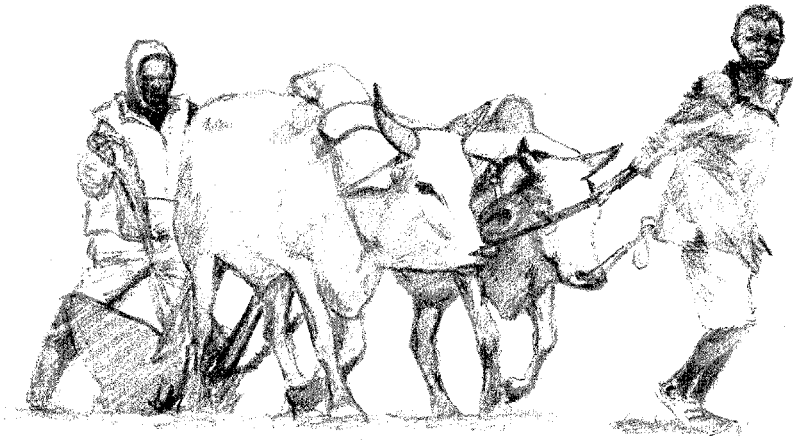




# DRAUGHT ANIMAL NEWS

## No. 45 – Part 2

June 2007



*Adrian Foster*

Produced by:

Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine, University of Edinburgh

Sponsored by:

**WSPA**

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## **DRAUGHT ANIMAL NEWS**

**No 45**

June 2007

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- This issue is a double issue since we did not produce one in December 2006. It is the last one to be sponsored by WSPA, The World Society for the Protection of Animals. We are very grateful to them for their support over the last two years.
- Draught Animal News accepts articles in Spanish and French, as well as in English. If you submit an article in Spanish or French we would also like a short summary in English to accompany it. For those sending in articles, notes and news we prefer you to send us your input (especially if it is a longer article), on a CD or disk (using Microsoft Word, Word Perfect or Rich Text Format) or via email. If you wish to include photographs, please ensure these are original and of good quality because of losses in the reproduction process. High-resolution photographs saved in .jpeg format are preferable (using Wipzip to compress the file if necessary). We always acknowledge the person taking the photograph so please give us the name. For those without access to a computer, contributions are especially welcome, hand-written or typed.
- We are always pleased to hear of any meetings, forthcoming events, new books and useful websites that can be advertised in the newsletter. Letters from draught animal owners, users or those people wanting information on a particular topic or problem are always welcome.
- Please send in articles and news, letters and comments to the editor, Dr R.A. Pearson, Draught Animal News, Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine, Division of Veterinary Clinical Studies, University of Edinburgh, Easter Bush Veterinary Centre, Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9RG, Scotland, UK (fax +44 (0) 131 651 3903; email [anne.pearson@ed.ac.uk](mailto:anne.pearson@ed.ac.uk)).
- The drawings on the covers are by Archie Hunter from photographs by Paul Starkey.
- This issue is funded by the WSPA for the benefit of working animals. The views expressed in it are not necessarily those of WSPA.

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## HARNESSES AND IMPLEMENTS

### Animal-Drawn Indigenous Implements in Kutch area of Gujarat

*All India coordinated research project on increased utilization of animal energy with enhanced system efficiency*

**Rajeev Garg, G.S.Tiwari, Lokesh Gupta and M.S.Sevada**

*Department of Farm Machinery and Power Engineering,  
College of Technology and Engineering, Rajasthan, India*

#### Introduction

The district of Kutch comprises 24% of the total area of the state of Gujarat, shares its north western border with the Sindh provinces of Pakistan, and the Arabian Sea bounds it in the west and south west. The state of Rajasthan is in the north east and in the south east are the districts of Mehsana and Surendernagar. It is surrounded by the Gulf of Kutch in the south. Kutch has a unique arid coastal climate.

Although, Kutch is the largest district in the state and second largest in the country, poor rainfall, aridity and drought conditions have left much of the land poorly endowed in terms of its land fertility as about 23,310 sq. km (51%) of area is covered by saline mudflats called the Rann of Kutch. The district faces severe problems such as low annual rainfall (326 mm), high rates of evaporation (2.25 m/year and as high as 8-9 mm per day in May and June), little surface water availability for irrigation, lack of any perennial river, an alarming fall in the ground water table and increasing soil and ground water salinity. As a result, the proportion of net sown area in Kutch is extremely low about 14% of the total geographical area as compared to 51% for Gujarat and 46% for the country as a whole.

Despite the environment, agriculture is the primary source of income for the people of the district, although agriculture cannot provide a sustainable livelihood in the region. The rearing of livestock became the secondary source of income for the region. Kutch district supports 1.6 million livestock which include 0.33 million of cattle, 0.13 million of buffaloes, 0.51 million of sheep and goats, 0.01 million of camel, 0.003 million of donkeys, etc (Anonymous, 2003). The district supports the very good Kankarej breed of cattle and the Banni breed of buffaloes. The Kankarej is well known for its use in agricultural operations and Kutch is the area where most are bred and supplies the rest of the state.

There are ten talukas in the district and among these, Bhuj, Mundra, Mandvi, Anjar, Gandhidham and Nakhtrana are the green belt areas of the district having good irrigation facilities. Bhachau, Rapar, Abdasa and Lakhpat are the dry farming areas of the district having no irrigation sources and face drought prone conditions year after year. The type of draught animals used in agricultural operations varies from area to area. In Bachau and Rapar talukas bullocks are the main source of power but in Lakhpat, camels and donkeys are playing a key role in all sorts of agricultural operations.

A survey was conducted to collect information about the indigenous animal-drawn implements used by the farmers of Lakpat, Bhachau and Rapar taluks of Kutch region.

The major crops grown in the area are pearl millet, clusterbean, senna (medicinal plant), groundnut, cotton, and green gram. Small farmers carry out farming mainly using animal power and manual labour. Implements used for different farm operations are mostly indigenous and described according to the power source.

### Camel-drawn implements

Camels are mostly used in the talukas which share their border with Sindh province of Pakistan. For farm operations, a single camel is used as a draught animal with traditional/indigenous implements, such as the Indigenous plough, three tyne cultivator and blade harrow.

**Indigenous plough:** This is a multipurpose implement used for field preparation, sowing and interculture operations. It is one of the most common implements fabricated easily by local artisans. The main parts of the plough are share, shoe, body and handle (Plate 22). The shoe and share are generally made by a single wooden piece of *Prosopis juliflora*. A MS share is fastened at the tip of the shoe with the help of a 'U' clamp. A square hole is provided in the body to insert the beam which is made of a single wooden 'V' shaped piece. A wooden brace is fixed between the beam and body of the plough to provide extra strength to the body and beam.

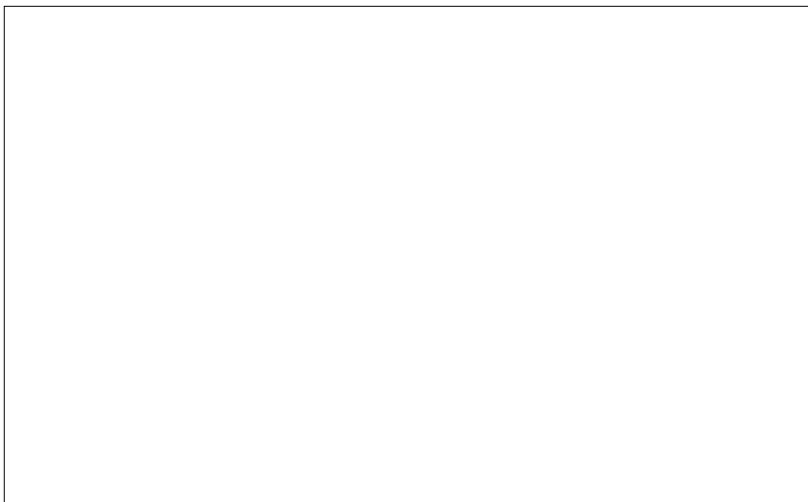


Plate 22. Camel-drawn indigenous plough, India (G. Tiwari)

The beam is used to hitch the plough to the harness of the camel which is very different than that of other draught animals. It is a very simple and flexible wither harness consisting of ropes and cushion pads widely used by the farmers (Plate 23). To prevent injury to the camel during operation, cushion pads made of old clothes or jute bags are provided on the withers and near the hump of the camel. Two ropes passing over these cushions are tied to the beam on both sides of the camel. Depth of operation of the implement is controlled by changing the length of the rope.



