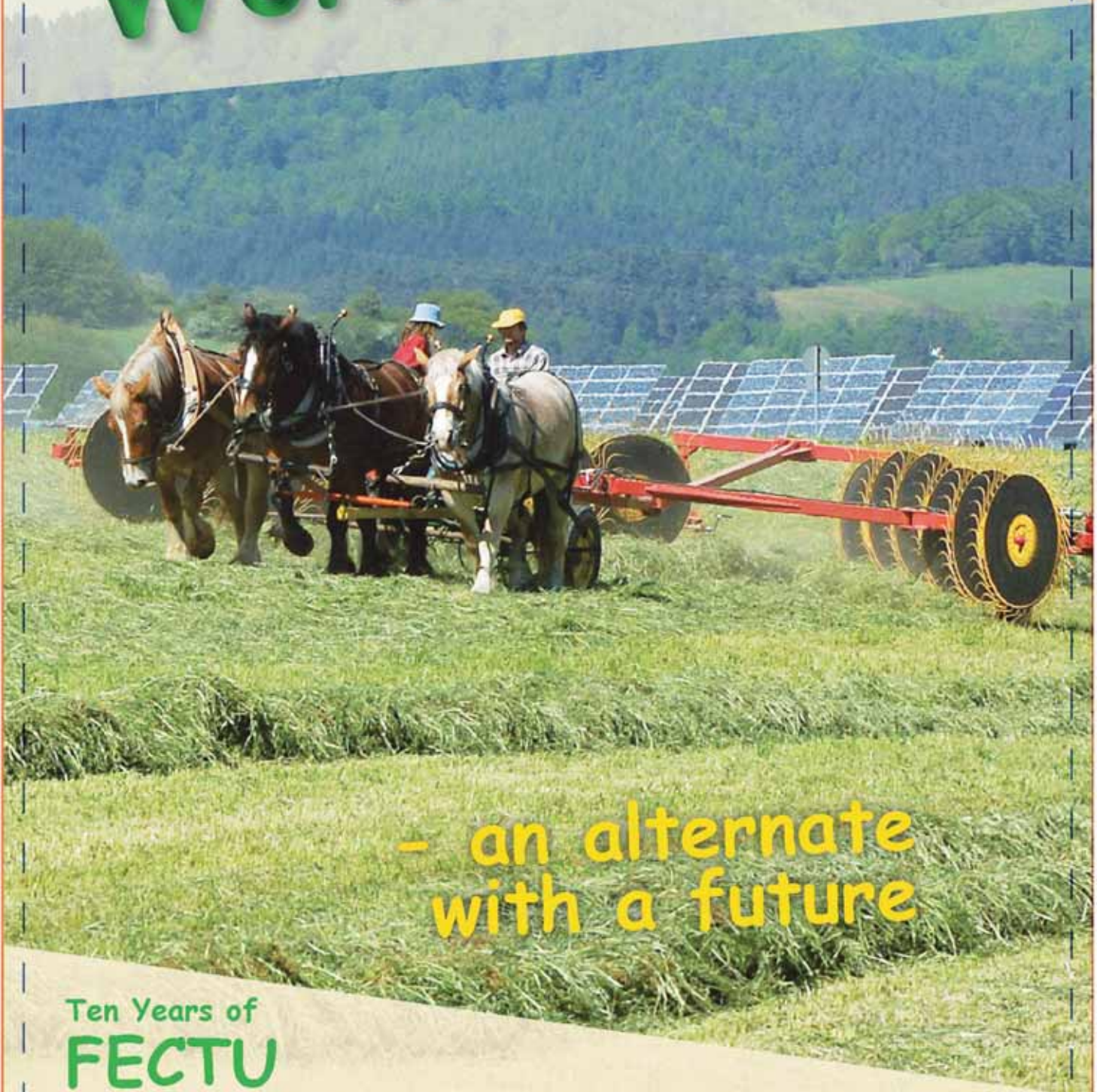


Fédération Européenne du Cheval de Trait
pour la promotion de son Utilisation asbl

FECTU

Work Horses



- an alternate
with a future

Ten Years of
FECTU

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The texts of this collection, some of which are published in the original language and some in translation, are contributions from various European countries. They have been prepared to celebrate the tenth anniversary of FECTU, and give a general impression of the diversity of the modern world of draught horses.

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LE GOUVERNEMENT
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Ministère de l'Agriculture,
de la Viticulture et de la
Protection des consommateurs



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de l'Environnement

Ten years of FECTU

On the first of December 1994 the Englishman Charlie Pinney wrote a letter to friends and colleagues in several European countries, in which he suggested the formation of a European organisation to represent the interests of all those who are engaged in the modern use of working horses. As a farmer and manufacturer of new horse drawn equipment, he wanted to address the situation faced by many geographically dispersed individuals who worked draught horses: often they encountered the same problems, but because they were working in isolation they could not benefit from the experience of other like-minded people.

In 1995 the first attempt at forming such an organisation failed, but on the 2nd of November 2003 seven organisations established FECTU, this time as an umbrella organisation, rather than, as in the 1995 attempt, a collection of individuals.

FECTU aims to promote cooperation throughout Europe between organisations which are committed to the employment of working horses and other draught animals, with an awareness of the common interests of these organisations. In doing so, FECTU contributes to the preservation of a European cultural heritage and promotes the responsible professional and amateur use of working animals as a renewable source of energy.

The Annual General Meeting takes place in a different country every year, and in addition to discussion and decisions on current questions, offers an insight into the working horse practice of the host country.

