

21st World Simmental – Fleckvieh Congress in Poland

The 21st World Simmental – Fleckvieh Congress was held in Poland between 22 and 28 August 2016. The Congress was organized by the Polish Simmental Cattle Breeders Association, the Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Dairy Farmers, and the European and World Simmental Fleckvieh Federations. The invitation of Polish breeders was accepted by 260 Congress participants from 20 countries on five continents.

The first part of call for the participants who took part in the pre-Congress programme was the royal city of Kraków, which showed its historic beauty in fine weather. The sightseeing tours of the historic city centre must have made the visit memorable to the participants. Most of the guests also decided to visit the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and State Museum in Oświęcim. The Congress participants were also eager to visit the globally unique Salt Mine in Wieliczka. Considered as one of the seven wonders of Poland, it was included on UNESCO's First List of World Heritage Sites.

The first official meeting of the Congress participants with breeders and Polish Simmental breeders took place at the Małopolska Biotechnical Centre (MCB) in Krasne near Rzeszów. MCB Krasne is the most important and, in fact, the only AI Centre in Poland. With a tradition of 50 years, the centre breeds Simmental bulls (80% for the domestic market) and implements the National Programme for Evaluation and Selection of Simmental Bulls. Guests from the world over were given an opportunity to watch the parade of elite Simmental bulls from Polish and German breeders (the result of long-term collaboration with BVN Neustadt). Nineteen bulls were presented which had both Polish and German parents in their pedigree. What deserves attention is the fact that they represented the dual-purpose type suitable for both milk and meat production.

After visiting MCB Krasne, the Congress participants gathered together at the Opening Ceremony of the 21st World Simmental – Fleckvieh Congress, which was organized by the Marshal Office of the Podkarpackie Region and the Exhibition and Congress Centre in Jasionka. Here the Congress participants were officially welcomed by the local government of the Podkarpackie province, representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the organizers.

The official meeting of the 21st World Simmental – Fleckvieh Congress was held in the Conference and Leisure Centre in Arłamów. This facility

lies in the area of the former government centre and boasts a beautiful panorama of the Bieszczady Wysokie and Słonne Mountains.

On 25 August, the Board meetings of the European and World Simmental Fleckvieh Federations were held. They presented reports on the activities of the boards and discussed current problems. The lead theme was a discussion on the new statute of the World Simmental Fleckvieh Federation and the election of new Federation authorities.

The other Congress participants had an opportunity to visit the Folk Architecture Museum in Sanok and to ride on the Bieszczadzka Forest Railway from 1898.

26 August 2016 witnessed the Plenary Session of the 21st World Simmental – Fleckvieh Congress. In the first part of the meeting, President Josef Kučera presented a report on the activities of the Board of the World Federation, and Secretary Georg Röhrmoser presented the financial report. It was decided that the 22nd World Congress will be organized in the USA.

A new Management Board for the years 2016-2020 and statutory authorities were also elected. In the new Board, Europe is represented by 5 persons, North America by 2, South America, Africa and Australia each by 1. The new authorities of the World Simmental Fleckvieh Federation are as follows: President Fred Schuetze (USA), First Vice-President Sebastian Auernig (Austria), Second Vice-President Peter Wenn (Australia), Secretary Kristina Skopalová (Czech Republic).

The authorities of the European Federation remained unchanged with President Josef Kučera (Czech Republic), First Vice-President Imre Füller (Hungary), Second Vice-President Sebastian Auernig (Austria), and secretaries Georg Röhrmoser (Germany) and Peter Polgar (Hungary).

In the lecture session, 5 highly interesting keynote papers were presented:

1. Ewa Lech, Poland, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development: Agriculture in Poland
2. Zenon Choroszy, Poland: The past, present and future of Simmental breeding in Poland
3. Wojciech Jagusiak, Poland: Phenotypic and genetic trends in the Polish Simmental population
4. Christian Fuerst, Austria: Dual-purpose production always in tune with the times

–a new breeding goal in Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic

5. Tomasz Suchocki, Poland: The use of genomic information in cattle selection

At the conclusion of the meeting, the participants expressed their appreciation to the Congress organizers for very good organization and hospitality.