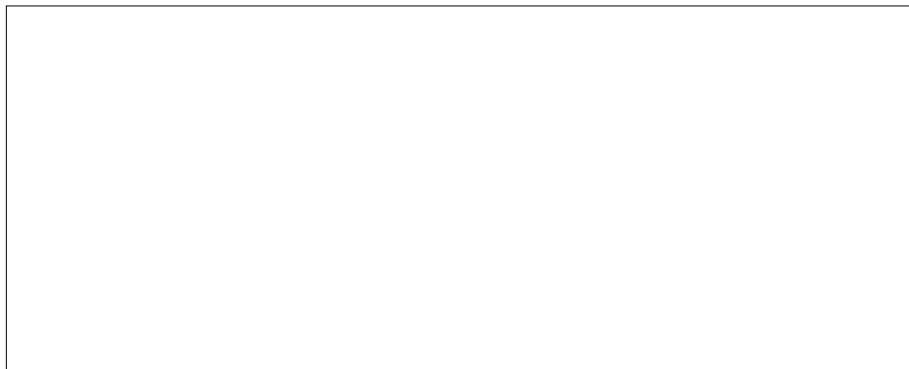
*Plate 23. Indigenous plough hitched to a camel, India (G Tiwari)*



*Plate 24. Three tynes cultivator, India (G Tiwari)*

**Three tyne/five tyne cultivator:** This is generally used for sowing and interculture operations. Its main parts are body, soil working tool and beam (Plate 24). A hexagonal shaped wooden log of 15 to 20 cm diameter and 1500 to 1750 cm in length is used to fabricate the body of this implement. Three/five rectangular holes are made in the body to attach the soil working tool as needed. The soil working tools are also made of wood and M.S. triangular flats are riveted at the tip of these tools to increase their life. Two wooden beams are fixed at the extreme ends of the body for hitching the implement to the animal. A rope is provided in the centre of the body to raise the implement when required.

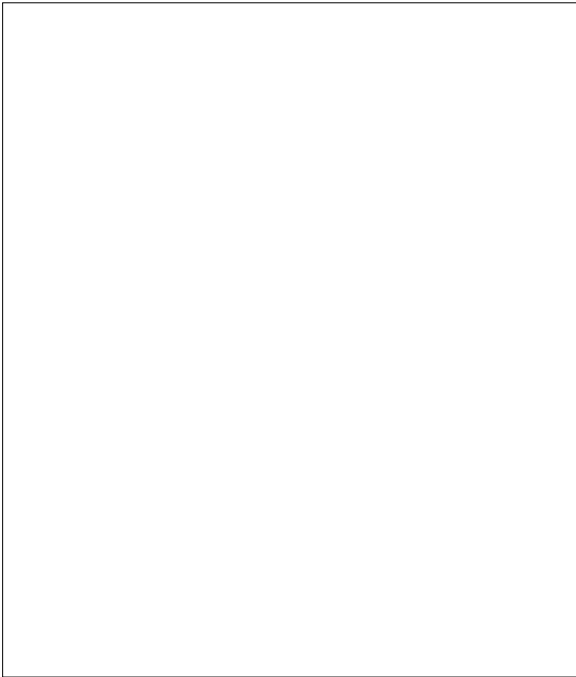
**Seeding attachment:** This arrangement is used for sowing different types of seeds in single or three rows. It consists of a body and seed tubes. The body is made of a locally available wooden piece (20x18x12 cm). The top portion of the body is a circular funnel shape while the bottom is 'D' shaped (Plate 25). Holes are drilled in the body to inserting the seed tubes according to the requirement *ie.* number of rows. This unit is fastened with the help of rope to the body of the wooden plough or three tyne cultivator. Two people generally do the operations of handling the animal and metering the seeds, but often one person performs both the operation.



*Plate 25 Seeding attachment, India (G Tiwari)*

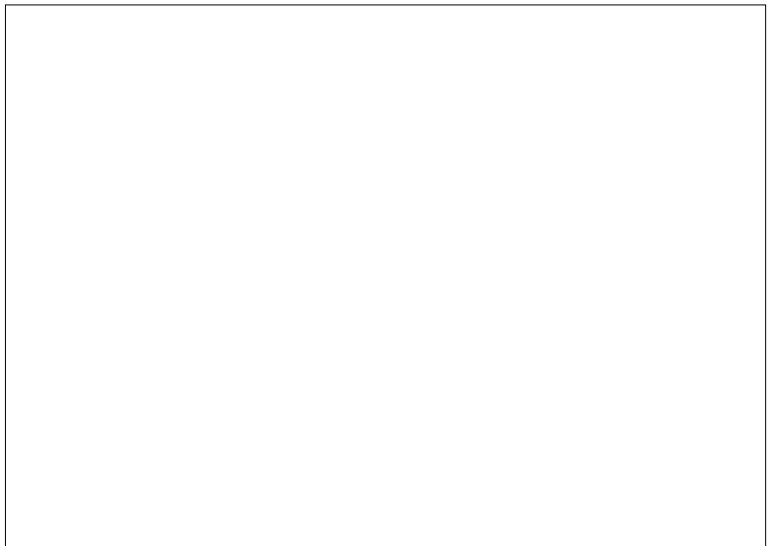
**Blade harrow:** A blade harrow is the most common implement used for inter culture operation *ie.* weeding. It consists of a wooden body frame (30x15x10) cm on which two M.S.Rod pegs are fixed at the extreme ends for attaching the blade. Two square holes are also made in the body to fix the 'V' shape beam *ie.* for single blade (Plate 26). This is hitched to the camel in the same way as for the indigenous plough. As the draught requirement of a single blade harrow is very low therefore to make better use of the camel power, double blade harrows are also used (Plate 27). The construction features of the double blade harrow are similar to the single blade harrow, except in the double blade harrow only the swingle tree (wooden pole) is attached to the two wooden beans (acting like shafts) of the two bladed harrow. The swingle tree is positioned under the belly and extends on both sides of the camel (Plate 27). Individual units of blade harrow are attached on either sides of the swingle tree. The major advantage of hitching of the double harrow system is that the camel turns more

easily as there is less or no restriction by the beam as in the case of single blade harrow.



*Plate 26.  
Camel-drawn single blade  
harrow, India (G Tiwari)*

*Plate 27 (below).  
Camel-drawn double blade  
harrow, India (G Tiwari)*



### **Donkey-drawn Implements**

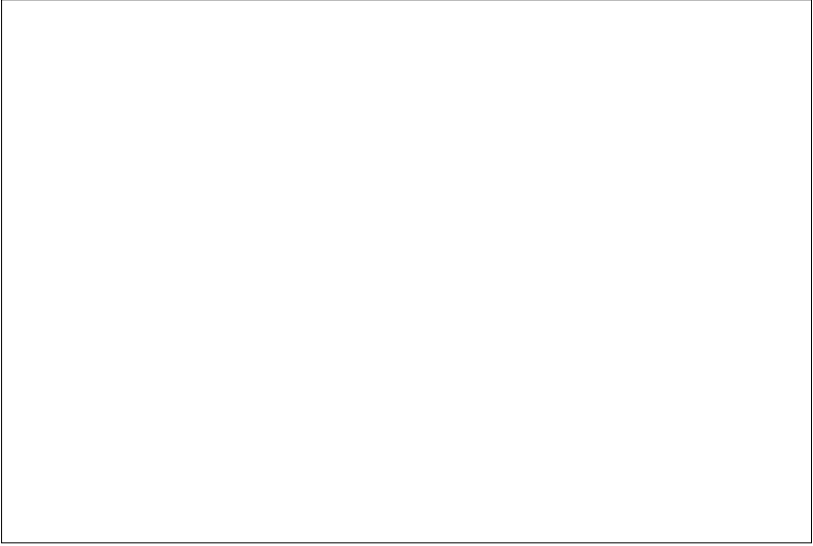
Donkeys are mainly used by the farmers of the lower income groups as the maintenance of these animals is cheaper compared to that of other draught animals. Mostly a pair of donkey is employed for performing various farm operations such as field preparation, sowing and interculture. The implements used are:

**Indigenous plough:** This is a multipurpose implement owned by the farmers of the region. Constructional features of this plough (Plate 28) are similar to the camel-drawn indigenous plough except for the smaller size. This is generally made by the farmers themselves with locally available wood. A wooden beam is inserted in a hole made in the body of the plough and a wooden wedge is used for changing the angle of beam which, in turns, increase/decrease the depth of operation. The beam is hitched to the yoke. Old jute bags are kept on the withers of the donkeys to prevent the damage to the skin during operation. A 'U' shape thick jute collar is also put on the withers to make a hump like structure, which restricts the backward movement of the yoke (Plate 29).

**Seeding attachment:** A similar arrangement to that used with the camel (see above) is attached for sowing different types of seeds in single rows. The size of the seeding attachment is scaled down to fit the smaller plough used with the donkeys. A single man is required to meter the seed and handle the animals. A small wooden piece is tied to the body of the plough which moves behind the plough and acts as a seed covering device (Plate 28).