FECTU has gradually made a name for itself internationally as representative of the working horse scene, and as a contact point for individuals as well as organisations

and government bodies. For example, FECTU represents the working horse sector in the umbrella organisation the *European Horse Network*. Countless individual enquiries about the trade in horses, about machinery and learning opportunities have also been answered and many people have been put in contact with each other.

FECTU has assisted with its many and various connections at many international events, such as the *European horse logging championship*, the *Fish Route*, and the *PferdeStark*. At many conferences and international meetings, for example, the *International Colloquium on Working Equids*, or at the expert panel of the FAO [Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations] on the theme of working animals, FECTU representatives made a significant contribution and formed contacts with individuals and institutions all over Europe which are active in the field of working animals. From 2014, FECTU takes over the publication of the international journal, the *DRAUGHT ANIMAL NEWS*, which was published between 1989 and 2009.

Today FECTU consists of 18 participating organisations from 15 European countries: Finland, Norway, Sweden, Poland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Luxembourg, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Pit Schlechter, Luxembourg





Work Horses - an alternate with a future

Climate change caused by the actions of human beings is a reality, which only a few deny. The unrestricted use of fossil fuels and certain types of agriculture are the source of the gases causing climate change, such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, which are heating the Earth's atmosphere.

The use of so called renewable energy – solar, wind, bio-energy, geothermal and water power – requires significant investment and large inputs of energy. In addition, the production of renewable energy also has ecological risks. Wind turbines for example are responsible for the death or injury of bats and birds, whilst growing plants for energy production, such as oil palms or maize for the production of ethanol or bio-gas represent an ecological catastrophe. The prefix 'bio' is misleading because oil palm plantations or maize monocultures have little or nothing to do with a holistic view of life.

Agriculture and forestry in western and central Europe have experienced enormous changes, many for the worse. Bigger and bigger machines have been introduced, and in so doing, the soil, which is most important factor in food and timber production, has been degraded and destroyed.



Both in farming and forestry much work could be accomplished with the help of the prime example of renewable energy – the work horse. This is particularly the case with organically managed and family farms as well as in forestry practise which mimics natural systems.

The work horse is, in the best meaning of the word, renewable energy

- It reproduces itself.
- Its sustenance is plants, which are converted energy from the sun.
- Its waste products are useful manure.
- At the end of its life the horse's body can be completely used- as food, leather, glue and mineral manure, brushes and mattresses.

The use of work horses offers the best possible protection of the soil, and in forestry, of the standing trees. Soil structure regenerates and improves when worked by horses. This is particularly noticeable in vineyards, where the vitality of the vines and the quality of the wine are appreciably raised.

The deployment of work horses contributes to the maintenance and improvement of biodiversity -

- Improvement of soil, with positive effects on the soil organisms.
- Working horses, in conjunction with diverse crop rotations, allow a mosaic like composition of the farmed landscape, through which the habitat of insects, many plants and vertebrates are improved.
- The employment of work horses in harvesting timber requires fewer logging trails [minimum of 40 metres apart], so the impact on the remaining trees is minimal, and therefore the biodiversity is encouraged.

- The widespread use of working horses in agriculture and forestry increases the demand for horses, thereby contributing to the preservation of the draught horse breeds, and the maintenance of the gene pool in domesticated animals.

The increased use of work horses in agriculture, forestry and viticulture, as well as in short haul transport, can positively influence development in rural areas.

- The creation /preservation of jobs in sensible proximity to where people live.
- The promotion of various professions, such as farrier, harness maker, implement manufacturer and animal fee merchant.
- The slowing down of our hectic life style.

A utopian view of a horse-mad fool? Perhaps, but within a few years our insane energy use could make us realise that in the epitome of renewable energy, the work horse, we have something of great value.

Reinhard Scharnhölz, Germany





Farming

The importance of work horses and their use in Swedish agriculture

We recognise that the use of horses as a power source in agriculture is important, but perhaps not of national economic significance. However, it is of great importance for many horse owners' quality of life, for meaningful leisure, and care and maintenance of part-time farms. The horse has a positive impact on the environment and reduces our dependence on fossil fuel. It also gives us knowledge of, and a valuable insight into our ancestors' often hard living conditions and their work-filled existence. As cultural history, it is useful to maintain the knowledge and methods from the old agrarian society.

Today there are a small number of full-time farmers using horses continuously for productive work on the farm. This is usually for lighter work and when there is an advantage that the work is done at low speed. A good example is grassland harrowing in the spring, when the soil is aerated, old manure is spread, and mole mounds and any damage from the activity of wild boar is flattened out. The harrows designed for tractors are excellent when pulled by horses.

Many people still use old equipment from the first half of the twentieth century, but such machinery is becoming hard to find. When they are worn out, it is difficult to find replacement parts or scrap yards with old horse drawn

implements. It is therefore pleasing that new implements are being manufactured, primarily in the United States and Central Europe. Sometimes this is the remanufacturing of the older equipment, but new designs are also being produced, including different models of forecart that can be used with implements made for small tractors. Some forecarts have PTO drive from the wheels or with motor drive to the PTO and /or hydraulic pump. This modern equipment is becoming more and more popular, making the work easier and thereby increasing the use of horses.



More and more young people want to learn how to use their workhorses. For several years Sweden has run a one- year training course in driving for work, including farming operations. It makes us hopeful for the future.



