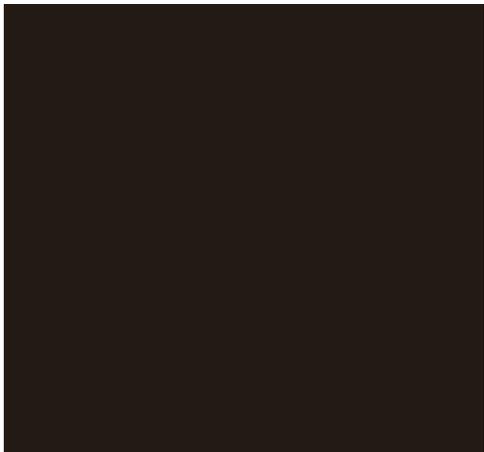
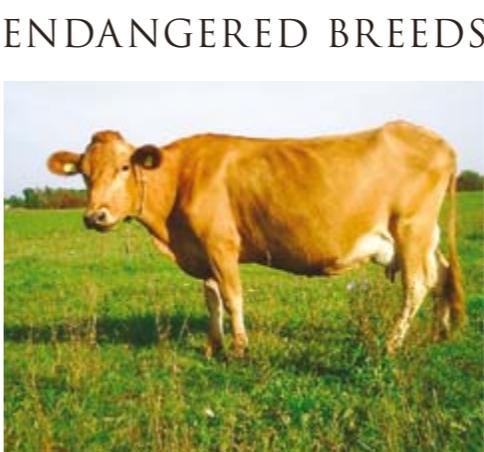
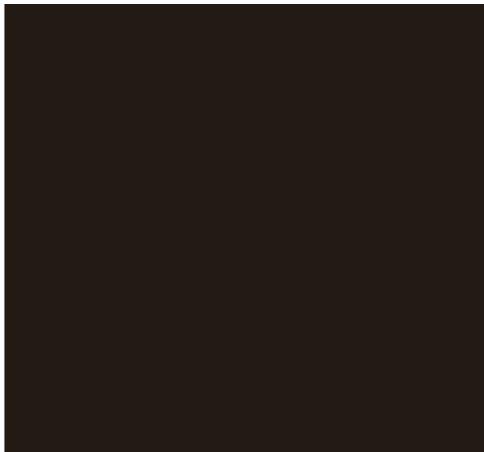
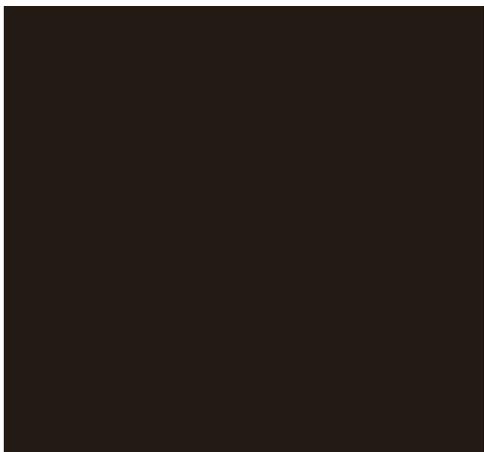
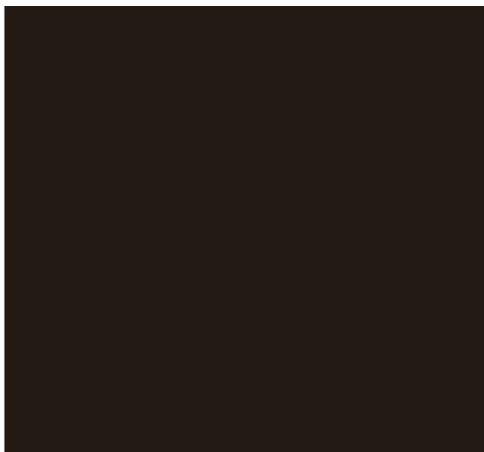




ENDANGERED BREEDS



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ESTONIAN NATIVE CATTLE HAS A SIMILAR HISTORY WITH OUR PEOPLE

Name of breed: Estonian Native Cattle

Year and place of establishment of the herdbook and association: 1920, Pärnu

Occurrence: all over Estonia, more in Pärnu, Saare and Rapla Counties

Population size (2011): ca 1500

Breeding organization: Estonian Native Cattle Breed Society

General

The Estonian native cattle have had a difficult, but interesting destiny, which, in many ways, is similar to the destiny of the Estonian people. This breed has been developed from the local aboriginal cattle throughout centuries and has preserved several characteristics despite different challenges – their peculiar looks and special characteristics of milk.

The Estonian Nativadder, it also experiences less digestive diseases. In addition, it is not demanding regarding keeping conditions, its life expectancy is long and easy calving. There are fewer stillbirths in case of native cattle than other breeds of bovine animals in Estonia. Its milk has high milk, protein and lactose content and suits well for the production of cheeses, curd and yoghurts.

Estonian Native Cattle is the cultural legacy of the Estonian people. This breed is considered the closest direct descendant of the aboriginal cattle, which was popular in Estonia and Livonia during previous centuries. Estonians have been keeping those cattle, because the local breed has been very hardy in our tough conditions.