*Plate 28. Indigenous plough, India (G Tiwari)*

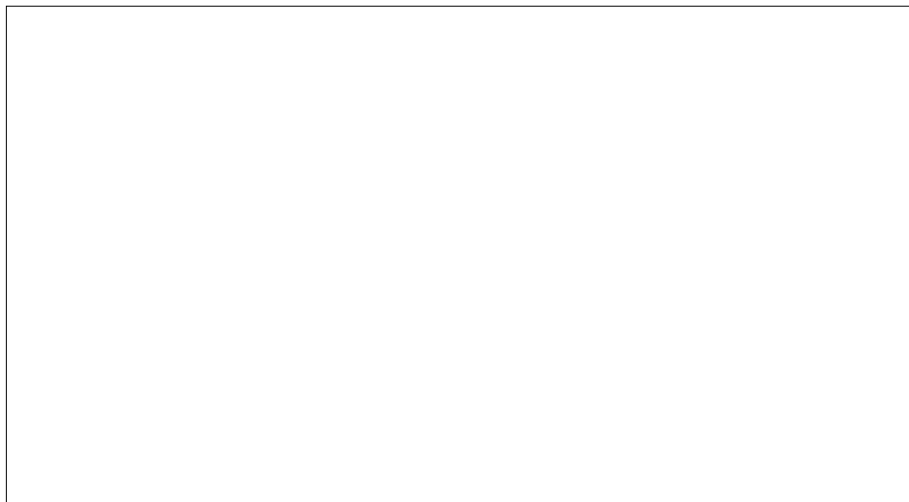


*Plate 29. Harnessing system for donkeys, India (G Tiwari)*



*Plate 30. Donkey-drawn blade harrow, India (G Tiwari)*

**Blade harrow:** An iron blade harrow is generally used by farmers owing donkeys (Plate 30). This is made by the local blacksmith. A 3–4 mm thick MS sheet is bent at both the ends at 90° forming 'U' shape to make the body of the harrow. Two MS rods are provided on both sides of the body for attaching the blade. Holes are also drilled on both side of the body for changing the angle and depth of the blade. A clamp is fixed in front side of the body to which the beam is fixed with the help of nuts and bolts. A handle made of MS flat is fixed on the top side of the body. The beam is fixed with the help of a wooden wedge in the clamp. This harrow is mostly used for interculture operations, *ie.* weeding between the rows.

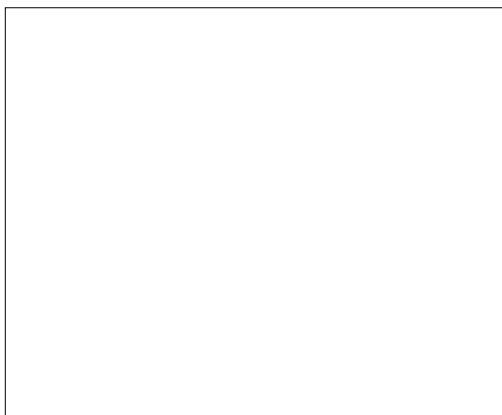


*Plate 31. Bullock-drawn single blade harrow in operation, India (G Tiwari)*

### **Bullock-drawn implements**

The bullocks of this area are famous as a draught breed. Use of a bullock-drawn indigenous plough is negligible due to its low field capacity and the under use of the available power. Farmers use instead some improved implements for field preparation and sowing operations. Use of the single and double blade harrow is popular for interculture operation in groundnut, clusterbean, sesame, pearl millet, green gram, cotton, and castor crops.

**Blade harrow:** Constructional features of the bullock-drawn blade



*Plate 32. Bullock-drawn double blade harrow in operation, India (G Tiwari)*

harrow are similar to the camel-drawn blade harrow. The hitching arrangement is entirely different. The beam of the single blade harrow is attached to the centre of the ox-yoke (Plate 31) and if the double bladed harrow is used each beam from each blade is hitched independently to the yoke at equal distance from its centre (Plate 32). As the double blade harrow covers two rows simultaneously, a long yoke is used for its operation, as compared to the shorter yoke used with the single blade harrow. The longer yoke helps in turning as it provided more space between animals and beams.

#### Reference

Anonymous 2003. Livestock census. Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Gujarat, India.

## SHORT NOTES AND NEWS



**News from IFRTD The International Forum for Rural Transport and Development ([www.ifrtd.org](http://www.ifrtd.org))**

### ***Support for Mojo Horse Cart Owners Association in Ethiopia***

In Ethiopia the local Administration of Mojo has granted a 500 square metre plot of land to the Mojo Horse Cart Owners' Association for the construction of its office, store, workshop and other activities.

This land was promised to the Association at an earlier workshop organised by the Ethiopian National Forum for Rural Transport and Development (ENFRTD), as an incentive to strengthening the organisation. The Association is now making the necessary preparations towards making effective use of the land. The Association has a membership of more than 270 horse cart owners who provide basic transport services to the residents of Mojo town and the rural areas around Mojo.

***A new strategic plan for 2006-2012 for the Network for Animal Traction and Integrated Development in Guinea:*** The Guinean Network for Animal Traction and Integrated Development is an NGO, created in 1991 in Kindia where its current offices are also located. The focus of the organisation is to promote bovine traction as a means to improve agricultural production and profit increase for the producers through financial and technical partnerships.

After 14 years in existence the organisation initiated a participatory process in 2004 to assess its past, present and future. A series of activities examined the NGO's expertise and contributions in the context of the overall agricultural development sector in Guinea. This resulted in a Strategic plan which will guide the organisation from 2006 to 2012. The exercise allowed the Network to review its vision, mission, strengths and weaknesses, external environment and to assess its resources for the future. Three main strategic objectives have resulted:

- To improve the agricultural production, food security for target communities and increase the revenue of the producers by promoting animal traction as a strategy for sustainable agriculture.

- To contribute to the promotion of natural resource management and conservation through the promotion of sustainable agriculture.
- To promote the autonomy and independence of the organisation and its grassroots partners by building organisational and institutional capacity.

In order to achieve these strategic objectives the organisation has developed its programmatic interventions and activities.

For more information about the Animal Traction Network please contact: Dr. Almamy Sény SOUMAH (email: drsoumah20@yahoo.fr).

Two new Journals appropriate for people undertaking research and development projects involving working animals are looking for contributions:

**(1) The International NGO Journal (INGOJ) ISSN 1993–8225 © 2007 Academic Journals** is currently accepting manuscripts for publication. INGOJ was founded to publish proposals, appraisals and reports of NGO projects. The aim is to have centralized information for NGO activities where stakeholders including beneficiaries of NGO services can find useful information about ongoing projects and where to obtain particular assistance. Also prospective donors will easily find information about different NGOs and decide which to fund on specific projects.

INGOJ is fully committed to providing free access to all articles as soon as they are published. **The International NGO Journal** will endeavour to list NGOs all over the world and provide links to NGOs websites. Please visit their website ([www.academicjournals.org/ingoj](http://www.academicjournals.org/ingoj)) for more details. NGOs should send their proposals, appraisals and reports to [ngo@academicjournals.org](mailto:ngo@academicjournals.org) or [ngo\\_acadjourn@yahoo.com](mailto:ngo_acadjourn@yahoo.com). INGOJ is also seeking for international advisors and reviewers as members of its editorial board. Please contact **Dr Philomena Imonivwerha**, Editor, The International NGO Journal (email: [ngo@academicjournals.org](mailto:ngo@academicjournals.org), [ngo\\_acadjourn@yahoo.com](mailto:ngo_acadjourn@yahoo.com)) if you are interested in serving on the board.

To view the current issue please visit <http://www.academicjournals.org/INGOJ/contents/2007cont/Jan.htm>

**(2) The African Journal of Agricultural Research (AJAR) ISSN 1991- 637X © Academic Journals** publishes high-quality solicited and unsolicited articles, in English, in all areas of agriculture including arid soil research and rehabilitation, seed science research, irrigation, agricultural engineering, water resources management, agronomy, animal science, physiology and morphology, crop science, dairy science, forestry, soil science, systematic biology, veterinary, weed biology, agricultural economics and agribusiness. All articles published in AJAR will be peer-reviewed. It will be published monthly (one volume per year) by Academic Journals.

**Types of paper accepted are:** regular articles, reviews and short communications. The style of main sections need not conform to that of full-length papers. Short communications are 2 to 4 printed pages (about 6 to 12 manuscript pages) in length.

Please visit their website <http://www.academicjournals.org/AJAR>

For more details, or Prof. N. A. Amusa, Acting Editor, African Journal of Agricultural Research, Email: E-mail: [ajar@academicjournals.org](mailto:ajar@academicjournals.org)

**Errata:** In Draught Animal News 44 at the end of the article by Terry Davis on “Hands On’ Harness” Pages 38- 41, your editor published the wrong email address it should be [harnessaid@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:harnessaid@yahoo.co.uk). Apologies to the people who may have been trying to contact Terry Davis.



CIHEAM are running two International Masters Courses one in Animal Nutrition and the other in Animal Breeding and Reproduction Biotechnology in Spain from 1 October 2007 to 6 June 2008 and October 2008 to July 2009. The Animal Nutrition course will be in Zaragoza and the other Animal Breeding and Reproduction Biotechnology Course will be in Valencia and Barcelona. The working language will be Spanish, and knowledge of English will also be considered in the selection of candidates for the courses as materials in both these languages will be used on the course.