*Lars-Göran Göransson,
Sweden*





Forestry

Horse Logging in the United Kingdom

Horse logging is experiencing a general revival in Britain with more horse loggers doing more work than 10 years ago. This is generally true throughout Europe although the numbers working horses in some parts of Europe and the former eastern bloc are in decline due to increased mechanisation. We all hope that decline will be more managed and thoughtful than the head-long rush to mechanisation we experienced in Britain in the 1960's and 1970's.

To be really sure how the profession of horse logging is developing, particularly with the complexities of expansion and decline in different parts of

Europe at the same time, information needs to be collected and research projects undertaken. My opening statement needs to be supported. Our own evidence is largely anecdotal and only partly based upon the limited information we have. One measure is to consider the numbers of professional insurance schemes taken out. This has increased over four fold in the UK in recent years.

To be clear about any trends, the British Horse Loggers Charitable Trust has started to gather data to give a much more informed, accurate and detailed picture. The research has been started in Wales with the intention to widen it to cover England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Once this has been completed and then repeated

in subsequent years we will start to be able to talk about the figures with more authority.

If this revival is to last we need to address four key points to make horse logging sustainable and future development viable. Those points are economics, welfare, innovation and training.

To be truly sustainable, horse logging must be an economically viable option for woodland and forest management. There will always be a specialist role for delicate, wet and public sites. This work will continue to be paid on a day rate as timber production may be of a lesser priority than the quality of the work. In mainstream forestry it will be increasingly important to earn a dignified living whilst showing an income for the owner. We have done a great deal of work on the cost equation, taking the lack of preparation and reparation into account, showing that horse logging can be cost effective and competitive. This cost analysis needs to be translated into contracts and highlighted in the research.

We work our horses in the public eye of an increasingly urban population, some of whom will oppose the working of draught animals. This is an increasing threat to our profession. To counteract this and to increase effectiveness and efficiency, we need to continue to develop, analyse and improve what we do and how we do

it. We need to be able to demonstrate that we work our horses well and kindly. Any welfare improvements, whether they be in equipment, harness, feeding, veterinary care or work systems, will lead to increased efficiency and productivity over a longer working life as well as greater public acceptability.

Innovation must not stop there. The continued development of improved working equipment, both in design and materials, coupled with better working practice can only lead to improved welfare and greater productivity. There is evidence of this happening in all horse work communities and it is to be applauded and encouraged.

The final strand is to encourage and enhance the skills of the horse logger through training. More skill will support increased welfare, innovation and productivity. In the UK we have a three year apprenticeship in addition to short courses and mentoring. I am not a supporter of a mandatory qualification but the move towards credible portfolios of learning undertaken will continue and should be encouraged.

With the various strands of research, economics, welfare, innovation and training given their proper priorities we can be hopeful of a sustainable and vibrant horse logging culture into the future.

Doug Joiner, Great-Britain





The French “territorial horse”

The notion of “territoriality” for a horse only appeared a few years ago. It is a *“horse used by a local community to carry out on its territory missions linked to public utilities : transportation of people, waste collection, upkeep of parks and natural spaces, prevention-security ... It thus represents an alternative energy to be used in the framework of a sustainable development policy applied by communities”* (Study by Duriez, Fouquet, 2012, for the Ministry of Agriculture).

The territorial horse can be either managed by a community as a state controlled entity, or it can belong to a provider of services, or even be submitted to a mixed management, which is half-way between the previously mentioned systems. The frequency of the working sessions of a territorial horse can be seasonal, yearly or selective according to the management chosen and the needs. In

France, the territorial horse has shown lightning progress. From some fifteen territorial communities using it in 2001, this figure went up to 70 in 2007 to reach 300 in 2013.

The territorial horse is an agent of sustainable development which is socially rich, economically interesting and ecologically clean. Its social impact can be felt in several different areas. First of all the use of a territorial horse entails the creation of direct jobs. In France, it has been estimated that 400 of them were created mostly as jobs for the social inclusion of people in distress. The results achieved are very satisfying and encourage development along this same line.

Furthermore the horse conveys a positive image within our society, contributing towards urban calming by bringing some ‘living’ element in the towns and cities, in the respect of a natural rhythm of life and by limiting noise and visual pollution.

The use of a horse also has a positive impact on environment. Back to work, the draught horse breeds are offered new prospects, contributing to the preservation of endangered species threatened by the reduction in consumption of horse meat. Moreover, the horse respects the environment : it limits the emission of greenhouse effect gas (from 30 to 90 % according to the various activities), limits the compaction and erosion of the soils, and improves the penetration of water in the earth. Furthermore, the horse-drawn services of waste collection contribute to the improvement of selective sorting out (with an average of 25 %), by naturally conveying prevention messages.