The last day of the Congress was dedicated to visits to Simmental cattle farms implementing the Simmental breeding programme.

The farm of Daniela and Andrzej Wais has raised Simmental cows for over 30 years. The herd has 60 head of cattle, including 32 cows. In 2015, the herd yielded 6 504 kg milk which contained 4.05% fat and 3.43% protein. The breeder is a very active board member of the Polish Simmental Cattle Breeders Association. From the very beginning, he took part in regional and later national breeding shows, in which his animals won champion titles and high places.

Mieczysława and Jan Tylka run a 100 ha

farm with 65 head of Simmental cattle, including 30 cows. In 2015, the animals yielded 6 900 kg milk containing 4.39% fat and 3.53% protein. The farmers participate in regional and national breeding exhibitions, winning high places for the animals they show.

One of the largest Simmental farms in the Podkarpacie region that implement the breeding programme is the Experimental Station of the National Research Institute of Animal Production in Odrzechowa. Currently the Station has some 1100 head of cattle, including 400 Simmental cows in two farms that produce 5500 and 6500 kg milk.

For 25 years, the Station has evaluated Simmental bulls for beef traits based on progeny performance. It is also one of the main organizers of the annual Simmental breeding shows held in Rudawka Rymanowska.

Zenon Choroszy – NRIAP, Kraków-Balice
Bogumiła Choroszy – NRIAP, Kraków-Balice

Simmentals at the National Research Institute of Animal Production

The National Research Institute of Animal Production in Kraków-Balice, established in 1950, is one of the largest all-Polish scientific research institutes, subordinate to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. It is engaged in animal science research, which is considered strategic for the Institute and for the changing needs of domestic animal production.

One of the main lines of the research is farm animal genetics and breeding. Together with the Institute of Genetics and Animal Breeding of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Jastrzębiec, the National Research Institute of Animal Production initiated the genetic conservation of small farm animal populations against extinction. As a result, the National Research Institute of Animal Production was appointed in 2002 as the National Coordinator in this area. Today, the genetic resources conservation in Poland covers, among others, 4 cattle breeds, 7 horse breeds, 3 pig breeds, 15 sheep breeds, 1 goat breed, and many other livestock, poultry, fish, and bees. Excluding bees, protection has been provided to 96 286 females representing 83 breeds.

As part of the work commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, a major priority is to estimate breeding value of cattle of all performance recorded breeds. Simmental cattle has had a prominent place in the Institute's activities from the beginning of performance recording. Since 1975, the breeding value of Simmental bulls has been evaluated for dairy traits by the stationary method.

The Testing Station, established at the Experimental Station of the National Research Institute of Animal Production in Odrzechowa, had operated for 20 years until the introduction of the BLUP method. Due to the dual-purpose use of the Polish Simmental population, the experimental part of the stationary testing of Simmental bulls for beef traits has been continued since 1994. It is the Institute's priority to estimate and improve their breeding value, and also to publish the results of the tests to be used for implementation of the breeding programme.

Together with the University of Agriculture in Kraków, the team of the Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding of the National Research Institute of Animal Production, as part of its own research has elaborated and introduced into breeding practice in 2016 a new selection index (PFSM) for Simmental cattle, which includes production, conformation and some functional traits such as longevity and somatic cells. Research is underway to introduce other functional traits into the evaluation of Simmental breeding value.

Since 2009, the breeding value of Simmental bulls for beef traits has been evaluated with the IM index developed by a team. This index follows the recommendations of the European Simmental Federation, keeping Simmentals as purebred and dual-purpose cattle.

Currently, this line of evaluation is improved with new methods that use ultrasound live measurements of meatiness. Due to the size and structure of the Polish Simmental population, research is under-

way to introduce genomic evaluation for estimating the breeding value of Simmental cattle.