Please contact The Instituto Agronómico Mediterraneo de Zaragoza , Apartado 202, 50080, Zaragoza (Spain) Tel +34 976 716000 Fax: +34 976 716001, email [iamz@IAMZ.CIHEAM.ORG](mailto:iamz@IAMZ.CIHEAM.ORG). Further details can also be obtained from the website: [www.iamz.ciheam.org](http://www.iamz.ciheam.org).



Changes within INASP The International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications. The organisation has undergone some restructuring in 2006 and launched their new website in November 2006. Please look at the website for

further information and news of current activities: Web: <http://www.inasp.info>.

Otherwise you can contact INASP: INASP, 60 St Aldates, Oxford OX1 1ST, United Kingdom (Tel: +44 (0)1865 249909; Fax: +44 (0)1865 251060; Email: [inasp@inasp.info](mailto:inasp@inasp.info)).



**SWEDISH COOPERATIVE CENTRE**

- A world free from poverty and injustice

**New Partner and new country for the SCC** by *Buhle Makamanzi (Communications & Information Officer SCC ROSA)*.

The Swedish Cooperative Centre Regional office for Southern Africa (SCC ROSA) has a new partner, FEKRITAMA in Madagascar. FEKRITAMA is a Confederation of Malagasy Farmers with representation in 18 of the 22 regions in the country. It seeks to strengthen the institutional capacity of its affiliated organisations, both commodity

associations and farmers' cooperatives. As part of its capacity building support to affiliated organisations FEKRITAMA also seeks to address issues of access to markets, business development and farmers training. At national level FEKRITAMA aims to address various issues that affect the viability of the agriculture sector through policy dialogue and lobbying with the central government and other stakeholders. At national level it is a member of Coalition of Malagasy Farmers (CPM) which is a common platform for different national farmers' organisations in Madagascar. At regional level it is a member of Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) and at international level it is a member of International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP).

The project with SCC seeks to enable the improvement of living conditions of members of associations and cooperatives affiliated to FEKRITAMA by increasing their food security and income from rice and food crop production in Analamanga and Bongolava regions.

Chief among the reasons why SCC has decided to include Madagascar in its development efforts is because the country is classified as one of the least developed countries (LDC) by UNDP. During the past three decades its economy has continuously declined. The economy of Madagascar depends on the performance of its agricultural sector, which is also the livelihood of 80% of the population. The rural areas are the main focus for all poverty reduction strategies. Small scale producers are finding it difficult to get sufficient income to meet all basic family needs from the farm production. The low level of productivity and the low pricing of the products are the main causes of this problem.

For more information about SCC ROSA please visit their homepage via: [www.sccportal.org](http://www.sccportal.org)



### **The Animal Traction Network for Eastern and Southern Africa (ATNESA) has a new steering committee.**

The closing session of the South African Network of Animal Traction (SANAT), regional workshop held in collaboration with ATNESA (see Meeting reports, page 92 of this DAN issue, Part 2) in March consisted of a general meeting of ATNESA. A new Steering Committee was elected:

- Chairman:** Fred Ochieng, Kendat, PO Box 2859-00200, Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel +254-20-6766939; Cell +254-720-830260 or +254-734-525716  
Fax: +254-20-6766939; [fredricko2@yahoo.com](mailto:fredricko2@yahoo.com) or [fochieng@kendat.org](mailto:fochieng@kendat.org)
- Treasurer:** Dr Abednego Dlamini, University of Swaziland, Dept of Animal Production and Health, PO LUYENGO, Swaziland  
[abeddlamini@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:abeddlamini@yahoo.co.uk); [adlamini@agric.uniswa.sz](mailto:adlamini@agric.uniswa.sz)
- Secretary:** Peta Jones, Donkey Power, PO Box 414, MAKHADO 0920, South Africa  
Tel +27 (0)15 5177011; Cell +27 (0)83 6867539; Fax +27 (0)15 5177034  
[asstute@lantic.net](mailto:asstute@lantic.net)

Other members of the steering committee are:

- Mark Lyimo Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives, (MAFC), PO Box 9192, DAR-ES-SALAAM, Tanzania  
mark.lyimo@gmail.com; mlyimo3@yahoo.co.uk
- Enny Namalambo Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry, Private Bag 13184, WINDHOEK, Namibia  
namalamboe@mawrd.gov.na
- Samuel Okurut Agricultural Engineering and Appropriate Technology Research Center (AEATREC), PO Box 7144, KAMPALA , Uganda  
aeatri@starcom.co.ug; s\_okurut@yahoo.com

It was decided to move the network faster with the creation of three subcommittees to the Steering Committee:

- Fundraising and Project Formulation, with Dr Pascal Kaumbutho (kaumbuthos@wananchi.com) of Kenya as convener
- Partnerships and Networking, with Eng. Mark Lyimo (Mlyimo3@yahoo.co.za or Mark.lyimo@gmail.com) of Tanzania as convener.
- Information and Communication, with Dr Peta Jones (asstute@lantic.net) of South Africa as convener.

For more ATNESA news and events log on: [www.atnesa.org](http://www.atnesa.org)

## NEW BOOKS

### Veterinary Care of Donkeys



Matthews N.S.<sup>1</sup> and Taylor T.S.<sup>2</sup> (Eds)

<sup>1</sup>Veterinary Small Animal Medicine and Surgery and

<sup>2</sup>Department of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery,

College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, USA

This is an ongoing book on veterinary Care of Donkeys. It is web-based on the International Veterinary Information Service website. Some of you will already be familiar with both the website and the book. For those who are not here is how to access it. Go to [www.ivis.org](http://www.ivis.org) and register for free. Then proceed to the homepage and click on 'Browse the Library'. Next click on 'IVIS books' and scroll down to the equine heading and click on 'Veterinary Care of Donkeys' where you will find all the chapters that have been submitted concerning donkeys and titles of the chapters that are in the process of being written.

The editors in their preview say the purpose of this 'text' is to bring together the current knowledge on veterinary medicine specific to donkeys. At the same time, this text aims at revealing the areas in which species-specific information is still missing, stimulating perhaps further research. Much is know about horses but less is known about donkeys and too often information is simply extrapolated to the donkey. The

editors recognize that this text cannot be truly complete at the present time since there are many areas where information is still lacking. Through the use of the electronic book format, the editors plan to add information as it becomes available, making this the most current and complete reference on donkey medicine.

A recent addition in February 2007 was a chapter on Harnesses and Equipment Commonly Used by Donkeys (*Equus asinus*) in Mexico by H. Chavira Sevilla and A. Cruz León.

For questions related to this book, please contact the editors at [info@ivis.org](mailto:info@ivis.org). Please note the 'book' is not available in hardcopy but files of individual chapters can be downloaded from the IVIS website.

## Principles and Practices in Livestock Management

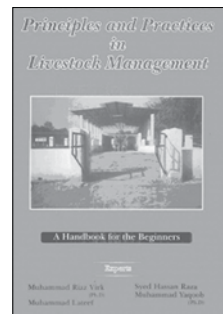
**S Hassan Raza<sup>1</sup> has sent in information about a new book available from Pakistan**

<sup>1</sup>Dept. Livestock Management, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, PAKISTAN (Phone: 0092(041)2632995, 9201090, 9200195; Cell: 0092 0301 4668148; Fax: ++(041)9200764; Email: [uafhasan@fsd.comsats.net.pk](mailto:uafhasan@fsd.comsats.net.pk))

A new book for the Animal Science students has been published. This book provides basic and fundamental knowledge for the students of Veterinary and Animal Production sciences. It has been written by livestock production experts having more than 20 years experience of academic, practical and in-field services. The language is quite simple and easily understandable, illustrations are available. This book provides information about all types of domestic animals viz., milch, meat, draught, equine and camels.

At the end of the book a glossary is given for students to understand different terms used in animal science studies.

The price is Rs. 50 only. The book can be obtained from Dept. Livestock Management, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad.



## Implements for Farming with Horses & Mules

**Gail Damerow<sup>1</sup> has written in with details of a book obtainable from Rural Heritage.**

<sup>1</sup>Editor of RURAL HERITAGE, 281 Dean Ridge Lane, Gainesboro, TN 38562-5039 USA (phone: 931-268-0655, fax: 931-268-5884; email: [editor@ruralheritage.com](mailto:editor@ruralheritage.com), <http://ruralheritage.com/>)

The book is published by Rural Heritage and written by Sam Moore, a contributor to Rural Heritage magazine. During the first half of the 20th century books on how to use horse-drawn farm equipment abounded. These volumes have, however, long been out of print and operator's manuals for specific horse implements can be difficult to find.