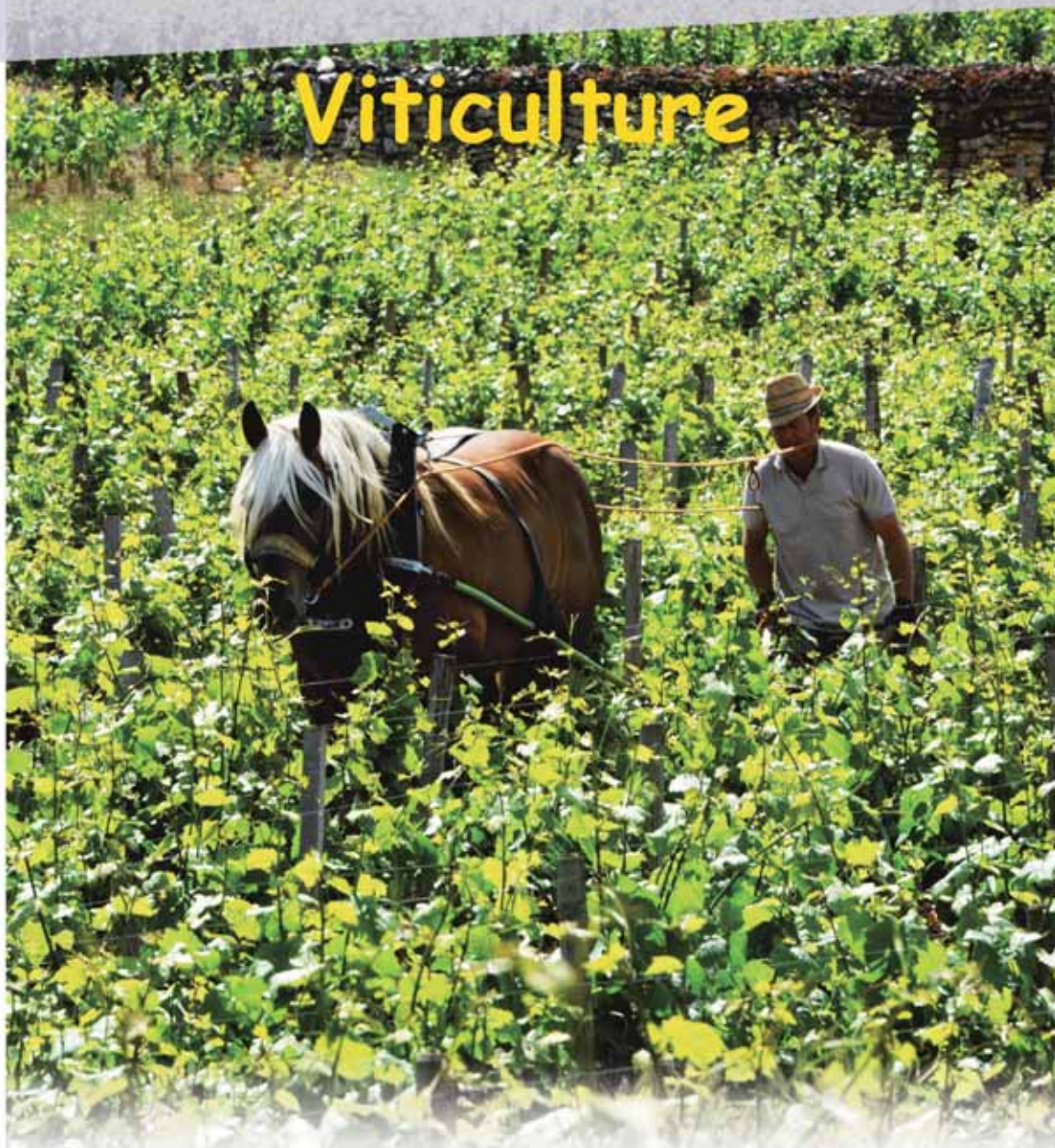
Finally, introduction of horse-drawn services generally contributes to the reduction of investment and managing costs for territorial communities.

Aware of the new development of the territorial horse in France, CNCT i.e. the National Commission for Territorial Horses has decided to collect all information from communities using horses, to help share experiences, the purpose being to optimize the organization of horse-drawn services. Since 2003, CNCT is actively involved in actions along this line, organizing the gathering of territorial horses but also of the actors of this field through the National Congress of Territorial Horses. We are forced to notice the success of this annual gathering, participants wishing to attend are ever more numerous. It is one of the very few occasions when all the members participating in this domain, from manufacturers to breeders without forgetting the buyers, can gather to talk about the future of the territorial horse, not only in France but more generally in Europe. Mindful of the increasing request for help to the creation of a horse-drawn service, the CNCT now proposes to territorial communities the realization of technical-economical feasibility studies and even their assistance as project manager.

CNCT - National Commission for Territorial Horses, France



Viticulture



A horse in the vineyard

In the flaming colours of autumn, Isis, a Breton mare, slowly walks up and down a plot at the Clos des Capucins, right next to Chinon citadel. This work was still done with a tractor only four years ago. Like several other domains, be they small or larger, the Clos des Capucins went back to horse power. Considering the size of the wine growing regions in France, the change to horse power, even if still modest,

has been noticeably increasing. More easily set up in economically favourable areas, such as Burgundy or the Bordeaux region, the return to horse power is a reality in all the vineyards of the country.

No statistics exist to estimate the surfaces worked with horses. It is the same for the number of people involved in this conversion: paid ploughmen, owners-ploughmen or salaried ploughmen. The reviving of the pro-