From the inception of the Polish Simmental Cattle Breeders Association in 1994, the first breed association, the Institute has taken an active part in its work, mainly by contributing to the elaboration and implementation of the breeding programme, and to the promotion of Simmental cattle. At the Experimental Station in Odrzechowa, the Institute keeps one of the largest Simmental herds in the Podkarpacie region (about 400 cows), which was formed mainly based on domestic female breeding material, obtained from the Institute's own herd using domestic bulls and those from European populations. Breeding work in the herd is supported by researchers from the Insti-

tute in Kraków-Balice. It is our success that we have several super champions and champions of regional and national exhibitions, selected, among others, by an international jury.

The National Research Institute of Animal Production has for many years co-organized regional and now national Simmental exhibitions, which take place as part of the "Farewell to Summer in Rudawka Rymanowska" in the Experimental Station, traditionally in the last week of each August.

*Prof. Eugeniusz Herbut, Ph.D.
Director of the National Research Institute
of Animal Production in Kraków-Balice*

16th "Farewell to Summer in Rudawka Rymanowska"

Rudawka Rymanowska, 26–28 August 2016

Although the name has no connotation to agriculture, "Farewell to Summer in Rudawka Rymanowska" is one of the largest animal breeding shows in Poland. It is a big event for breeders of Simmental cattle, Hucul horses, and other animals under the genetic resources conservation. The name combines the beauty of the place and the time when summer ends. In this beautiful location, among the green hills covered with deciduous trees, Simmental cattle and Hucul horses are presented every year. Both are of mountain origin and their characters developed in the Alps and in the Carpathians. On the other hand, the representatives of heritage (conserved) breeds of farm animals and poultry originate from different parts of Poland, where they are used and protected.

This year, the "Farewell to Summer" in Rudawka Rymanowska was held under the patronage of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Marshal of the Podkarpacie Province, and

the Governor of the Podkarpacie Province. The event is organized by several organizations:

- the Polish Simmental Cattle Breeders Association – the main organizer of the 12th National Exhibition of Simmental Cattle,
- the District Horse Breeders Association in Rzeszów – the organizer of the 16th Regional Championship of Hucul Horse,
- the National Research Institute of Animal Production in Kraków-Balice – the organizer of the Exhibition of Native Breeds,
- the Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Dairy Farmers (PFCBDF) – co-organizer of the 12th National Exhibition of Simmental Cattle,
- the Odrzechowa Ltd. Experimental Station of the National Research Institute of Animal Production – the main organizer and coordinator of the "Farewell to Summer".

12th National Exhibition of Simmental Cattle

Because this year we hosted the 21st World Simmental – Fleckvieh Congress in Poland (Kraków-Rzeszów-Arłamów-Rudawka Rymanowska, 22–27 August 2016), we welcomed to the exhibition breeders from many different countries and parts of the world. This was an honour for us and we extended a cordial welcome to our guests at this great event for Simmental cattle.

The cattle population in Poland (as of December 2015) is 4 640 000 head, including 2 250 000 dairy cows and around 130 000 beef cows and suck-

ler cows – crossbreds from beef breed bulls and dairy breed cows.

In the territory of Poland in 2015, 753 613 cows with an average yield of 7771 kg milk, 4.09% fat and 3.36% protein were milk recorded in 20 969 cowsheds.

In the Simmental breed, which accounts for around 1.5% of the national population, 10 570 cows were under the milk recording scheme, including 3644 animals (34.1%) in the Podkarpacie Province (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1. Yield of Simmental cows in 2015

Item	No. of cow-sheds	No. of cows	Milk (kg)	Fat (%)	Protein (%)
Poland – total	2176	10570	6075	4.15	3.44
incl. Podkarpackie Province	256	3604	5438	4.14	3.39
RO Parzniew*	1448	6648	5812	4.16	3.42
RO Poznań*	308	1513	7114	4.20	3.53
RO Bydgoszcz*	420	2409	6151	4.09	3.46