*Implements for Farming with Horses & Mules* is designed to fill the void. It covers most of the farm implements used with horses today. It not only describes them, but shows you how to use each piece of machinery, adjust it for good work, and maintained it. In this single volume you will find detailed information on:

- Tillage equipment – moldboard plows, disc and subsoil plows, rotary tillers, disc harrows, smoothing harrows and rollers
- Planting and cultivating equipment – small grain planters, corn planters, potato planters, cultivators
- Hay making equipment – mowers, hay conditioners, hay rakes, tedders and loaders, hay balers, hay handling equipment
- Harvesting equipment – grain binders, grain threshers, combines, corn harvesting machines, potato diggers
- Miscellaneous indispensables – forecarts, manure spreaders, farm wagons

Timothy Harrigan of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department, Michigan State University reviewed the book:

“Sam Moore is to be congratulated for helping fill the knowledge gap in animal-drawn implements with an unpretentious but generously illustrated and richly detailed all-in-one manual for farming with horses and mules (and oxen, too). Are you new to the walking plough or sulky plough, or confused about the line of draught? Sam walks you through plough parts and terminology, explains how to lay out lands and what to strive for in turning ground you will wish granddad could see. Have questions about deep tillage, seedbed tillage, or cultivation equipment? Look here first.

“Manure spreader, utility wagon, forecart, even the humble sled and stone boat are all included with pictures and explanations. This book is not the only volume available on animal-drawn farm equipment, but in my opinion it is the best. Sam has the balance exactly right: historical perspective; technical insight; a practical, user-friendly approach; hundreds of good pictures. Thousands of hours of thought and effort have gone into this valuable book. Draft animal practitioners owe the author a debt of gratitude.”

To obtain the book, Gail Damerow writes that “This outstanding 280-page 8½” by 11” resource is available for US\$36 plus shipping from Rural Heritage, 281 Dean Ridge Lane, Gainesboro, TN 38562, 931-268-0655, [www.ruralheritage.com](http://www.ruralheritage.com)”

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Debate and comment, agree or disagree!**

**Please email, fax or post your views/comments on the following to the Editor of DAN, contact details on page 1 of this issue.**

■ **Yoke gall in draught animals** (DAN44, pages 3–7). John D. Sneyd writes:

“Many thanks for all the Draught Animal News. In your issue of June 2006 No 44, I noticed an article on ‘Yoke Gall’ which interested me very much. Also, what disturbs me is the fact that so many animals are coming to the end of their life’s journey long before their time.

I think something can be done about preventing this. This takes me back to my youth. We were schooled not to work oxen while it was wet, due to rain or continual misty conditions, as this would result in inflammation setting in, in the hump of the ox. Having been taught not to work animals during wet conditions we automatically steered clear of having to put up with ‘yoke gall’. We termed it ‘SKOFF’ meaning hump.

Your problem is unfortunately more problematic than meets the eye. These people are compelled to use their oxen during a very wet monsoon climate. In my opinion yoke gall is caused by continually working oxen under very wet conditions. Thus I would like to suggest something. If we could design a ‘hump jacket’ to fit the ox, so that the hump of the ox does not get wet at all during the time that the ox is working. I am sure that this could be a break through.

Since in my life time stretching back to 1951 we were always very careful not to work oxen during the wet period. If we did by accident, we were confronted with the fact that their humps would become inflamed. This would need rest and treatment, and were then only worked when conditions were dry.

Once the hump was swollen, it would take several days before oxen could be worked again. Our forefathers were very strict regarding the working of oxen during a rainy spell. Consequently we were very lucky in that we were reluctant to work oxen during a wet period.

What are the chances of some people experimenting on these lines and thus finding out what the results would be?

Your article does mention that during the dry seasons ‘yoke gall’ was not that bad. I myself do think that this is aggravated by the wet conditions they have to work under.

I am not saying that this is going to be the cure, but reading through the article it seems to make me think we could come up with a remedy. It does seem so sad that so many good bullocks seem to be going the wrong way too soon.”

John Sneyd, P.O. Box 384, Alexandria, 6185, South Africa (Tel: +27 46 655303)

■ **Feedback on harnessing issues.** Terry Davis attended the 5th International Colloquium on Working in Ethiopia (see page 26 of this issue of DAN Part 2) which stimulated him to send in the following note. He would appreciate some debate and requests the opinions and feedback from DAN readers:

“Over 185 people attended [the Colloquium] to listen to presentations given by experts in their field on a wide range of subjects in connection with draught animal welfare issues in developing countries. Over a four-day period of debate, analysis and prognosis of working equines in poorer regions of the world, it was made clear that although progress was being made there’s still a long way to go!

Throughout the proceedings reference was frequently made to the injuries received as a result of ‘inappropriate’ harness. There has been for some time considerable uncertainty into what constitutes ‘appropriate harnessing’ This is borne out by the lack of continuity in harness design, fitting and construction methods in developing countries emphasizing the urgent need for a consensus amongst interested parties. It needs to be understood that regardless of type, all harness must comply with set criteria in order to be effective.

Listed below are just a few relevant technical questions relating to the composition of harness that give rise to confusion. In the interests of consistency and a better understanding of harnessing methods your comments would be most welcome and appreciated.

1. What should appropriate harness comprise of?
2. Should blinkers be used?
3. Which is preferable – Breast collar / Full neck collar?
4. Should collars be open topped or closed?
5. Should long or short traces be used? How should they attach to the vehicle?
6. Is a crupper dock necessary?
7. Should false or full breeching be used?
8. How effective are swingle trees?
9. What materials are most suitable?
10. Which defining feature takes precedence? Cost, efficiency, simplicity

Questions such as these need to be resolved to avoid continued confusion and to create a coherent agenda that’s understood by both field-operators and recipients alike in the transference of this technology to developing countries. Until an acceptable solution is found the use of inappropriate harness will continue to injure draught animals and restrict their ability in reaching their full potential.

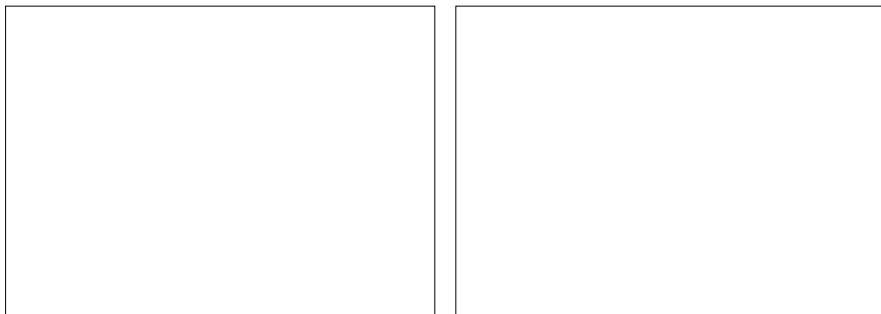
Feedback regarding all aspects of harness development is most welcome.”

T. Davis (HDA), Harness Development Agency, 5 Leamore Common, Wistanstow, Craven Arms, Shropshire. SY7 8DN (Tel. 01694 781206; email : harnessaid@yahoo.co.uk)

**Information on harnessing and hitching donkeys – request for feedback** (DAN44, pages 35,36). Bill McKinney a retired farmer from Bulawayo now living in France writes in response to Peta Jones request for comments and feedback on her drawings and comments in her letter in DAN44 June 2006:

“ We are experienced in the use of Cape harness, which is in fact what your [Pearson, Simalenga and Kreceks] Figures 32 and 33 in ‘Harnessing and Hitching Donkeys Horses and Mules’ pages 24 and 25 are illustrating [Editor see Plate 33], [Figure] 33 being correct, but not clear to a novice and [Figure] 32 is likewise unclear, but also

dangerous to man and beast, the pole being far too low. The two illustrations of Peta Jones are seriously wrong and ineptly titled whilst the illustration [DAN44, page 36] of evener is correct – but why reinvent the wheel. Can I help?”



*Plate 33. Left, copy of Fig 32 and Right, copy of Fig 33  
(from *Harnessing and Hitching Donkeys, Horses and Mules for Work* (A Pearson))*

■ **Application of implements.** Chas Holmes from Perth, Western Australia has written:

“I have been interested in animal draught power for some years, and although haven’t done much myself have followed the local draught horse association in Western Australia, and receive a quarterly magazine from the US ‘The Small Farmers Journal’ aimed at horse farmers. I grew up in Africa and was interested in the donkey and ox powered systems in use there. It has always struck me as incongruous that since the beginning of the tractor age there has been zero input into technology transfer of modern agricultural engineering design and research across to animal draft equipment. In the last 5 to 10 years there is a bit of movement in the US to providing new equipment, principally aimed at the Amish, and due to the scarcity of pre tractor age equipment.”

Chas Holmes, Principal Consultant, Poseidon Irrigation PO Box 199, RIVERTON,  
Western Australia. 6148 (Phone 08 9457 2876; fax 08 9457 2876;  
Email: holmescf@smartchat.net.au)

## REQUESTS

■ **Secondhand agricultural implements, Uganda.** Angura Epilo Nathan writes from Kumi, Uganda with a request from his school:

“We are still busy with our reconstruction. We are using oxen we trained locally when they had aged, following on from British Council short training course on DAP that I attended at Seroti. It seems ages since we were there. I am now looking for second hand animal-drawn implements we can use at the school on our DAP training programmes and would be grateful for any contacts or possibilities readers know about that I could find locally.”