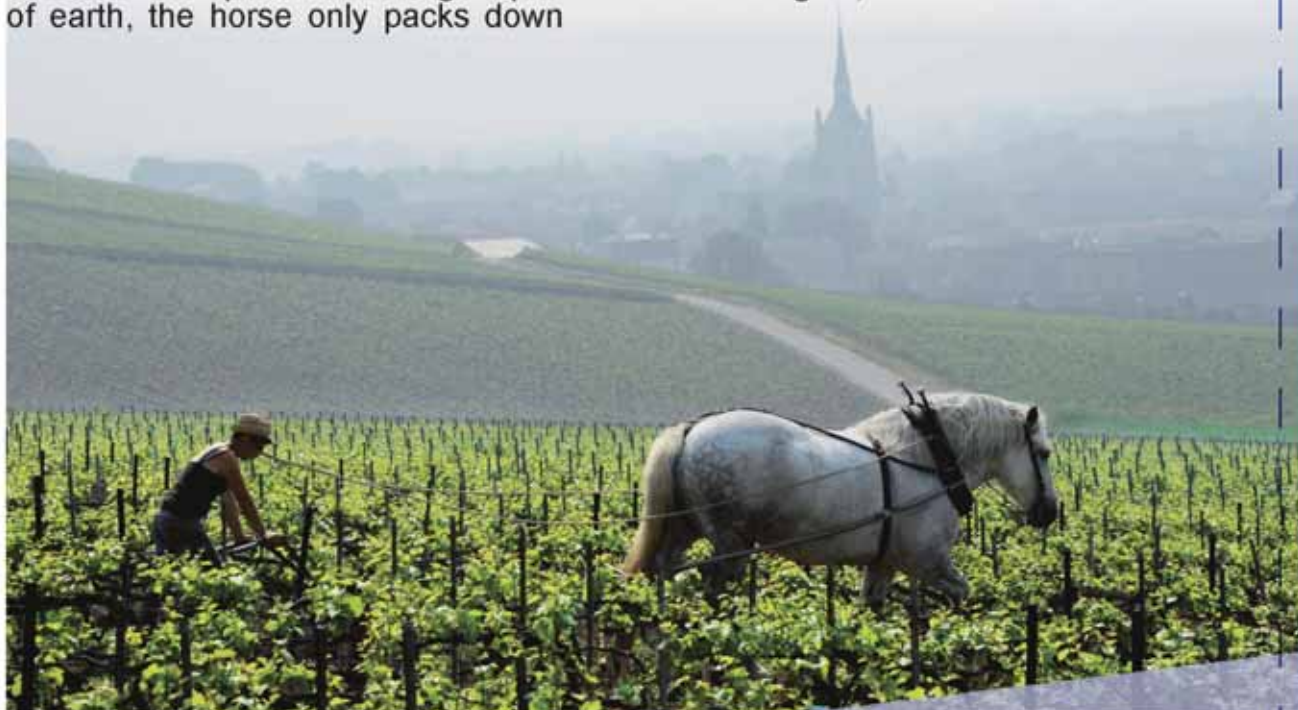
fession of vineyard ploughman with a horse is not structured and does not benefit from any national representation, association or union. According to the various regions, paid ploughmen are granted an hourly rate varying from 40 to 70 € per hour. Some prefer to be paid according to the size of the worked surfaces instead of on an hourly basis.

Some wine producing domains, managed like state controlled entities and using their own horses, sometimes have to hire, as extras, external ploughmen when the amount of work to be done imposes it or when problems occur in the management of the horses belonging to the domain. An in-depth movement, the return of horse power in vineyards is not the result of any fashion even if the influence of communication cannot be totally excluded. An assiduous ploughman, the horse furnishes a very precise work from earthing-up to ploughing, it performs all these tasks leaving the vine save from any damaging. The benefits of horse power also apply to the soils. Packing down is considerably reduced. When tractors pack down long stripes of earth, the horse only packs down

very limited spots. Together with the suppression of the vibrations due to the tractor's engine, these factors increase the biological activity rate of the soils by over 40 %. The giving up of chemical weeding and the development of organic and biodynamic growing practices also account for the renewal of the interest in horse power.

Working in vines with a horse never totally disappeared from areas where terrace cultivation or steep slopes made the use of a tractor or of a crawling tractor quite difficult. The horse is also a precious help when dealing with young vines or with old ones. This going back to horse power entails the manufacturing of new horse drawn implements adapted to wine growing, most of them remaining as prototypes. Without neglecting the completion of scientific tests, more especially concerning the traction efforts applied to the horses while pulling these new implements, we might envisage that some of them, in an expanding market, will benefit from a small regular production in the near future.

Jean-Léo Dugast, France







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FECIU



Driving

A chance for our heavy breeds

After the golden age of the 'useful' horse in Western Europe during the nineteenth century and at the beginning of the twentieth century, a time when there had been thousands and thousands of them, the draught horse, all breeds together, almost totally disappeared with the advent of the internal combustion engine.

Fortunately, our recent 'leisure oriented society' offered a new opportunity to draught horses slowly becoming converted into carriage horses: first plodding along during more or less occasional outings or hitched up to a caravan; then trotting, at a much quicker pace, thus becoming true leisure hor-

ses, eating up miles and miles in a convivial atmosphere, exploring the much praised return to nature, or even becoming an accomplished sports horse through more individualistic initiatives.

The triggering element of this renewal has indisputably been the first 'Fish Run' created in 1991 by Mr Bruno POURCHET, who was then the Director of the National Stud at Compiègne. This competition is meant to reward the consistency and endurance at trot of a pair in harness, along 20 stages of about 15 km each, going from Boulogne-sur-Mer, the first French fishing port, to Paris, the capital. It revived the itinerary so frequently travelled by the 'mareyeurs' (fish carriers) in the old days when delivering, in less than 24



hours, the freshly caught fish from the French ports to the capital. Since then, always with an increasing success, once a year, over fifteen teams, each one of them composed of 20 draught horses, travel the roads of France, Belgium or Switzerland, displaying for a large enthusiastic public their intrinsic qualities : willingness, strength and an extraordinary docility. It is a gripping show when you see this huge armada of 300 draught horses of all breeds, surrounded by over 800 men and women, unreserved lovers of the 'heavy' horse criss-crossing the cities, the countryside and the forests with only one creed: 'proudly show their horses'.