Purposeful breeding of the Estonian Native Cattle began in the beginning of the 19th century. There were 20 000 native cattle in Estonian farms before World War II, but in course of history, the number has decreased to around 1500. Less than 500 of those are pure-bred animals with data concerning their pedigree. Due to small number of animals, the breed belongs to the list of endangered breeds. In spite of everything, this small, hornless, pale red cattle have found a secure place in dairy farming – already since 1977, this breed forms 0.4% of all the dairy cattle in Estonia.

Since 2000, the state has given support for breeding and conservation of Estonian Native Cattle. Thanks to this, as well as enthusiastic native cattle breeders, the number of Estonian Native Cattle has slowly started to increase.

History

Until the 19th century, Estonian farmers kept an aboriginal herd. The cows were small (200-300 kg), multicolored, with horns, had a stripe on their backs and they did not give a lot of milk (400-500 kg per year). Animals were mostly kept for the purposes of getting manure.

At the beginning of the 19th century, different breeds of pedigree animals were started to be imported from Western Europe. These mixed with the local herd, lost their characteristics and destroyed the main characteristics of the local aboriginal cattle to a large extent.

Purposeful breeding for the creation of the Estonian Native Cattle started in 1910, when West-Finnish bulls were brought to Estonia. West-Finnish bulls were used to improve the Estonian Native Cattle, because those breeds were thought to be related to each other. In addition, the pleasant looks of the animals was also a determining factor – light beige color and a hornless head.

During 1913 – 1914, an expedition was carried out to find typical local cattle. 1315 were researched and measured altogether, they were characterized by small size, and their average milk yield was about 1500 kg per year. There were single colored beige, red, black-and-white animals, as well as the ones with a stripe on their backs, with horns and hornless ones.

In 1920, the Estonian Native Cattle Breed Society was established, which purpose was to design the Estonian Native Cattle, which had to have medium body weight and be strong built, have good resistance to local climate conditions and strong health. They also had to have high production



capabilities and high content of fat in their milk, whitish beige color and a hornless head.

By the 1930s, results of the breeding work were visible – animals of pedigree herds looked as they were supposed to, their milk yield had also increased significantly. Breeding work lulled as a result of wars, occupations and collectivization, a lot of pedigree animals were killed and the herd was scattered around different districts. Activities of the Estonian Native Breed Society stopped.



The Farm Museum of C. R. Jakobson in Kurgja, Pärnu County, propagates by the side of other Estonian agricultural traditions also the Estonian Native Cattle.

Native cattle from different independent economic units were gathered to Pärivere state farm, which became the breeding and preservation centre for the Estonian Native Cattle. There were around 1050 native cattle left in Estonia in 1968.

The low number of animals created a threat for inbreeding. In order to avoid inbreeding, Jersey bulls were brought in. The Jersey breed, which was rather similar to the Estonian Native Cattle from their type and appearance, improved



The Estonian Native calves are healthy and strong.

significantly the milk yield and udder shape of the Estonian Native Cattle.

In the 1980s, crossings with the Brown Swiss, Ayrshire, Red Holstein and West-Finnish bulls were also tried.

The Estonian Native Cattle Breed Society was re-established in 1989. The association started to organize the management of breeding native cattle, work was continued with the preserved animals on former principles.

In the 1990s, Jersey bulls were once again used, two Swedish Red Polled bulls were bought to bring in fresh blood, their offspring were of the landrace type and also without horns. Sperm of West-Finnish bulls was bought. During 1995–2005, the sperm of 69 local bulls was also used. This way, inbreeding was managed to be avoided and the genetic characteristics of the Estonian Native Cattle were improved.

Breeders of native cattle faced another setback during the second half of the 1990s – farms of the Estonian Native Cattle could not fulfill the requirement of milk production enforced on all Estonian dairy breeds and so the farms were no longer eligible to receive dairy cow support. The number of Estonian Native Cattle started to decrease in bigger farms. For part of the animals new owners were found and so the animals were saved.

At the end of the 1990s, increase in the milk production of native cattle was evident and at the beginning of this century, annual milk production became stable at around 4000 kg. Trials carried out in Lanksaare farm and Põlula Experimental Farm show that native cattle can produce more than 9000 kg of milk per year, but this kind of a yield poses great danger to the animal's health.

Estonian Native Cattle today

The breeding and preservation programme of Estonian Native Cattle was approved in 2004. Estonia values local endangered breeds and pays support for their breeders. The breeders of Estonian Native Cattle received support for dairy cow breeding on an increased rate from 2000 – 2004. Since 2005, breeding of native cattle has been supported in the framework of agri-environmental support. Financial aid has increased the numbers of this breed.

Milk studies have shown that the consistence of the milk of native cattle provides the possibility to develop special products of good quality – cheese, curd and yoghurt. Unfortunately, special products have not yet been produced from the milk of Estonian Native Cattle – this part of the market for milk products is still waiting to be discovered and conquered.

Estonian Native Cattle has found a definite place in nature conservation in maintaining coastal meadows and nature conservation areas. Estonian Native Cattle is currently grazed in Matsalu and Nigula nature conservation areas and Saaremaa and Ruhnu coastal meadows. This preserves land usage in agriculturally less favorable areas, as well as the biological and scenic diversity of these areas. Estonian Native Cattle is also a sight to see for the tourists. At the moment, Estonian Native Cattle is mainly kept to produce milk for one's own family, which is the reason why most herds have up to three cows. Only about twenty-five farms have more than four cows.