Nathan Angura Epilo Nathan, c/o Kachumbala Primary School,  
P.O. Box 181, Kumi, Uganda

■ **Animal-drawn weeders for Southern Sudan.** Roger Sharland of REAP Kenya (Rural Enterprise Agribusiness Promotion) has sent in the following request from Kenya:

“Greetings from Nairobi. You will not know me though I have been receiving Draught Animal News for a number of years. I was talking yesterday with John Miliith who is the director of an NGO we work closely with in the Rumbek area of Southern Sudan. He is doing a lot on ox ploughing there with considerable success. However the problem is that more land is planted and then it is very difficult to weed. So we have recommended he looks at what others are doing with ox powered weeding. Here in Kenya the level of thinking is not really on the right level for Sudan, but I think a fair amount has been done in Uganda and Tanzania that would be relevant. Do you by any chance have any contacts relevant to simple weeders, since we are hoping that John can make a visit to some useful centres to decide what to do in his situation? If you have any suggestions let me know and I will pass them on to John.”

[Editors note: David O'Neill who was part of a project on ox-drawn weeders in Uganda email: [doneillassoc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:doneillassoc@yahoo.co.uk)) has already suggested he contact Dr Peter Obuo who works at SAARI (Serere Agricultural and Animal Production Research Institute) near Soroti. There are others he feels could help but thought enquiries via Peter first. And of courses a look at the ATNESA website ([www.atnesa.org](http://www.atnesa.org)) to see more about weeding with DAP in the region.]

■ **Animal power to produce electricity.** Antonio Perrone from Italy is preparing a project for a charitable foundation devoted to implement technologies specifically designed for remote villages of developing countries.

He is interested in obtaining information on the use of animal power to produce electricity. He will be very pleased to receive any information on this. He has already read the article in DAN 40 Pages 60 to 61, but also wondered if anyone else has experience too.

Antonio Perrone (Tel. + 39 3496934669; email: [perrone.antonio@minambiente.it](mailto:perrone.antonio@minambiente.it))

■ **Information and photographs on draught animal power needed.** Manuel Soares Costa from Portugal is looking for information and writes:

“I am writing a textbook on Draught Animal Power in the Portuguese language – covering oxen, horses, donkeys and mules, Camels and lamas, buffalos, and their use worldwide. The textbook will be for the use of our University students in Animal Science. This will cover physiology, anatomic aspects related to performance, management and working performance of these animals as work producers, in farms and urban areas. Emphasis will be put on the different issues related to the use of animal power vs. tractors, particularly by smallholders farms in the developing countries, and the increasing role of animals for working worldwide

Also we would need some colour photos of these animals at work, to include in the text, by scanning them. Could you be of some help in these matters?

Prof. Manuel Soares Costa, Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Seccção de Produção Animal (DPAA), TAPADA da AJUDA, 1349-017 Lisboa, Portugal (Tel. 351 21 365 3405; Mobile 351 96 273 9461; Fax: 351 21 363 0734; E-mail: [euroval@netcabo.pt](mailto:euroval@netcabo.pt))

**Animal power in timber production.** Archie McConnel from McConnel Wood Products, UK writes with a request:

"I have been searching the web and various other place for various information to do with draught animal power. I am writing a book on the availability of timber and the various factors that come into play. It is a look back through history as well as having a look at modern day stuff.

Anyway I was wondering if you could point me in the correct direction for information on carrying and pulling capabilities. With timber it is dragging capabilities as well unfortunately which seems a bit more complicated. I understand as well that quality harness etc. will also increase the efficiency of the pulling as well and that there are no hard and fast guidelines. I have watched horses pulling timber in the UK and have not really been very impressed with the weight that they pull in comparison to say human power. The power to weight ratio seems more to favour manual labour...? However the horse of course just needs feeding etc. and the human is a bit more demanding about wages.

The area that I am trying to fix on is pointing out that between animals and humans we managed to get things done fairly well before the arrival of petrol driven machinery. I have been having a look mainly at some material from the FAO with comparative forwarding methods in the tropics done in the 1960's and a book written in 1890's on Forest Utilisation (Schlich/Fisher VolumeV) ... any other suggestions? I have an interest in both Europe, N America and the Tropics."

Archie McConnel (Phone : +44 1848 331 662; email: [info@mccconnel.co.uk](mailto:info@mccconnel.co.uk)  
website: [www.mccconnel.co.uk](http://www.mccconnel.co.uk))

**Work horses.** Patrícia Fernandez writes from Portugal:

"My name is Patrícia, and I study Eng.Zootecnica, in Universidade-de-Tras os Montes e Alto Douro(Portugal). I am looking for information about farm work horses and its utility for the humanity, since the old times until today.

Is there is any information/history about this subject that you can send to me. Thank you very much for your attention and availability."

Patrícia Fernandes, UTAD-Eng.Zootecnica (email: [pati\\_fernandes@netcabo.pt](mailto:pati_fernandes@netcabo.pt))

**Reliance on draught animals?** Anna da Costa who does not say where she is from writes:

"I am currently researching so-called 'non-industrial' sources of energy, globally, but with particular focus on India, which are completely renewable and decentralised, for a book on climate change.

Do you happen to know if there is any published data on the reliance of different countries on draught animals, and what proportion of their energy needs they supply? It is proving really difficult to get hold of this kind of data, and I would be really grateful for any help you could offer me!

In a similar vein, I am also looking at biomass, and cycles, and any figures for reliance on these, or any other non-industrial renewables that you could point me towards would be very much appreciated!

Anna da Costa (email: [adacosta84@hotmail.com](mailto:adacosta84@hotmail.com))

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **The Free University of Hydra**

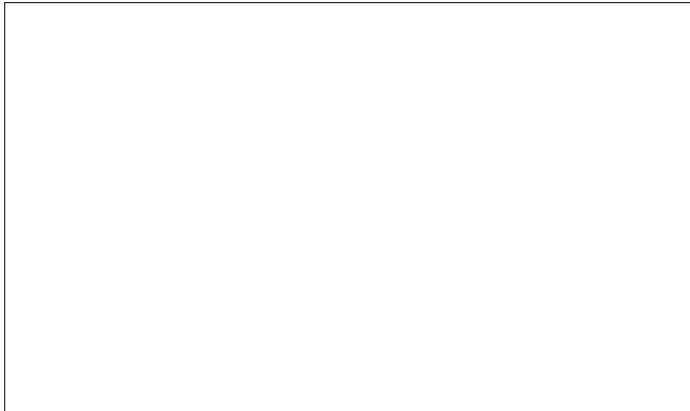
in collaboration with the School of Veterinary Medicine,  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
and the Mayor and Municipality of Hydra

Invite you to attend a conference on

### **“The Role of the Donkey and the Mule in the Culture of the Mediterranean”**

to be held at the Melina Mercouri Hall  
on the Island of Hydra, near Athens

**Friday 12th October - Sunday 14th October 2007**



In October 2007 the Free University of Hydra, in collaboration with the School of Veterinary Medicine, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and the Mayor and Municipality of Hydra, is organising an international conference which will examine, document and celebrate the role of donkey and the mule in the culture of the countries bordering the Mediterranean basin.

The island of Hydra has a special place in Europe as a developed economy where a large percentage of personal transport and transport of goods is done by mule and donkey. There are no cars. We are proud of our mule and donkey culture.

The conference will examine every aspect of donkey and mule culture – ranging from the economics of rearing and maintaining livestock, to the shaping of the

Mediterranean landscape, and taking in literature and philosophy en route. Issues such as the working conditions of animals, gender issues in donkey use, donkeys in leisure activities etc will be addressed.

A special session will be devoted to a *Charter for the Working Donkey in the Mediterranean*.

The conference will be a relaxed affair, with space for specialists and non-specialists alike. There will be opportunities to meet the local donkey and mule population, and their drivers. There will also be an opportunity to participate in a pre-conference donkey trek on the island. More details can be seen at the website: <http://www.geocities.com/DonkeyConference>

If you wish to attend the conference, or present a paper, please write to the Conference organizer: Ed Emery, [Hydra Donkey Conference], Peterhouse, Cambridge CB2 1RD, UK (e-mail: [ed.emery@thefreeuniversity.net](mailto:ed.emery@thefreeuniversity.net))

The **Free University of Hydra** is a conference-based organisation created with the support of the Mayor and Municipality of Hydra and dedicated to the study and research of all matters concerning the culture, economics, history and social life of all the countries which border the Mediterranean.