Beside more traditional events including logging, boat pulling, ploughing, the more intrinsically athletic qualities of draught horses are demonstrated during the European Routes by special events such as dressage, marathon and obstacle courses. These competitions are now organized in many countries during annual contests or national championships after the fashion of blood horses.

From carriage horses to work horses, whose disappearance was more than advanced, draught horses were able to bounce back by becoming true athletes. Their shape itself has changed in becoming lighter, erasing the heaviness they had to gain to satisfy their ultimate fate: the knife and fork, the only future in store for them since the advent of the automobile.

Because of all these national or international events, the variety of the European draught breeds has been fully exposed to the limelight. Each studbook can bear testimony to this renewal now on the move. Each breed, created centuries ago in its own territorial area, can thus enhance, during these events, its own specificities polished up along years of use. Even if



very different from one another, they still remain very similar in their gentleness, their willingness and their enthusiasm for work. It is their closeness to man that remains one of their main qualities.

This new purpose provides a huge potential for our heavy breeds. It really fits in with the values our society now tries to defend by encouraging closeness with nature, personal fulfilment through leisure and the search for some sort of appreciation of our selves and of our passions, with the pounding of our horses' hoofs on the roads of conviviality that have now taken a European dimension.

Long live the Routes!
Long live draught horses!

Patrick Bert, Belgium





Social integration

The horse in the prison service

Witzwil prison is situated in Gampelen, on Lake Neuchâtel in Switzerland. In total 160 people work here providing useful for employment for the 180 inmates, in a variety of workshops, and in supplying and cleaning the prison. The prison grounds also include an area of farmland with arable crops, dairy and beef cattle, pigs and horses.

For over thirty years bringing up foals has been an important mainstay of the farm. At present 120 young animals are to be seen in our pastures. As well as the foals, nine Freiburger horses are used for the agricultural operations. This work stretches over the whole year, from spreading fertilizers, turning hay, the maintenance of footpaths and logging, as well as transport of forage and straw.

For harvesting hay the prison has built its own ground drive hay turner with a three metre working width.



Although it is certainly becoming more difficult to keep up with modern motorised technology, in addition to ecological reasons, we place great value on many aspects of working with horses which have particular relevance in the prison situation. Working with the horses is a challenge for the inmates. In their daily work the prisoners learn how to interact with the horses, about their behaviour, care and training, as well as how the work is accomplished, which could be very valuable for their own future in the working world.



In summary, I am of the opinion that the horse, as a teacher, psychologist, therapist, partner and friend, has great value and legitimacy in the prison context.

André Stähli, Switzerland





Modern technics

The question of machinery and equipment

Since the general mechanisation of Agriculture, with the single exception of the Amish in the USA, no commercial company has shown any interest in the modernisation and development of equipment for horse draught.

For many years, draught horse organisations and individuals have endeavoured to concoct or alter machines and implements for use with horses, in a more or less professional manner, although in the countries where draught animals remained in common use, old equipment often continued to be used.

Often the experiments with modern equipment focussed on horse drawn hitch carts, onto which one could couple implements intended for use with tractors. This meant it was no longer

possible to carry out work on the farm without the hitch cart, and that quickly led to a problem in supplying the power required to pull both the hitch cart and the implement. Work which had previously been performed by a single horse now required two or even three horses, because farmers were reliant on the hitch cart. As a partial solution to this problem many switched to using a hitch cart with an auxiliary engine, but that did not fundamentally change the problem of excessive draught. Hitch carts which obtain their power from the wheels as well as those with an auxiliary engine quickly come to weigh over 500 kg, and this load must be continually kept in motion by the horses. In hilly areas or in mountainous regions this disadvantage is of much greater significance.

As far as efficiency is concerned, a machine which is designed for a particular

job and is driven by its own wheels is still the optimal solution, but at the moment no individual manufacturer can afford to build such equipment. As an example of such technology many of us place great hope in the new mowing machine made by I & J manufacturing in the USA.

The question of machinery remains one of the most important challenges for the development of work with draught animals. The equipment we have at our disposal must be as effective and efficient as that provided for motorised technology, and it must satisfy the same ergonomic and safety requirements.

Therefore we must all pull together to find the financial means, so that the manufacture of machines moves beyond the production of prototypes to producing effective machinery for the market. It is the role of FECTU to coordinate these joint efforts.

The guiding principles should be technical efficiency, the safety of those using the machinery and the well being of the work animals.

Jean-Louis Cannelle, France





Polish Working Horses

The draft horses use in Poland

Towards the end of the 19th century, west European cold-blooded horses (Ardennes, Breton and Belgian, less often Percheron horses) began to be imported into Poland to improve working horses. This process gave the local breeds: Sztumski, Sokolski, Łowicki, Lidzbarski.

At present in Poland there are about 300. 000 horses and more like 2 million farms. More than 50 percent of horses are cold-blooded horses. Increasingly, a greater percentage of them are used to produce foals for slaughter. Most individual farms, mainly very small ones (up to 10 ha), have only 1 horse. In 2009, the largest proportion of working horses (about 20-30%) was found in the south-east provinces: Podkarpackie, Małopolska, Lubelskie, but this information concerns both cold-blooded and warm-blooded horses.

The decrease in the number of farms and their horses, as well as the disappearance of the local types that were traditionally found in north-eastern Poland made it necessary to take conservation measures. An important aspect of the conservation of cold-blooded horses is to maintain the tradition of working use and thus to conserve the disposition, temperament, and willingness of the horses to cooperate with humans. In 2011 a questionnaire was carried out about use of local breeds of coldblooded horses. Nearly 70 % of the breeders answered that they have kept horses for at least 15 years and for 27 % of them horse breeding is a strong family tradition. Most of the breeders keep horses for commercial purposes (meat production) and to save the breed. Nearly 1/3 of these breeders declared to use their horses in agriculture for draft purposes.