The Estonian Native Cattle Breed Society has been choosing and evaluating breeding farms of Estonian Native Cattle throughout times. More information about the Estonian Native Cattle can be found on the website of the association: <http://www.maakari.eu/w>

ESTONIAN NATIVE HORSE IS PART OF OUR FOLK TRADITION

Breed name: Estonian Native Horse

Year and place of establishment of the studbook and association: 1921, Haapsalu

Occurrence: mostly the islands of Western Estonia, less in continental Estonia

Main fields of usage: pony sport, recreational and hobby horse riding, tourism and small farming

Population size (2011) ca 2150

Breeding organization: Estonian Horse Breeders Society

General

Estonian Native Horse is an ancient horse breed, which is so old that exact data on its origin are lacking. It belongs to the north forest-horse group with short legs, long body and strong body build. Its size makes it suitable for the pony class. Its head is with a wide forehead, short ears, frisky eyes and muscular chaps. Its neck is short, muscular and with a dense crest, low withers, back is straight, chest and stomach are bulky. Legs are muscular with strong tendons and joints, hooves are with hard coronets. The Estonian Native Horse has many colors: bay, chestnut, black, grey, palomino, dun or grulla often with eel stripe.

A hard-working and hardy horse

The Estonian Native Horse is fast paced, friendly in character and energetic. It is well adjusted to local feeding and

keeping conditions and is famous for its unpretentiousness and hardiness.

The biggest Estonian Native Horse breeder, the owner of Ti-huse horse riding and tourism farm on Muhu island, Martin Kivisoo, describes Estonian Native Horses as hard-working and enduring animals, forming an integral part of the Estonian culture. "Each horse becomes similar to its people over the centuries; so have the horses suitable with the character of the Estonian people been chosen and designed," Kivisoo highlights the similarity between the nation and the horses. He adds that being stubborn is also characteristic to the Estonian Native Horse, in addition to its strong will to work.

Despite different influences, the general characteristics of the Estonian National Horse have remained as they were centuries ago. As the everyday life and tasks have changed, so has the appearance of the horse. When, at the beginning of the 20th century, the desired horse was a short-legged agricultural horse, then at the second half of the century, the goal of breeding work started to be a long-legged, bigger and heavier horse.

The Estonian Native Horse is part of Estonian folk creation, which reflects the harsh nature on the one hand, and the caring, diligence and wisdom in handling animals of our ancestors on the other hand. All this is revealed in the strength of the Estonian Native Horse and the way it is depicted on items, as well as folk poetry.



The Estonian Native stallion Rannik 747E.

Nowadays, farming horses plays an important role in preserving traditional landscapes and a balanced ecosystem, as well as in continuing folk traditions.

Famous already in ancient times

The Estonian Native Horse was famous already in ancient times. It is thought that the Finno-Ugric people domesti-

cated horses before other neighboring people, entering European areas on horseback, not on foot as many other nations. According to the horse scientist of the Russian Imperial Equestrian Army K.Peterson, Estonian horse originates in the same place where the Estonian people come from – in the areas near the Caspian Sea and the Ural Mountains.



The Estonian Native horses are helping to maintain semi-natural grasslands. Readily they are eating fresh bulrush and drinking the sea water.

First written data about Estonian horses came from the 11th century explorer Adam of Bremen, who, in his travel descriptions, sets Estonians apart for their wealth and good horses.

There are legends about the Estonian landings in Sweden, which describe that Estonian men had taken fast horses with them on their boats. The local horse also played a very

important role in the ancient Estonian fight for independence in the 13th century.

C. Blumberg, a Professor at Kazan University who was from Estonia, wrote in the introduction of his book *The Estonian Horse*: “We know that Estonians had many great horses by the 12th century, i.e. by the time the Germans came to our land.”

Also, *Henricus de Lettis* praises Saaremaa horses in his chronicle: "Old Estonians never went to war without their horses! Latvians organized expeditions to Estonia, in order to take Estonian horses with them."

In the 1870s, C. Freytag, who was a professor at the University of Halle in Germany, studied thirteen Russian forest horse breeds; calling them ponies, kleppers and even double kleppers (klepper in German refers to a small horse and a jade). He valued the Estonian horse greatly in improving Obi, Vjatka, Petchora and several other horse breeds.

For centuries, the Estonian Native Horse was the only horse breed for Estonian and Livonian peasants. In the middle of the 19th century, when the need for horses with bigger pulling power arose, the topic of improving the local horse breed became current. The year 1855 is regarded as the real beginning of horse breeding in Estonia, when the issue of how to save the Estonian Native Horse from destruction was discussed at the Livonian noblemen congregation's meeting. It was decided that, in order to preserve the Estonian Native Horse and improve its qualities, horse farms have to be established. A year later, Tori Horse Stud was established.

There were two main directions in breeding: one side favored improving "native" mares with foreign stallions, the others (mostly peasants) proved with tests that Estonian local horses are hardy, strong and unpretentious and their size has to be increased through pure-breeding.

Systematic pure-breeding of the Estonian Native Horse began in 1921, when the Estonian Local Horse Breeders Society was registered in Haapsalu. Two new local breeds were bred in independent Estonia: Tori Horse and the Estonian Heavy Draught Horse. The latter conquered most of continental Estonia, the aboriginal horse was mainly found on the islands and West-Estonia.

