

Work Group 1 Rescue Stations

ELBARN Area Workshop
Blagoevgrad 8th May 2009

Preventive Measures

- many quarantine stations are for import/export purposes
- rare breeds are given no special treatment
- there are no census but there are registers in place or planned
- registers of holdings in some countries
- geographical distribution is well documented

Nucleus Herds

- no proper definition in place – defining a breed is hard enough, defining a nucleus is even more difficult.
- it should represent the breed
- used for reproduction of the breed
- each species is different
- each breed has different requirements
- should include whole genetic diversity of breed
- nucleus group doesn't have to live together it can include breeding lines (relies on good herdbook keeping)
- can include animals in neighbouring countries that are part of breed
- animals needed for reproduction and for the survival of the breed and for use in research action etc.

Contingency Plans

- some emergency funding, some plans but for all livestock not specifically for rare breeds
- it would be good to see contingency plans from other countries – information transfer
- will require a change in legislation

Decision Making/ Information Exchange

- Decisions are made on a governmental level
- Moving towards EU standards
- breeders/farmers have low level of education, find filling in forms difficult, younger generations are better educated, some are interested in traditional breeds
- farmers' lack of knowledge means that involvement might not be helpful, they need good representation from e.g. breed associations.
- Education programmes for farmers are important
- Problems of land ownership – historical factors e.g. common ownership, mines on land

Rescue Centres

- too many factors to say a number— populations, distribution, status of breeds, what you want to achieve
- first census, registers etc have to be in place
- net of vets working in emergency situations – special service
- use resources that are already in place and build on them
- identify people esp. vets willing to take part
- write protocols of what to do in these situations, contact numbers, instructions of what to do
- economic – long term has to self-financing, short term needs emergency funds

Area Action /Conclusions

- rare breeds are adaptive and often resistant – they can often survive a disease and this is valuable for the future
- information about the benefits of locally adapted breeds – research into real benefits when they are cared for better
- requirement for community education programmes about laws, subsidies, diseases, nutrition.....
- improve legislation, improve information resources, raising awareness, mobilising funds for emergencies

Area Action /Conclusions

- sharing research findings
- emergency plans
- involve neo-rural
- cost/benefit calculations to prove that indigenous breeds are more beneficial than exotic breeds – including ecological costs
- public health, awareness of quality of products for human health