* RO – Milk Recording Region

Table 2. Milk yield in selected cowsheds

Breeders	No. of cows	Milk (kg)	Fat (%)	Protein (%)
A. Wais, Klimkówka, Podkarpackie Province	28	6504	4.05	3.43
J. Stączek, Jaćmierz, Podkarpackie Province	58	7719	3.70	3.47
J. Wrona, Brzegi D., Podkarpackie Province	16	6947	3.88	3.17
K. Żarów, Bandrów N., Podkarpackie Province	21	7801	4.08	3.46
Proagro Sp. z o.o., Kosinowo, Dolnośląskie Province	156	7122	4.48	3.50
SK Pępowo, Wielkopolskie Province	309	8580	4.08	3.54
GR D. Bruk, Puławy, Podkarpackie Province	35	7640	4.19	3.42
ZD IZ PIB – Odrzechowa Pastwiska, Podkarpackie Province	114	6598	4.12	3.49
ZD IZ PIB – Odrzechowa, Podkarpackie Province	227	5651	4.12	3.53

Today, Simmental cows of indigenous variety are characterized by a pleasing appearance, well-formed udder adapted to machine milking, strong legs, and good growthiness (139 cm at sacrum, 137 cm at withers, 209 cm of chest circumference, 650–750 kg of body weight). They are a dual-purpose type with well-marked meat traits, although part of the current population already shows a predominance of milk traits. The genetic potential of the breed is continually enhanced through the import of bull semen from Austria, Bavaria, and Switzerland. A special role in improving the national Simmental population is played by the Reproduction and AI Centres. In recent years, large numbers of in-calf heifers and primiparous cows of the Simmental breed were imported to Poland from three European countries; this will continue to have a considerable effect on changes occurring in this breed, particularly with regard to milk performance and appearance, resulting in the development of a new dairy type of the Simmental cow.

At the exhibition, 94 head of Simmental cattle (45 heifers and 49 cows) and 5 suckler cows with calves came up for evaluation. Twelve heifers of the Simmental breed, which took part in the Young Breeders Competition, were not evaluated.

The 12th National Exhibition of Simmental Cattle was opened by W. Brejta, PhD Eng, Vice-President of the Polish Simmental Cattle Breeders Association, A. Kamiński, MSc Eng, Director of the Parzniew Milk Recording Region, and Jan Czubski,

President of the Polish Association of Beef Cattle Breeders and Producers, amidst the organizers and a large audience.

Dr Władysław Brejta was the curator of the exhibition. The Exhibition Code of Ethics was represented by the team J. Trela, J. Liga, and A. Kruk. No violations of the Code of Ethics were found. The animals were judged by the following commission: Reinchard Pfleger – Head Judge – Austria, Fred Schuetze – Judge’s Assistant – USA, Johan Kluyts – Judge’s Assistant – RSA, Roman Januszewski – Judge’s Assistant – Poland. R. Januszewski (English) and P. Ruchała (German) acted as interpreters for the Commission. The evaluated animals presented a high level of breeding.

Exhibition scores:

Heifers were scored by date of birth in 5 age groups:

- born between 28 June and 27 August 2015 – champion heifer **Mola** from Z. Gaca’s farm in Nadolany, vice-champion heifers **Janas** from SK Pępowo and **Euryka3c** from ZD IZ PIB Odrzechowa Sp. z o.o.;
- born between 28 February and 27 June 2015 – champion heifer **Nelka** bred by M. Duziak from DUBY, vice-champion heifers **Fulka**, cat. no. 24 from Z. Więclawek’s farm in Arcelin and **Fanta 5** from SK Pępowo;

- born between 28 November 2014 and 27 February 2015 – champion heifer **Galina 4** from SK Pępowo, vice-champion heifers **Stasia** bred by M. Duziak from DUBY and **Fula**, cat. no. 40 from Z. Więclawek's farm in Arcelin;
- born between 28 August 2014 and 27 November 2014 – champion heifer **Nanace** from SK Pępowo, vice-champion heifers **Cela** from W. Prorok's farm in Cześniów and **Lalka** bred by J. Stączek in Jaćmierz;
- born between 28 May 2014 and 27 August 2014 – champion heifer **Elice** from SK Pępowo, vice-champion heifers **Jagusia** from Z. Gaca's farm in Nadolany and **Kama** bred by K. Sokołowski in Jabłonka.