Great labour force

From the middle of the 19th century, peasants started to organize horse riding and efficiency competitions. Up until that time, horse pulling efficiency was decided upon only based on looks and therefore, then nobody could expect such a small horse to have such great power. The bay stallion Vapsikas, born in Tori, was 141 cm high and weighed 401 kg. Vapsikas pulled a load weighing 358 poods, which was almost 6 tons on a cobble stone road in Riga in 1865. There was a Russian farmer in Moscow who shouted after seeing such a competition: "*Eta ne lošad – eta tšuda!* (It is not a horse - it is a miracle!)"

Thanks to good performance, Vapsikas was sent to an international exhibition in Paris in 1867 at the expenses of the czarist country, where it pulled a load of 6160 kg. This load was 15 times heavier than the horse itself! Vapsikas was the winner of the competition and got silver money as a prize.

Starting from the 1920s, Finnish stallions were started to be imported in order to improve the breed qualities and



The free-ranged Estonian Native mare can easily foal without assistance. A little older coeval has come to take a look at the colt barely one hour old.

increase the size and body mass of the Estonian Native Horse. The Estonian Native Horse at that time was possible to use on the fields up until age 30. By 1940s, the height and body mass of the Estonian Native Horse had increased to a satisfactory level and pure-breeding was started to be used more widely. During that period, horses were asses-

sed based on efficiency competitions. Since 1937, in order to enter young horses into the studbook, pulling tests were obligatory. Ten years later, the distance of the efficiency tests was extended to 25 kilometers. Starting from 1953, maximum pulling tests were also carried out.

Since the 1980s, more attention has been paid on improving the equestrian sports qualities of the Estonian Native Horse. Breeding has been successful: Estonian crossbred stallion Anakee was the Estonian champion in 2005 in the show jumping of ponies and three best places at the Estonian Championships in pony class belonged to Estonian Native Horses.



Estonian Native Horse is very coloured and often horses with interesting colours can be found. Uppermost presented silverblack mare with light mane and tail.

The strength and health of the horses was tested in the summer of 2005, when twelve horses, including to Estonian Native Horses, started the walk from Ristitee farm in Hiiumaa to Austria. The horses walked for more than 2000 km in 70 days and coped well in the challenge.

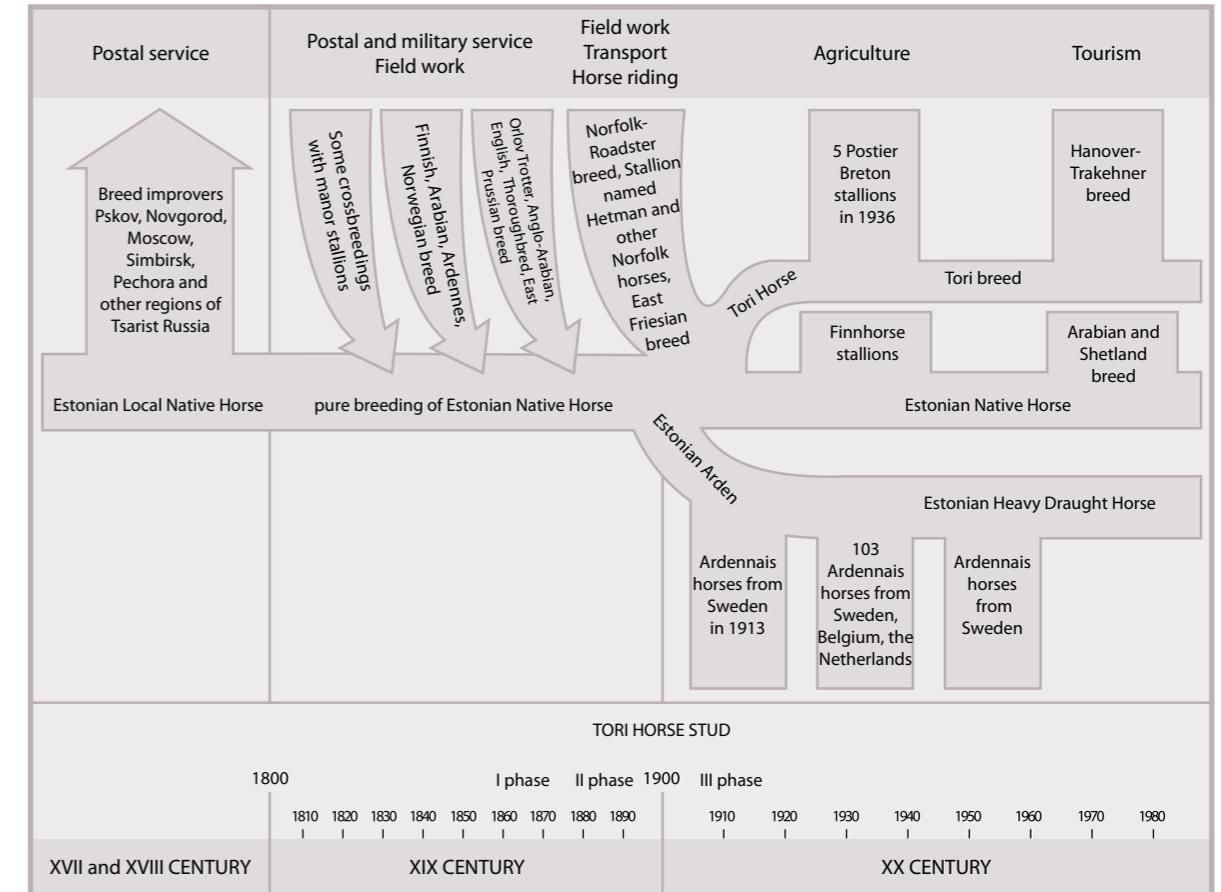
Estonian Native Horse today

The population of the Estonian Native Horse has increased several times during recent years. 111 foals were born in 2001; by 2011, this number has more than doubled. Agro-environmental support paid to people keeping Estonian Native Horses, as well as promoting the popularity of the Estonian Native Horse and the improved living standards of the people have had their impact on the increase of the population.