It should be emphasized that Poland and the Association PSUiPKR created

by Prof. Ewald Sasimowski are only a reflection of the changes taking place in this part of Europe. PSUiPKR was founded after attempts at attracting the cooperation of other countries in Central and Eastern Europe had not yielded results. In Poland we have observed in recent years more and more events to promote the use of working horses and there should be mentioned here such annual events as the horse logging competition in north of Poland in Kępinio (Pomerania region), organized by the superintendence Wejherowo, the Carriage Driving Day in Smolajnach in Warmia – Mazury region organized by Livestock High School, or the show and Spring Horse Ploughing and Field Work in the Village Museum near Lublin, and many other events organized spontaneously throughout the country.

More and more people and horse breeders are interested in participating in regional shows and festivals. Coldblooded horses are beginning to be more readily used in agro-tourism, especially during winter and summer holidays, when they pull sledges, carts or carriages with tourists.

Grazyna Polak, Poland



Choosing "the right horse"

The ideal working horse, dream or reality?

Trying to characterize the ideal working horse is a real challenge, if not impossible.

I work since 20 years nearly every day with drafts, Belgian draft, Ardennes and Rheinisch Deutsches Coldblood. They are my colleagues. I also am a real lover and user of what in German is called "Kleinpferd", for my likings the best equine bio-motor. And here we hit straight a real problem. We horsemen think with our heart when it comes to buy horses or ponies. This means we buy what we like, not directly what we need. We never buy a car the same way we buy a horse and indeed we should do it that way. The questions to ask are: easy to find, easy to replace, does it fit my harness, machines, what will it cost (farrier, feeding, stabling.....), can I find it trained, easy to use it in a pair of ... and in the end what do I like.



Indeed the wrong horse on the wrong place is quite often a reason for leaving the bio-engine. We mostly think of draft horses when we think about work horses but reality teaches us that only 10 % of those working are drafts!! Most draft breeds have problems with legs, CPL (Chronic Progressive Lymphedema), are being bred for the meat market and no selection on the working capacities is done, they have problems with endurance.... only a few breeds still consider "working" a selecting criteria.

When I look at the "Kleinpferden", cobs or "petit cheval", I believe that here we have more luck to find the working partner, but we must consider the limitation of their pulling power. If you want to farm on 20 ha of heavy clay ground, only think draft. If you have a small-holding, 4 or 5 ha, a few kids and interest in driving and riding, a "petit cheval" is the answer. Easier to find, cheaper in food, harness and shoeing they might be to sport-pony for certain breeds. Other breeds, the UK mountain and moorland breeds tend to be very expensive and are not worked. Breeds like Fjord, Konik, Huzul, Bosniake can do the trick.

If I follow the studies, I think nothing will response better the modern challenge of horse-power then the heavy warm-bloods. The last in the real working type are nearly lost. Most of those breeds have been changed or are changed in modern sport-horses or carriage horses. In certain breeds, Groninger, Ost-Friese, Slaski, Freiburger...we still have a few horses in the work type left. This type of bio-engine



needs an immediate action of breeders and users to save the last. The modern Schweres Warmblut (heavy warmblood) and Freiburger are sport-horses today.

I can tell "flat out" on the exterior of the perfect working horse, but for me, 95% of my working partner are "the brains" and those we can only guess when the breed uses a good selection in the breed. The Fjord breed is an example and should be followed by all breeds that pretend they are working breeds, being it drafts, horses or ponies.

If I talk about the workhorse character I think at multi-purpose: a horse with temper but always cool, ready to go and work, enduring and strong physiques and an very solid positive moral, a horse who can concentrate on a job without being distracted by other horses.....

The exterior will be in function to his main task, short and strong on four strong and well made legs and hoofs when I am looking for a loggers horse, long lined through the body, long shoulder, strong hind legs and iron legs when I am looking for a horse for carriage work.

Manu de Meulenaer, Belgium





Education

User training in France

At the request of professionals, a new certification was created in France in 2005 : a specialist's certificate for 'users of working horses'. This certification enables people having promising projects to be trained in all the activities linked to the use of working horses. Training centers can choose to direct their training towards specific activities.

The training course known as CS « utilisateurs de chevaux attelés » has developed a lot these last years. In fact, about 12 centers offer it in France at present. This situation raises many re-

cruiting problems and several of these centers have problems due to the lack of trainees.

This qualification is increasingly in demand, more especially by local communities developing a project of urban horses.