Cows were scored according to lactation number:

- primiparous cows – champion cow **Bryza** from ZD IZ PIB Odrzechowa Sp. z o.o., vice-champion cows **Jagna** from J. Mroczek's farm in Nowotaniec and **Lenzi** bred by Z. Więclawek from Arcelin.
- second-lactation cows – champion cow **Cindy** from SK Pępowo, vice-champion cows **Jaga** bred by A. Paško from Glinnik and **Kora** from J. Tylenda's farm in Bandrów Narodowy.
- third- to fifth-lactation cows – champion cow **Kama** from D. Bryś's farm in Korczyzna, vice-champion cows **Malina** bred by H. Sołeczka from Nadolany and **Jagna** from M. Tylka's herd in Tokarnia.
- senior cows (sixth and later lactations) – champion cow **Szwedka** from A. Wais's farm in z Klimkówka, b. 5 January 2009, calving 6 times, max. 305-day yield of 7868 kg milk, 4.32% fat and 3.32% protein, vice-champion cows **Kama**, b. 11 March 2008, bred by T. Fyda in Odrzechowa and **Brydzia** from K. Żarów's herd in Bandrów Narodowy, b. 22 February 2005 (oldest, ninth-lactation cow), max. 305-day yield of 8130 kg milk, 3.78% fat and 3.71% protein.
- Five suckler cows of high meat value, with calves, were also scored and awarded first prizes.

The grand champion of the 12th National Exhibition of Simmental Cattle in the heifer group was **Elite** PL005388480581G, cat. no. 63, b. 21 July 2014, sired by Busserl DE1223097, out of Elite PL00526232 4543G-E, max. 305 day yield of 6908 kg milk, 4.95% fat and 4.00% protein. The grand champion in the cow group was **Cindy** PL005246114993G, b. 9 October 2012, cat. no. 101,

sired by Romario AT704 199 307, out of Cindy PL005191249207G, max. 305-day first lactation yield of 9360 kg milk, 3.58% fat and 3.55% protein. Both grand champions come from a herd belonging to SK Pępowo, which was established based on imported in-calf heifers and primiparous cows from leading Simmental breeding countries.

At the end of the evaluation, individual animals and their breeders were described in each group by R. Morawski, MSc Eng from the PFCBDF. The organization of the evaluation was overseen by A. Kamiński, MSc Eng, P. Kowol, MSc Eng, and A. Kruk and their assistants, all from the PFCBDF. We extend our thanks to the whole Team for the efficient organization.

All the breeders were awarded with special participation diplomas. The champions and grand champions were decorated on the ring with national prizes and with awards from representatives of Simmental associations from different countries.

In turn, young breeders in folk costumes entered the ring to the applause of the audience and presented their heifer calves. The organizer – the Małopolska Biotechnical Centre in Krasne competently presented the “breeders” and the animals in their charge. All the animals were awarded first prizes, and the young breeders received many prizes in kind and diplomas.

As part of the “Subcarpathian Beef Festival”, financed from the Beef Meat Promotion Fund, various beef dishes were prepared and tasted.

It is a fact that Simmental is the world's (and Poland's) second largest and most popular breed of cattle after Holstein-Friesian. It inspired the PFCBDF to organize in Rudawka Rymanowska an event promoting not only the milk but also the meat performance of this breed, entitled “Polish Simmentals served on the plates around the world”. It coincided with two important events for Simmental breeders: the 21st World Simmental – Fleckvieh Congress, and the National Exhibition of Simmental Cattle. The main purpose of the promotional campaign was to show the many potential uses of beef in cuisine and to highlight the high quality of beef from Simmental cattle. The promotion as a whole was directed by Elżbieta Matuszewska, MSc Eng. As part of the campaign, a tasting for more than 4,000 people was organized. Hamburgers and bogracz (goulash soup) were the most popular among those who visited the “Simmental” tasting stand. Another item was the “Eating the whole beef carcass” campaign. The organizers demonstrated how to use every part of the carcass (from the brisket to the shanks and best ribs up to the tail) to prepare exceptional dishes. A wide choice of dishes was on offer: goulashes, roasts, rolls, and traditional Polish dumplings with beef filling. There was something delicious for everyone's taste. “Polish Simmentals served on the plates around the world”

and the accompanying tasting also provided an excellent opportunity for the integration of Simmental breeders from almost the entire world. Subcarpathian breeders exchanged their views with the breeders from other countries and congress participants, analysed the latest breeding trends, and shared their experiences.