In 1993, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) declared the Estonian National Horse an endangered breed. The first conservation-breeding programme of the Estonian National Horse for the years 2003-2010 was approved ten years later at the general meeting of the Estonian Horse Breeders Society. In 2010, the new breeding and conservation programme for 2011-2020 was approved.

The purpose of conservation and breeding is to preserve the local aboriginal horse with its specific pedigree, confor-

Development of horse breeds in Estonia



Compiled by Heldur Peterson.

mation and versatile work capabilities. All breeding horses, which have been entered into the studbook, have been engaged in the programme. At the moment, breed consists of 670 horses used in breeding.

In order to ensure the preservation of the Estonian National Horse and its gene pool, valuing and awareness about the horse breed, the Estonian Native Horse Conservation Society was established in August 2000. The society organizes information events, compiles thematic publications. The society has contributed a great deal to the development of horse management in Estonia by publishing their magazine "Oma Hobu". At the beginning, the magazine was only devoted to the Estonian Native Horse, but now has become a magazine for all horse lovers.

As the wealth of people increases, so does the number of horses. Today, horses are mostly kept in farms, mainly on the islands. Keeping Estonian Native Horses is also becoming more popular in continental Estonia.

Further information about Estonian horses can be found on the websites of the Estonian Horse Breeders Society (<http://www.ehs.ee>) and the Estonian Native Horse Conservation Society (www.esthorse.ee/).

WHEN THE ARDEN IS COMING, THE GROUND IS SHAKING

Name of breed: Estonian Heavy Draught Horse

Year and place of establishment of the studbook and association: 1921, Rakvere

Occurrence: mostly East and West Viru Counties

Main fields of usage: smaller farm and forest works, entertainment

Population size (2011) ca 300

Breeding organization: Estonian Horse Breeders Society

General

The Estonian Heavy Draught Horse is of an average size, stout and short-legged agricultural horse. Its head is big and nose long, neck short and muscular, its back is short, but wide. It stands out for its well-developed musculature and strong skeleton; hooves, however, tend to be brittle.

Estonian Heavy Draught horses colors can be chestnut, bay or black.

A strong and friendly horse

The Estonian Heavy Draught Horse is a cross between the Estonian Native Horse and Ardennais stallions. Even though the breeding of this breed dates back to 1860, the current breed name Estonian Heavy Draught Horse came later. Until 1953, this breed was called the Estonian Arden. It is possible that the new name was derived from a popular event at that time – the heavy draught competition.



Estonian Heavy Draught horses at the inspection.

Just like proper for a decent work animal, the Estonian Heavy Draught is hardy and strong, has good health and calm nature. Its average life expectancy is 22 – 25 years. Young horses develop quickly in good feeding conditions; they often mature already before the age of three.

Strength and hardiness provide huge working capability.

A good pulling will and powerful movement facilitate its extensive usage in field and forest works. Its efficiency is tested at annual transport and pulling tests of pedigree horses. The results are impressive. For instance, in 1995, the stallion Naksur trotted one kilometer with 2 minutes and 37 seconds, the following year, however, Naksur's time



The equipage was included in the agenda at the Estonian Heavy Draught Horses Day in Viru-Nigula at 2006.

for one kilometer of stride distance was 8 minutes and 26 seconds; in 1998, mare Neevi pulled a sledge with a load of two tons.

People used to say that if you bring a Heavy Draught Horse from North Estonia, then take the mineral rich feedings-tuffs and hard soil with you as well. Although even today the Estonian Heavy Draught Horse is widespread mostly in the limestone areas of Northern Estonia, its calm nature and ability to work are gaining more recognition elsewhere in Estonia and even abroad.

The horse is suitable for horseback riding, pulling a sledge or carriage. Even beginner horse riders who are afraid of large animals will conquer their fears when they have their first horse ride on its broad back. That is the reason why it is very popular also among foreign tourist and several Finns or Swedes wish to take this calm and strong "Estonian" home with them.

In addition to offering rides to tourists, the horse is also suitable for the management of such areas, where working with a tractor is impossible.



Range of mares presented at the Estonian Heavy Draught Horses Day.

Besides work and entertainment, the Estonian Heavy Draught Horse is an important animal for the preservation of the environment and landscape design.

From an Arden to a Heavy Draught Horse

The first Ardens were brought to Tori stud by an academic A.Th. Middendorf from Belgium in 1862. After that, land-

lords started to import Arden stallions and use them without any coordination at all. The establishment of the Baltic Association of Cold-Blooded Horse Breeders' in 1911 ended chaotic activities. The aim of the association was to organize the breeding of Arden horses systematically. Unfortunately, World War I began a few years later, which stopped the activities of the association.

In 1913, a group of Viru County landlords bought Ardennais young horses from Sweden, which were kept in Viru and Harju County manors. This was the beginning of farming Arden horses in North Estonia.