10th Congress of  
World Equine

## **Veterinary Association**

28 January - 1 February, 2008

Moscow, Russia

World Equine Veterinary Association (WEVA) and  
Russian Equine Veterinary Association (REVA)

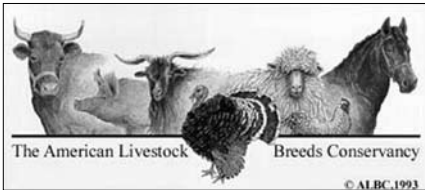
under the support of

Ministry of Agriculture of Russian Federation  
Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences



Please see their website for further details: [www.weva2008.ru](http://www.weva2008.ru)

## MEETING REPORTS



### **New Breed Association Formed to Support Critically Endangered Marsh Tacky Horse, USA**

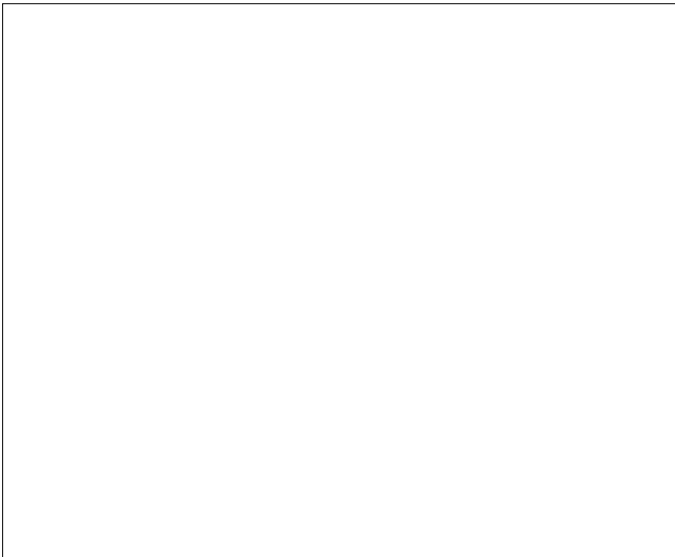
Report by **Jeannette Beranger**

*Research & Technical Programs Manager,  
American Livestock Breeds Conservancy*

The Marsh Tacky horse's name - 'Tacky' is derived from the English word for 'cheap' or 'common'. For most of their history, Marsh Tackies were the most common horse in the swampy and marshy Low country region of coastal South Carolina and Georgia. They were used for riding, pulling, and anything else for which horsepower was needed. The breed was found as far north as Myrtle Beach and as far south as St. Simon's Island, Georgia, until the advent of the car. As the car replaced the horse, the Marsh Tacky began to disappear.

Although the exact origin of the Marsh Tacky horse is unclear, it can be attributed to Spanish stock that arrived on the coast and islands of South Carolina and Georgia as 'drop offs' by Spanish explorers and stock brought over by Spanish settlers in the 1500's. Today the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy estimates there are fewer than 200 pure Marsh Tackies left.

On Saturday June 2nd, 2007 the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC) hosted a 'gathering and meeting' of Marsh tacky horses and breeders at Mullet Hall



*Plate 34.  
Abby, a Marsh  
Tacky Horse owned  
by Beth Postelle in  
USA (ALBC)*

Equestrian Center Johns Island, South Carolina, USA. The purpose of the meeting was to organize a Marsh Tacky horse association, report on progress with the establishment of a Marsh Tacky studbook, and to discover and identify additional Marsh Tacky horses. Nearly 50 owners, breeders, and enthusiasts of these horses were in attendance despite torrential rain and wind from a tropical storm passing through the region that day.

During the meeting a dozen Marsh Tacky horses were brought into the demonstration arena so that attendees could learn of and see first hand the specific physical characteristics that are associated with the breed (Plate 34). Following the meeting, attendees discussed the formation of a Marsh Tacky Horse Association. The group appointed 9 individuals to a board of governance that will begin the process of forming an official breed association.

People interested in working and keeping Marsh Tackies are encouraged to contact ALBC who produced this report.

American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC, 27312,  
(Tel. (919) 542-5704; email: [jberanger@albc-usa.org](mailto:jberanger@albc-usa.org); website: [www.albc-usa.org](http://www.albc-usa.org))



## The 5th International Colloquium on Working Equines, Ethiopia

Report by **Dawn Vincent**,  
Public Relations Officer

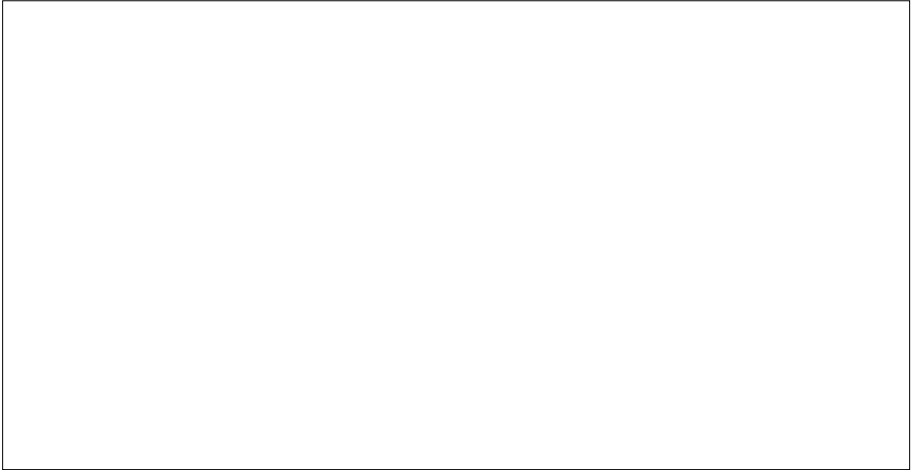
The Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth, Devon



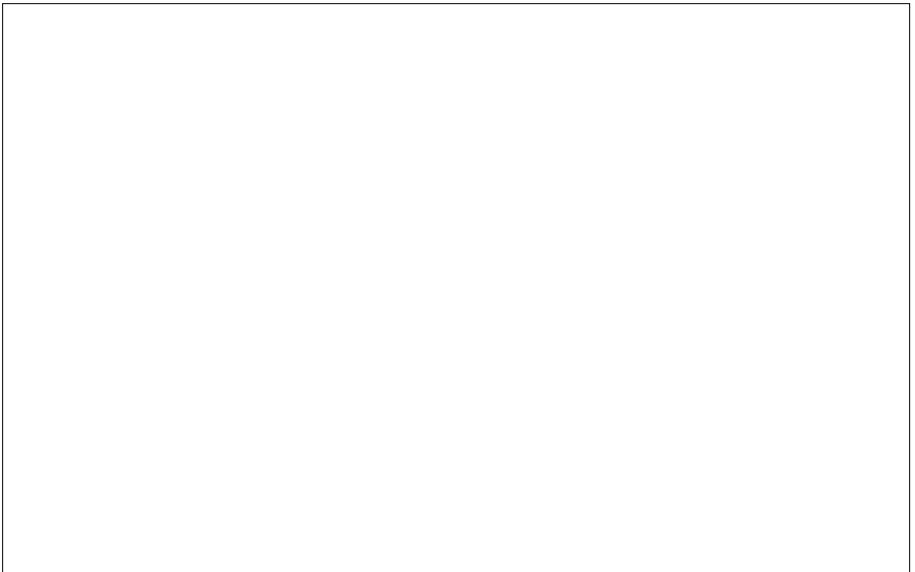
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia was the venue for the recent International Colloquium on Working Equines. The fifth of its kind, this colloquium jointly sponsored by The Donkey Sanctuary and Addis Ababa University focused on the future for working equines. Since 1990 the colloquium has taken place every four years and has become an important forum for the exchange of ideas and techniques amongst like-minded people.

The colloquium brought together nearly 200 delegates representing 25 countries. The official language of the meeting was English. Many sectors of the communities involved with working equids were represented with vets, scientists, welfare charities and government bodies all being present. The decision to bring the colloquium to Ethiopia was a natural one. Ethiopia has an equine population of nearly five-million and much of the country's population relies on animals for transport and draught power.

Based at the Ghion Hotel in Addis Ababa the Colloquium provided opportunities for delegates to attend oral and poster sessions with discussion and participation being actively encouraged (Plate 35). In addition to the scientific proceedings field trips were organised to see the facilities at The Donkey Sanctuary / SPANA clinic in the grounds of the Addis Ababa University Veterinary Faculty where case discussions, behavioural assessments and harnessing demonstrations (Plate 36) were open to all delegates and allowed the exchange of practical ideas and techniques. A field trip to the Rift Valley also allowed delegates to observe working equids in both urban and



*Plate 35. Some of the Participants at  
5th Colloquium on working equids, Ethiopia (S. Newaz)*



*Plate 36. Traditional Ethiopian harness, Addis Ababa University Veterinary Faculty (C. Arriaga)*

rural environments. The proceedings of the Colloquium will be published shortly and will be sent to the delegates. Details of how to obtain copies for those people that did not attend the meeting will be posted in Draught Animal News.