In the afternoon, music bands took the stages to present their wide repertoire. When the excitement of animal judging had subsided, all exhibitors of cattle, horses, poultry and other animals, Congress participants, and exhibition guests took part in the “breeders’ evening”. It was the time to taste many dishes, including regional ones, and to discuss and sum up past achievements in the breeding of cattle and Hucul horses, and in the protection of conserved breeds in Poland.

A short intermission with performances by the “Lutnia Brass Band” was followed by the official opening attended by the participants in the 21st World Simmental – Fleckvieh Congress, and the awarding of medals and distinctions to persons of merit for agriculture.

Before the evening meeting, a group of German-speaking guests visited a grazing herd of 120 cows belonging to the Experimental Station of the National Research Institute of Animal Production. During the visit, further improvement of the Polish Simmental population was discussed.

Late in the evening, the Congress participants were thanked for coming to the exhibition, for contributing to the judging of animals, and for discussing breeding issues. The other guests could watch fireworks over the Wisłok gorge. On the final day of

the “Farewell to Summer”, the Holy Mass was followed by the next items on the Sunday programme.

This year’s National Exhibition of Simmental Cattle should be regarded as special because it took place during the World Simmental Congress (as evidenced by the flags of countries taking part in the Congress); this helped to increase the number of attendees and guests, and imposed more obligations on the organizers, who had to judge animals more efficiently due to the increased number of animals this year. The members of the Judging Commission, the Congress participants from both Poland and abroad, as well as guests and the audience expressed their appreciation and thanks for the well organized event.

We thank the organizers for their time, understanding and perseverance. On our behalf and on the behalf of the breeders, we would like to thank the Congress participants, guests and visitors, in particular the large group of children and young people, for coming to the Exhibition. We wish you all the best and see you in 2017.

Jan Trela – NRIAP, Kraków-Balice
Władysław Brejta – Experimental Station of the
NRIAP in Odrzechowa

Andrzej Kruk – Polish Federation of Cattle
Breeders and Dairy Farmers

Piotr Kowol – Polish Federation of Cattle
Breeders and Dairy Farmers

Edgar Beneš – Polish Simmental Cattle
Breeders Association

Aleksander Miejski – Experimental Station of the
NRIAP in Odrzechowa

Regional Championship of Hucul Horse

Rudawka Rymanowska, 26–28 August 2016

One of the main events of the 16th “Farewell to Summer” in Rudawka Rymanowska was the Regional Championship of Hucul Horse. It was attended by 27 teams from five provinces. The breeders entered 70 Hucul horses in breeding, working and sports contests. On the first day, Friday 27th, the horses were subjected to mandatory veterinary inspection, which was followed by technical briefing with the participation of judges and representatives of all the teams. The day concluded with a Hucul evening.

Saturday, 28 August, began with the assessment of conformation – the Breeding Championship. A total of 55 Hucul horses came up for evaluation, including 12 stallions, 20 young mares, 20 older mares, and 3 geldings. After the horses were individually assessed for type, conformation, walk, trot, overall appearance, presentation and preparation, the joint commissions selected the champions and vice-champions.

The breeding champion title in the stallion class went to stallion **JUDYM** bred by SKH Gładyszów Sp. z o.o., and the vice-champion title to stallion **WIEŚNIAK** bred by Andrzej Pelc. Among young mares, mare **PEIRA** (bred and owned by Andrzej Pelc) became the champion, and mare **WITARA-O** (bred and owned by ZD IZ PIB Odrzechowa Sp. z o.o.) became the vice-champion. Among older mares, the champion was mare **AZALIA-W** (Ousor VIII-50 – Astelia) – bred by GP BPN Ustrzyki Górne, and the vice-champion was mare **OKOWITA** (bred and owned by Waclaw Kurowski).