In 1920, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Estonia organized a national registration of horses, in order to

establish, which breeds can be found in different Estonian regions. Based on the collected data, the ministry suggested breeding three types of horses in Estonia: Estonian Native, Tori and Ardennais.

In 1921, Arden horse breeders established the Viru County Horse Breeders' Association, which was later called the



Not far away from mares the stallions will behave very forcefully.



Despite of the size the Estonian Heavy Draught Horses are very friendly. d.

Breeding Association of Ardennais Horses. The association started to enter Arden horses to the studbook and organized targeted breeding work.

In 1922, the first breed regulation of Estonian Ardennais horses was approved and a studbook was opened, which divided the horses into two categories: pure-breed and crossbred horses. During 1922 – 1923, 51 Estonian Ardennais stallions and 207 mares were entered to the studbook.

ESTONIAN HEAVY DRAFT HORSE

The stallions imported from Sweden played a big role in obtaining breeding material. It was possible to receive support from the state for the import of stallions, mares and young horses. By the end of 1925, there were 15 stallions in the national stallion list of Estonian Ardennais horses. The department of Ardennais was established in Tori stud in 1931. World War II stopped the activities of the Breeding Association of Ardennais Horses.

After the war, the studbook of Ardennais horses was kept by the National Breeding Station of the Estonian Heavy Draught Horse established in Rakvere. They dealt with the organization of breeding work in the stud farms of collective and state farms. In 1953, the Estonian Ardennais horse was officially renamed as the Estonian Heavy Draught Horse. It was confirmed to be pure-bred at the end of the 1960s.

The Estonian Heavy Draught Horse today

After Estonia's Re-Independence, breeding the Estonian Heavy Draught Horse was once again a task for private farms and a few horse breeders. The number of pedigree horses started to decrease quickly. The Estonian Horse Breeders' Association continued to keep the studbook and organize breeding work.

Comparing the data of recent years, there is hope that the numbers of the Estonian Heavy Draught Horse are slowly coming out of the low level: as of 2003, there were 85 mares and six recognized stallions were registered in the studbook, then the number of mares had increased to 103 two years later. The number of foals has also increased: 44 Estonian Heavy Draught Horse foals were born in 2010.

The first Estonian Heavy Draught Horse Conservation and Breeding Programme was approved at the general meeting of the Estonian Horse Breeders Society in the spring of 2003. The second, a more concrete and strict programme was approved in December 2010. Its purpose is to pre-

serve the breed and develop a working horse with diverse working purposes, which would fit local natural conditions, as well as economic needs. Couples are chosen in a way, which preserves the breed's natural characteristics and avoids inbreeding created by mating animals that are closely related – the decrease in fecundity and increase of hereditary diseases. For that purpose, the scope of the breed needs to be expanded all over Estonia. According to the new programme, only pure-breeding is allowed, i.e. using other breeds is not allowed.

Since 1995, Estonian Heavy Draught Horse Days are held every summer, where the best are presented and they can be seen competing both as a set of carriage horses, as well as pulling a sledge. Generally, the role of a strong fieldwork horse has lost its importance and nowadays Estonian Heavy Draught Horses can be seen at different events as harnessed animals, which with their grand posture and calm character have become the favorites for many. The heavy draught horse is also becoming more popular as a riding horse.

More information about the Estonian Heavy Draught Horse can be found on the website of the Estonian Horse Breeders Society (<http://www.ehs.ee>).



TORI HORSE IS OUR CULTURAL CREATION

Name of breed: Tori Horse (universal type)

Year and place of establishment of the studbook and association: 1920, Viljandi

Occurrence: all of continental Estonia

Main fields of usage: equestrian sport and harness racing, horse tourism, recreational and eco-farms

Population size (2011) 700 Tori (universal type) horses (altogether around 1400 Tori breed horses)

Breeding organization: Estonian Horse Breeders Society

General

Tori horse has been called the Estonian cultural creation, the living pearl of our cultural traditions, which breeding started hundred and fifty years ago and it has considered to have the perspective of growing good four-legged war machines for the czar's army, as well as strong draught animals for farmers.

Tori horse has a lively and friendly character; it is hardy and easily taught. The breed is characterized by a medium sized head with a wide forehead, average length, a straight and muscular neck, broad chest, round ribs, strong legs with well-developed

tendons and average strong horn hooves. Their main color is chestnut; less widespread are bay, black, palomino and grey horses.

It is not very demanding regarding feedingstuffs, adapts well to local possibilities and matures early physiologically. At the age of three, it can be put to work and used as a breeding horse. Young horses are easy to be trained. It is used as a labour horse up until the age of 20 – 30. When transporting heavy loads, Tori Horse has shown good will to work and great strength.

As other horses of Estonian origin, Tori Horses also have a role in preserving the diversity of breeds and nature, in addition to fulfilling riding and transport tasks.

The development and numbers of Tori Horses have always gone hand in hand with the development of agriculture. In 1927, when the number of horses was the highest in Estonia as it has ever been, Tori Horses accounted for a lot more than half from the 130 breeding stallions in Estonia.

Great changes took place in global economics in the 19th century. Together with the development of industry and increase of cities, demand for foodstuffs grew, however, the share of food producers in the population decreased. Agriculture changed – transition to crop rotation took place, land was started to be drained, primitive, forked wooden plough was replaced with mouldboard ploughs, wooden harrows with iron harrows, cultivators and other industrially produced agricultural equipment.