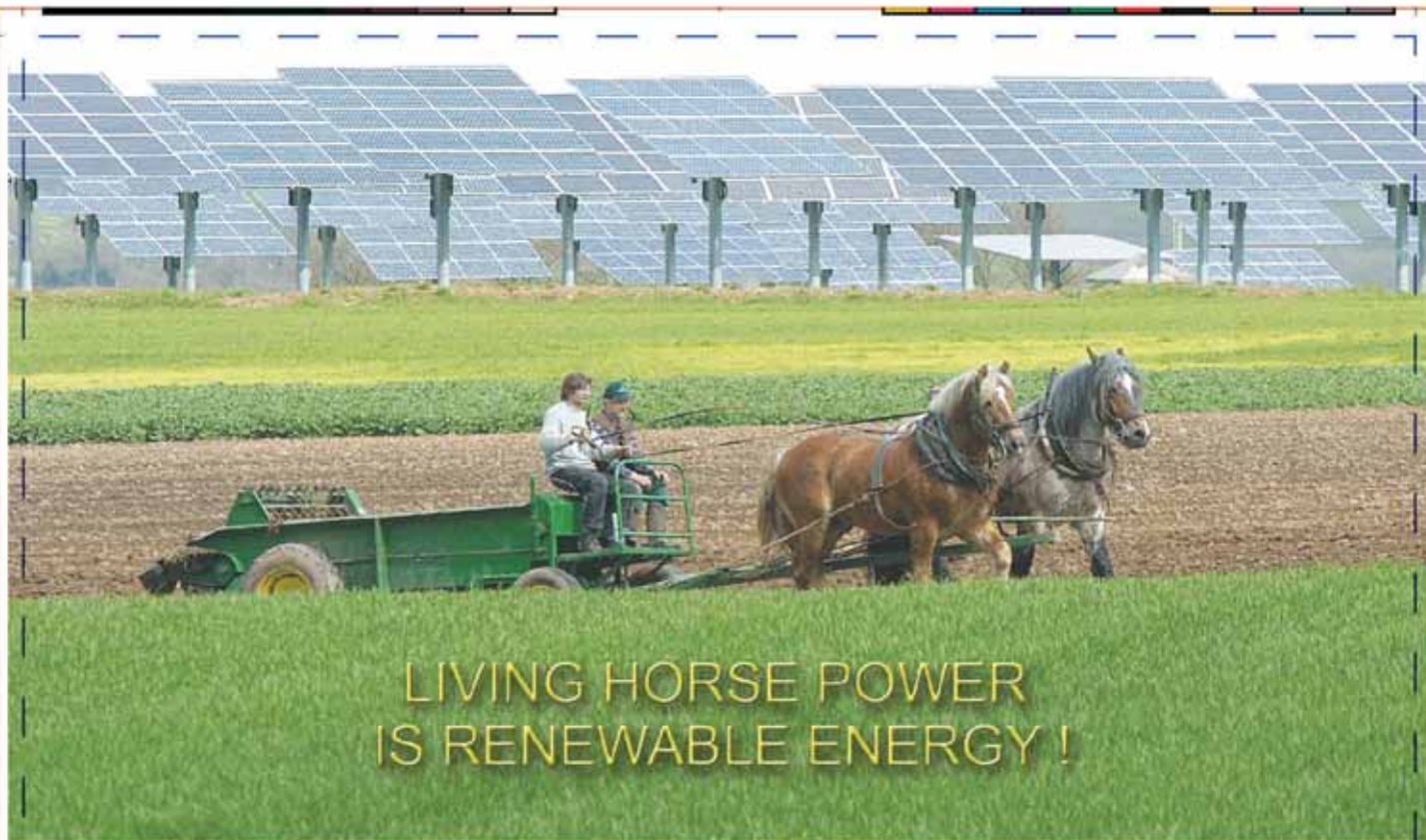
It is to be noticed that even already established professionals want to obtain this qualification which makes it all the more justifiable even though there are no regulations or controls concerning the obligation to have a qualification to work with horses on a professional basis.



The various training centers tend to set equivalent levels of requirements as to the capacities that the candidates have to present concerning activities linked to the use of horses in towns and cities. This initiative is introduced by the agricultural school CFPPA in Montmorot in partnership with the National Labor Union of Coachmen and Professional Users of Working Animals. We hope that all the other centers will very soon adopt this attitude so that all those graduating from the training centers will present the same abilities all over the country, in order to guarantee maximum safety to all users.



















Céline Eisenzaemmer, France





LIVING HORSE POWER IS RENEWABLE ENERGY !

The following associations are members of FECTU asbl:

-  Suomen Työhevosseura Ry – FINLAND www.tyohevosseura.fi
-  Foreningen Arbeidshesten – NORWAY www.arbeidshesten.com
-  Skogshästen, Föreningen för Körning med Häst - SWEDEN www.skogshesten.com
-  Polskiego Stowarzyszenia Użytkowników i Przyjaciół Koni Roboczych oraz Konnych Producentów Zdrwej Żywności - POLAND www.konierobocze.pl
-  Interessengemeinschaft Zugpferde – GERMANY www.ig-zugpferde.de
-  Österreichische Interessengemeinschaft Pferdekraft – AUSTRIA www.pferdekraft.at
-  IG-Arbeitspferde Schweiz – SWITZERLAND www.igarbeitspferde.ch
-  Hippotese – FRANCE www.hippotese.free.fr
-  Association pour la promotion du cheval dans la circonscription de Compiègne – FRANCE www.laroutedupoisson-ap3c.org
-  Cheval et Forêt – BELGIUM www.chevaletforet.be
-  Comité Européen des Chevaux de Débardage – BELGIUM www.cecd.be
-  The British Festival of the Working Horse – UNITED KINGDOM www.britishfestivaloftheworkinghorse.co.uk
-  Southern Counties Heavy Horse Association – UNITED KINGDOM www.southerncountiesheavyhorseassociation.co.uk
-  British Horse Loggers – UNITED KINGDOM www.britishhorseloggers.org
-  Irish Working Horse Association – IRELAND www.irishworkinghorseassociation.blogspot.com
-  Associação Portuguesa de Tracção Animal – PORTUGAL www.aptran.pt
-  Asociación Nacional de Tracción Animal – la Esteva – SPAIN www.anta-laesteva.es
-  International Draught Animal Consultants – INTERNATIONAL