The commission also selected the best Hucul type stallion and the best Hucul type young and older mare. This prestigious prize is traditionally awarded by the director of the National Research Institute of Animal Production, the national coordinator for animal genetic resources

conservation, primarily based on the evaluation of breed type. Stallion **WIEŚNIAK** was chosen the best Hucul type stallion, and the commission chose mare **PEIRA** as the most typical among young mares. Among older mares, the most typical was mare **GALERA** bred by SKH Gładyszów Sp. z o.o.

Saturday also witnessed shows that were specially prepared on this occasion. The first show (breeding show) presented the achievements of the horse stud at the Odrzechowa Experimental Station of the National Research Institute of Animal Production. It was led by Dr I. Tomczyk-Wrona from the Institute. Out of the 14 Hucul female lines recognized in Poland, the mare **PASTUSZKA** line is the most strongly represented in Odrzechowa. Representatives of the 24th generation of PASTUSZKA are now bred in Poland. This Hucul stud mare with the longest pedigree is the only stud mare in Polish breeding to come on the distaff side from an original Hucul mare from the town of Żabie, which lies at the every heart of Hutsul region. Different forms of Hutsul horse use were presented in an attractive way: from the original pack horses and traditional draught horses, to the modern show jumping and sport carriage horses. On Saturday, there was also the show jumping competition, in which 15 horse/rider pairs participated. The winner was Rafał Kurowski on stallion **OGIEŃ**.

The qualifying rounds for the Polish Championship of Hucul Horse took place on Sunday. The first place with 124.83 points under rider Łukasz Pupczyk was won by stallion **JUDYM**, which had earlier been selected as the champion stallion.

The two-horse team driving contest, which was also held on Sunday, was the most popular among the audience. The contest was attended by 10 teams. The first place was won by the stable of Andrzej Pelc: drivers Adam Malmuk and Rafał Dąbkowski, horses **Azalia-W** and **Wieróżka**.

The three-day meeting concluded with a presentation of teams, announcement of the results, and awarding of the prizes. The event took place in fine sunny weather, which allowed everyone to take full advantage of the summer's last weekend near the bank of Wisłok River, at the foot of the "Rudawka rock", which is now well known around the world thanks to the guests from many countries who came to the World Simmental – Fleckvieh Congress. When saying goodbye, everyone expressed the hope that the meeting next year would be as successful as this one.

*Iwona Tomczyk-Wrona – NRIAP, Kraków-Balice
Maria Brejta – Experimental Station
of the NRIAP in Odrzechowa*

Exhibition of Native Breeds in Rudawka Rymanowska

The National Research Institute of Animal Production has for many years been engaged in the conservation of old native breeds and varieties of animals. In 2002, the Institute was authorized by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to coordinate activities concerned with the conservation of farm animal genetic resources, and has since worked on it intensively. Thanks to the commitment of the Institute's staff, many populations have been saved from extinction, including Wrzosówka sheep, Polish Red cattle, Carpathian goats, and more than a dozen breeds and strains of waterfowl and gallinaceous poultry.

In this year's Exhibition of Native Breeds, which was organized by the Institute's Foundation PATRONUS ANIMALIUM, 20 exhibitors presented 49 animals and 7 flocks of native poultry breeds, in addition to Termond White rabbits.

On Saturday, 27 August, native breed animals were shown in the ring. The coordinators for genetic resources conservation of particular breeds of animals discussed the breeds in detail and presented the breeders participating in the Exhibition. Again, an additional show of native breed horses was held in the lower clearing. This year, Hucul mares derived from Pastuszka line, belonging to the Institute's Od-

rzechowa Experimental Station, were shown. Six mares were presented, the oldest of which was Platynka, born in 1994, and the youngest Pianka-O, born in 2016. The show was extremely interesting and attracted large crowds.

The diplomas of participation for breeders of native breeds were handed on Sunday, 28 August by the Director of the National Institute of Animal Production Prof. Eugeniusz Herbut, Ph.D. and the Head of the Department of Animal Genetic Resources Conservation, Prof. Józefa Krawczyk, Ph.D.

At the information stand of the National Research Institute of Animal Production, run by the Department of Research Commercialization and Practice Cooperation, informational and promotional materials prepared by the employees of the Institute were distributed. Information leaflets describing native breed animals, dissemination brochures, "Wiadomości Zootekniczne" and the Catalogue of Native Breeds, published by the Institute generated a lot of interest from the visitors.