With the new kind of agricultural equipment, a bigger and stronger horse was needed than the Estonian Native Horse with its body weight of 350 kg. In order to increase the pulling power of the horse, Estonian Native Horses were started to be crossed with other horse breeds. This, however, endangered the future of the Estonian Native Horse as a breed.

A new force appeared in Estonian rural life in the middle of the 19th century – Estonian peasant. The abolition of servitude and the purchase of farms laid a new basis for the development of agricultural households. Since farmers had no possibilities to buy new foreign breeds, Estonian Native Horses were continued to be kept in farms.

History

Breeding Tori Horses began at Tori Horse Stud, which was established in 1856. The goal of the horse stud was to preserve the local horse breed. Basically, a new horse breed was started to be bred. The academic A.Th. Middendorff became the scientific manager of Tori Horse Stud. With his leadership, in addition to 50 Estonian mares and 8 young stallions, Finnish mares and stallions, as well as three Arabian stallions from Germany were purchased. The hope was that different types of horses will help to increase the height and working capabilities of the Estonian horse.

Crossbreeding results did not satisfy the farmers, because the crossbreeds had nice looks, but had low live weight and were weak, which made them unsuitable for agriculture.



The old-type Tori horse is irreplaceable assistant at farm works.

In 1889, a completely new breed was started to be created and pure-bred stallions were used for that purpose. Crossing did not give good results until the stallion Hetman was bought from Poland, which was used as a breeding stallion in the years 1892 – 1912. Hetman's father was a Norfolk-

Roadster breed stallion Stuart and its mother an unknown Hunter-type mare (powerful universal type riding horse). Hetman's color was chestnut, it was strong built, had well developed muscles and limbs and a good character. They could successfully be used in field, as well as transport

works, also as riding horses. Hetman became the ancestor of Tori Horse. More than 1000 mares were mated with it. Its offspring stood out for lively temper, excellent hardiness and good intake of feedingstuffs.

During 1895 – 1914, more Norfolk breed stallions were imported to Estonia, which were used in the breeding of Tori Horse. At the same time, there was no determination in the breeding work and crossing different breeds without a system resulted in Tori Horse becoming a mix of a riding and transport horse – sometimes heavy draught type and not very moving, sometimes a very light trotting horse type. In some cases, the characteristics of the local Estonian Native Horse prevailed; there were many horses with non-harmonious bodies.

World War I (1914 – 1918) had a destructive effect on Estonian horse farming, as well as Tori Horse Stud. The best horses, including stallions, were used by the army. After the war and land reform, the number of farms multiplied in Estonia and there was a great need for horses in the society. The necessity to keep breeding the universally usable Tori breed was especially high.



Tori horse is excellent harness horse. At the 150th Anniversary of Tori Stud the 6-horses carriage was presented at the first time.

In 1925, the breed regulations of Tori Horses were approved and Tori breed was acknowledged as a breed. Now, breeding work at Tori Horse Stud had a clear direction: the objective was to breed a universal type agricultural horse with a well-developed body, strong bones and tendons, which is adapted to local conditions. In order to achieve the objective, Hetman's sons Harri and Hofrihter were brought to the farm. Imperfect mares were discarded.

At the same time, equestrian competitions were started to be held. Saddle-type stallions were tried to be concentrated to Järva and Viljandi County, where saddle horses were bred for the purposes of the defense forces. In 1935, the



Nowadays the Tori horse has been bred more to sport direction.

saddle horse farm of the Ministry of Defense was established in Vorbuse near Tartu. The farm was based on Tori breed mares.

In the middle of 1930s, long-term breeding work started to have an effect on the horses' health, as well as appearance. Horses with weak legs, badly developed bodies and low weight started to be born, which were receptive to different diseases. New breeds had to be taken into use. It was necessary to find a breed, which could increase the vitality and strength of the horses, increase their mass and improve appearance, but which would not change the type of Tori Horses. Postjer-Bretagne breed was found suitable for that purpose. Therefore, Tori Horse Stud brought five new stallions, which were named Uhke, Virk, Tugev, Sammur and Loots.

Crossing with Bretagne horses gave Hetman's offspring bigger body mass, but preserved their lively character and good mobility. Their offspring had orderly appearance, well developed muscles, were strong and healthy. At the same time, Tori Horses were crossed with the local Estonian Native Horses, in order for Tori Horse to preserve the habit for local feedingstuffs and climate conditions, as well as endurance.

In order to differentiate horse types better in breeding work, the lighter and heavier horse were started to be differentiated in the 1930s. During 1960 – 1970s, the objective of horse farming became selling pedigree horses, mostly to

the former Soviet Union for the improvement of their horses. Horses were no longer used so much on the fields and mass destructions of horses took place. After the Estonian Re-Independence, Western market replaced the Eastern one for selling horses. Estonia took the direction towards breeding Tori sport horse.

Tori Horse today

In 2003, Tori Horse was added to the list of endangered breeds. The first conservation and breeding programme of Tori Horses was drafted, which was based on the population of Tori Horses starting from the studbooks of Tori National Horse Stud, as well as studbooks opened in 1921. The goal of preservation and development was and still is to develop Tori Horse breed in local conditions, which preserve the type and genealogy, socio-economic value and genetic peculiarities. Since 2008, Tori Horse studbooks are divided into two parts – studbook A for Tori universal type, in which case only pure-breeding is allowed and studbook B for Tori breeding type horses, in which case, crossbreeding with breeds specified in the breeding programme is allowed. This is due to the need to draw a clear line between the preserved endangered Tori Horse and the horse bred in the sports direction.