**South African Network for  
Animal Traction (SANAT)**  
in collaboration with  
**Animal Traction Network for  
Eastern and Southern Africa (ATNESA)**  
**Workshop Report**



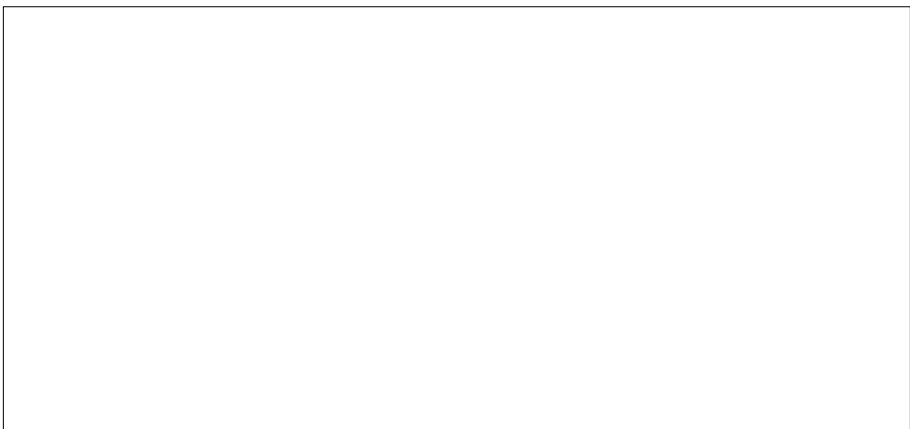
The South African Network of Animal Traction (SANAT), in collaboration with the Animal Traction Network of Eastern and Southern Africa (ATNESA) held a regional workshop on Animal Traction from 6–9 March 2007 in Pretoria, South Africa.

The main theme for the workshop was 'Linking animal traction opportunities to local economic development'. The sub-themes which guided the workshop included:

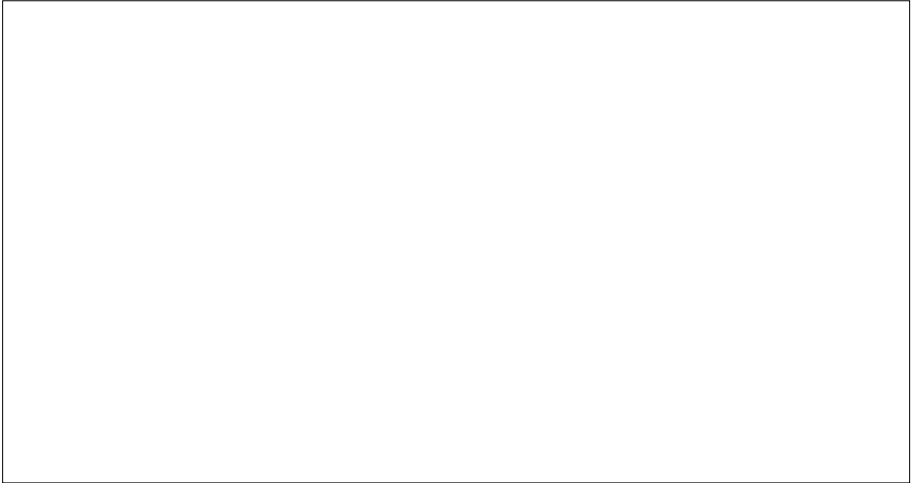
- Animal welfare and legislation
- Innovative farmer advisory, extension and training approaches for animal traction
- Mainstreaming animal traction into mechanization and rural development policies
- Environmental issues related to draft animal power
- Regional networking and partnerships for animal traction

The workshop brought together many promoters of Animal Traction and Sustainable Agriculture from throughout the world. Over 85 delegates from 11 countries: S Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Namibia, Uganda, Lesotho, Swaziland and UK, attended the workshop (Plates 37 and 38) The workshop also afforded the opportunity for delegates to participate in the preparation of the an Animal Traction Policy for South Africa and exchange information, ideas, plans and achievements in the various aspects of draught animal power (DAP) research, development and extension within the above sub-themes.

The meeting got off to an electric start by being addressed by the Hon. Dr. Noah Wekessa, Kenyan Minister for Science and Technology, who is also a veterinary surgeon and a leading member of WSPA and Mr A T van Collier, The Director of Engineering

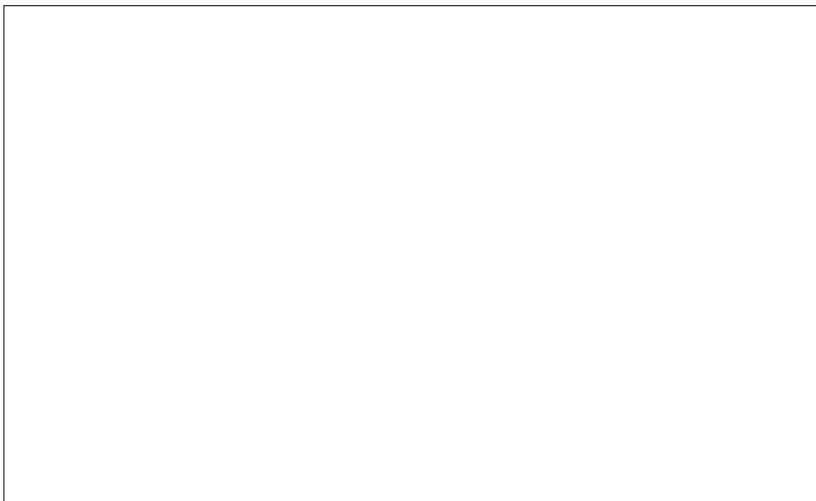


*Plate 37. Delegates at the SANAT/ATNESA meeting in Pretoria, S Africa (P. Starkey)*



*Plate 38. Group Photograph of the participants at the SANAT/ATNESA meeting, Pretoria, S Africa (P. Starkey)*

Services from the Department of Agriculture in South Africa. Both speakers emphasised the need to empower more rural communities as well as large scale farmers with animal power technologies since DAP is cost effective and environmentally friendly. The workshop was informed about new research on donkey traction as well as inspiring and successful stories from large scale and small -scale farmers from South Africa's Eastern Cape, Limpopo, KwaZulu and North West Provinces.



*Plate 39. Mr Ngwenya with his donkeys hitched to a coal wagon in Winnie Mandela settlement (P. Starkey)*

On display, along with posters, hitching models and harnesses, was a multi-purpose donkey cart for high-tech services such as cellphone-charging and water purification. In the course of discussions and presentations it was pointed out that the terms 'animal traction' and 'draught animals' did not adequately cover all that working animals could provide, and that we must make an effort to refer rather to 'animal power'.

A SANAT meeting was held on Wednesday afternoon, but all others went on a field visit to a coal yard in a high-density 'township' on the outskirts of Johannesburg, where donkeys and horses were used to pull the wagons (Plate 39).

This was followed by a visit to a Johannesburg welfare organization, Animals in Distress, which works with the coalyard owners to care for their animals, and runs a microchip identity programme so as to minimise theft and straying. On the way back to the meeting venue, a coal wagon was overtaken on the highway, and the condition and identities of its horses checked. Dee Terblanche from Cape Town's Cart Horse Protection Association was also present, so the two organisations had a fruitful exchange of information.

The closing session on Friday consisted of a general meeting of ATNESA (see Short Notes and News in this issue of DAN, Part 2, page 78). At the end of the workshop, delegates were each given a CD complete with the power-point presentations that had been made, those papers that had been submitted, a contact list of delegates and a great number of marvellous photos that Paul Starkey had taken.



## **TAWS / BVA Overseas Association Annual Seminar 4th April 2007, UK**

Report by **Karen O'Malley**

Deputy Head of International Training  
International League for the Protection of Horses

The Rural Crafts Centre (RCC) at Holme Lacy, Hereford, UK hosted the TAWS / BVA Annual Seminar 2007. Delegates from varying backgrounds were invited to attend the day's activities, which focussed upon 'working towards lasting solutions to foot and harness problems in working equines overseas.'

Prior to the commencement of timetabled presentations, Ian Coleman, RCC Team Leader conducted a valuable tour of the Rural Crafts Centre facilities. During the morning session, staff from the School of Farriery outlined training in the UK, demonstrated tool making and discussed the art and science of trimming and shoeing. Turning to the developing world, training was considered key to sustainability and improvements to welfare; however emphasis was placed on standards being set that were appropriate and realistic for the country.

During the afternoon, attention focussed upon the importance of using correctly fitting harness on working equines overseas. Prior to a document 'Guidelines for Equine Draught Harness for Developing Countries' being tabled by TAWS, harness design and harnessing equine power effectively were explored by the speakers.

A very patient donkey was subsequently fitted with varying harness to demonstrate the conformational differences between horse and donkey, particularly in the set of the head and neck.

Ways of designing and setting up a project were detailed by the ILPH, with a specific focus on their five-year project in Romania designed to improve the working horse welfare through training, education, campaigning and public awareness. As the seminar drew to a close, two project reports from Ethiopia and Morocco were studied, before delegates were given the opportunity to have an open discussion on the day's proceedings.

Overall, the seminar focused on issues surrounding foot and harness problems in working equines overseas; it addressed many concerns and left 'food for thought' as to how organisations may be able to work towards achieving greater improvements to the welfare of working equines overseas.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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