Traditionally, during the exhibition the "Art Contest for Children" was held which consisted in drawing farm animals. Thirty children took part in the competition. Three prizes in three age categories were awarded. Moreover, all the children received consola-

tion prizes. The prizes were handed by the President of the Chapter of the Institute's Foundation PATRONUS ANIMALIUM, Prof. Eugeniusz Herbut, Ph.D. The Foundation was also a co-founder of the prizes in the Young Breeder Competition, which were handed by the Vice-President of the Foundation, Piotr M. Mikosz, M.A.

The overall conclusion is that the show of native breeds has attracted a lot of visitors. The Institute hopes that for breeders it provided yet another

opportunity not only to meet, but also to exchange valuable experiences, and that the exhibition will expand in the future, attracting even more breeders and visitors.

*Agnieszka Chelmińska, Piotr M. Mikosz,
Paweł Radomski, Piotr Moskała
NRIAP, Kraków-Balice*

Summary of “Farewell to Summer” in Rudawka Rymanowska

The first “Farewell to Summer” took place in September 2001 and was organized by the Odrzechowa Experimental Station of the National Research Institute of Animal Production and the District Horse Breeders Association in Rzeszów. It was attended by breeders of 30 Hucul horses. In 2004, they were joined by breeders of Simmental cattle, who organized a Regional Exhibition of the breed through the Polish Simmental Cattle Breeders Association. Before that, in 1993, the first cattle exhibition was organized jointly with the Agricultural Advisory Centre at the Agricultural School Complex in Lesko during the “Agrobieszczady” Fair. The Simmental Exhibition has remained a regular fixture in Rudawka Rymanowska, becoming the National Exhibition in 2006. In the following years, the organization of the Farewell was improved, with an increasing number of visitors and presence of various companies providing their services to farmers. In 2009, the National Research Institute of Animal Production in Kraków-Balice organized in Rudawka the Exhibition of Native Breeds, which in some years (2012, 2014) was the National Exhibition.

The extensive area of the “Farewell to Summer” creates favourable conditions for the workers of many manufacturing and service companies, local Housewives Associations, agricultural organizations, representatives of banks, higher and secondary education establishments, as well as owners of stands selling various articles – from harnesses to foodstuffs, as well as plants and shrubs for village gardens.

Particular interest was given to the stand of the Forest Inspectorate in Rymanów whose employees provided information about the complex biological processes taking place in a forest, presented various species of animals (and their sounds) and trees, and organized small contests. The stand was very popular not only with the young visitors but also adults.

This year, the “Farewell to Summer” has gathered together over 100 different stands connected with agriculture and livestock breeding. Especially popular among the farmers and the audience was the exhibition of “old” agricultural machines and tractors. Their juxtaposition against new technologies illustrated the quantum leap made in this area.

It's time to say thank you. On behalf of the organizers and myself, I would like to extend my warm thanks to the breeders of all animals and birds, companies from different sectors, and Housewives Associations, especially mobile catering units, as well as commercial stands, the funfair, and the small and large sponsors without whose help the event would have financial problems.

Above all I would like to thank the Milk Promotion Fund and the Beef Meat Promotion Fund for substantial support of the Simmental Exhibition and the promotion of Simmental beef. I express my appreciation and thanks to all the governmental and self-governmental institutions, sector-specific and breeding associations, universities, the National Research Institute of Animal Production, and other unnamed participants, in particular the large audiences, for staying and participating in the “Farewell to Summer”.

I also extend my thanks to the Voluntary Fire Fighters and the Police for supervising the event, ensuring security, and help.

Finally I would like to inform you that in the “Who will win a Hucul horse” lottery, the main prize – mare Lawina-O, born 1 November 2015, sired by Zefirek, out of Lawa-O – went to the farm of Kazimierz Jachym from Kołaczyce.

See you soon in 2017.

On behalf of the Organizers
Władysław Brejta
Experimental Station
of the NRIAP in Odrzechowa