Parentage, type and appearance, mobility, health, adaptability, fodder usage, character, temperament, efficiency and fertility are still considered important in the selection of pedigree animals. Jumping ability is only important in

ESTONIAN QUAIL – WORLD'S FIRST BRED QUAIL BREED

Name of breed: Estonian Quail

Occurrence: Tartu County

Population size: (2010) ca 9500

Breeding organization: Estonian Poultry Society

General

Quail breeding has been widely expanding in the world since the 1950s. Japanese quail is the smallest poultry who was domesticated several hundred years ago in China. No quail breeds had been officially recognized before the recognition of the Estonian quail.

The Estonian quail breed was approved in 1988 as the first egg-meat quail breed in the world and the first bird breed bred in Estonia. Since 1978, quail breeding work was carried out in Kaiavere, which is located in Jõgeva County, near Tabivere. Work was done with the leadership of Prof. Harald Tikk.

The Estonian Quail was entered to the World Watch List for Domestic Animal Diversity in 1993.

Estonian quails have round bodies, short tails and necks. Faint ochre is the main color of the plumage with dark brown stripes. Weight of the male bird is around 172 grams. Female quails are bigger than the male quails – their weight is around 190 grams.

The reason why quail eggs are widespread is that their eggs, as well as meat have high nutritious qualities. Quail eggs

case of Tori breeding direction horses. In case of universal type stallions, parentage and the lack of inbreeding in appearance are most important, also, ability to cooperate and benevolence in communicating with people is important.

Each Tori horse, which is entered to the studbook, is assessed on the basis of seven characteristics: type, body, legs, stride, trot, gallop, jump and general impression. The breeding value of a pedigree stallion or mare is evident after the assessment of offspring. Young horses are assessed at the age of two for the first time.

Horses are also compared in pulling tests – the distances of one kilometer stride and trotting; in case of older horses, also distance pulling. Pulling tests confirm that Tori Horses stand out for their fast mobility and great pulling will.

More information about the Tori horse can be found of the website of the Estonian Horse Breeders Society (<http://www.ehs.ee>).



The quails are kept mainly in cages.

improve the general tone of the organism and cure several illnesses. It is proven that 5 quail eggs, which respond to one chicken egg regarding mass, contain 5 times more phosphorus, 7.5 times more iron, 6 times more Vitamin B1, 15 times more Vitamin B2. A quail egg with the weight of 7 – 14 g contains 13.4% of protein, 11.2% of fat and 1.1% of minerals. When boiled or smoked, quail eggs can be preserved in the refrigerator for up to three months.

Quail breeding in Estonia

First quails were brought to Estonia in 1967 from former Yugoslavia. Kaarepere Forest Experimental Station's quail farm in Kaiavere was the biggest in Europe with 45 000 birds. There were 33 800 birds on the farm on 1 January 1991. In 1990, quails laid 6.3 million eggs in Kaiavere. The average amount of eggs per year received from one bird was 309.1. The annual production of the best bird was 327 eggs.



Quail is the smallest poultry (agricultural bird).

Subsidiary farms, which joined Kaiavere quail farm contributed to the development of quail breeding in Estonia. These well-mechanized farms built in 1987 produced 1.85 million hatching eggs in 1990. The owners of the farms were T. Kollist from Elva, R. Treier from Äksi and Ü. Pullisaar from Leie. 7.1 million quail eggs and 6.1 tons of meat were produced in Estonia in 1990.

The Estonian quail farming suffered a setback after Estonia's Re-Independence when the population's purchasing power suddenly decreased and Russia enforced custom restrictions. With the loss of Russian bioindustry as the mayor buyer, the main business partner for quail breeding disappeared. Kaiavere quail farm and its two subsidiaries terminated its activities. In 1993, only Matjama quail farm in Tartu County and Rene Treier's small farm in Äksi conti-

nued their activities. Estonian quail breeding reached a low point within three years and the new bird breed was facing extinction in its homeland. Matjama farm was closed down in 1996 and the gene pool of the Estonian Quail was preserved only in Rene Treier's farm.

Estonian Quail today

Ülo Pullisaar bought the buildings of Matjama farm in 2001 and by 2002 had implemented one quarter of the former farm capacity. The farm is now called Järveotsa Farm and it produces around 12 000 eggs per day. In 2006, a slaughterhouse for quails, which fulfils the requirements of the EU, was opened at the farm.

For the preservation of the Estonian quail and the coordination of further breeding work, the quail breeding prog-

ramme Restoring the Genetic Resources of the Estonian Quail in 2001 – 2009 was initiated. As of 2001, pure breeding was used to fulfill the programme. Since 2003, crossbreeding was started to be used in the breeding of the Estonian quail with the purpose of improving the meat quality, growth speed and feed usage of the Estonian quail.

The fixation of the improved Estonian Quail's good egg yield qualities is continued through pure-breeding until 2012 in the framework of the new breeding programme, which was adopted in 2008. At the same time, the number of those quails, which lay too big eggs, is decreased in course of breeding. Quail types oriented to meat yields are being developed.



The eggs of Estonian Quail are with very variable colour.

