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International Deer & wild Ungulate Breeders Association (IDUBA)
Международная Ассоц. Заводчиков Оленей и Диких Копытных Животных

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1. Report on the Latvian deer congress.

As every year, this summer took place in Latvia the international deer scientific-technical meeting “Deerbreeding – technologies, products and economics” and the international antler competition.

Starting with the antler competition, 9 out of the 10 top winners are members of IDUBA and have shown their advices in previous articles (and the other one is the farm of Dainis’ son in law). Absolute winner was Ralf Tatschl with 289,26 points, followed by his uncle Franz Schober, both from Austria with 270,44 (in fact, they took positions 4th, 5th, and 9th. Third position this year was for Dainis’ farm Māras brieži with 268,95 points. Position 7 and 10 was for our member Linas Pakamanis (Cervus aureus) and position 8 was for Gintautas. You can see the winners and scores in the following table:



All of us have the deer always in our heads.

| Rank | Breeder | Points |
|------|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | Tatschl R. Austria | 289.2550 |
| 2 | Schober F. Austria | 270.4425 |
| 3 | Māras Brieži Latvia | 268.9500 |
| 4 | Tatschl R. Austria | 268.5625 |
| 5 | Schober F. Austria | 268.1225 |
| 6 | AJ Real Estate Latvia | 265.7800 |
| 7 | Cervus Aureus, Lithuania | 257.9550 |
| 8 | Gintautas Čepo Ūkis, Lithuania | 254.7725 |
| 9 | Schober F. Austria | 241.9250 |
| 10 | Cervus Aureus, Lithuania | 240.9775 |

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Gintautas (left) and Franz Schober with the 3 winner antlers.

The congress, as in the past years, took place in the ministry of agriculture on the first day, and in Dainis' farm on the 8th and 9th. There were many interesting talks. One that may be influential, was the talk by IDUBA president Dr. Tomas Landete-Castillejos, who showed that the anti-cancer properties of velvet are not just a curiosity, but that cancer genes and anti-cancer genetics are in the base of antler growth. This talk will be further developed in another article of next newsletter.

The second talk was by Dr. Marco Zaccaroni, from Florence University in Italy. The title of his talk was "Wildlife – human conflict and its mitigation", and filled the gap that all of us have regarding the situation of deer (and wild boar too) populations in Italy, in addition to the management done there. He told us that in Italy, wildlife always belong to the state, and hunters are allowed into **any** private land. The estimated numbers in Italy are somewhat surprisingly low: 4,000 red deer; 6,000 fallow deer; 175,500 roe deer, and 77,000 wild boar. Except for wild boar, the rest are located

mainly in the north of the country. As in many countries, Italy had a rise in wild ungulate populations leading to

increase damage to crops and car accidents. Dr. Zaccaroni explained how a law can change things: in February 2016 Tuscany approved a law to solve the problem. How? 1) Allowing hunting without limits on the number of ungulates that can be shot; 2) allowing hunting throughout the year (stalking); 3) allowing no limits on the number of hunters; 4) creating a meat supply chain by giving the possibility to hunters to sell the meat. The results were a reduction in crop damage and car accidents caused by wild ungulates. Well for Italy!!



Sergey Aliskerov, from DeerLand (Russia), gave an interesting talk entitled "Animal health and farming success". He pointed that some diseases are a risk for humans in addition to a threat to the herd and business (tuberculosis, rabies, prion diseases such as CWD, and bluetongue disease), whereas others can damage business, which can by itself, be a disaster (paratuberculosis, worms-helminthiasis, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis, and toxicosis). In addition, care and feeding problems arise from unbalance food, or one that has been spoiled by fungi or microorganisms, insufficient food, having animals in crowded conditions (or in isolation), inadequate transport when buying or selling them, or inappropriate methods of

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capturing/immobilizing them. Stress is usually behind most of these “fails of handling/keeping”. An appropriate care not only of the clinical and subclinical symptoms, but also keeping stress low, will reduce the problems that, in turn, reduce profit: 1) reduced weight and meat mass; 2) smaller antler size than genetics could allow; 3) reducing percentage of females that become pregnant, increasing abortions, etc.; 3) reducing calf growth, which could be long-lasting effects even if later feed/care is improved; 4) increased mortality of calves, and even of adults; and in the worst case... 5) need to kill all animals and start again from zero.



Photo 1.5. Aspect of rumen papillae: Top = healthy rumen; middle = immature-poorly developed papillae; bottom = damaged by acidosis.

Dr. Jaroslav Pokoradi, Animal Reproduction Centre, Slovakia, spoke about the management of reproduction (in addition to dancing with a hind, as you can see in the photograph). He explained that artificial insemination is the cheapest way to get good genetics into your females. If done every year with sperm from top males, it can produce genetic increases of 20% a year (in trophy size, but also in other traits too). Not only is cheapest, it is also the most efficient way to get genetic variability (much cheaper than having to buy not only one stag, but several to avoid inbreeding!). [Read more about Pokoradi's talk in the version for members.](#)



Photo 1.4. normal faeces (left) and diarrhea (right) symptom of bad working of rumen (such as acidosis).

Dr. Peter Chudej, from farm feed-Vitafort (who just joined as sponsor of IDUBA) gave a talk entitled “How to improve antler growth”. This was a very good talk about nutrition (one of the best we have heard). We will expand the information about this talk with further information from literature research in coming article, but we will point here the most important. He spoke about the importance of the rumen, absorption of its papillae (small leaf-like tapestry in its walls) and how acidosis can affect them. If you see the photograph 1.4, you can see one of the symptoms of damage to papilla and rumen: diarrhea. In the photo 1.5 you can see how normal papillae look like, the aspect of immature papillae (which means a reduced possibility of absorbing nutrients throughout the life of the animal and therefore, the wasting of a great percentage of the food it will eat), and those damaged by acidosis.

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Peter pointed the importance of eating hay and straw. You may think it is the same (actually, I teach animal science and I had to look in internet too), but it is not the same: hay is dry alfalfa, clover and other thin stems of grass. It is highly nutritious. Straw comes from barley and other cereals, looks like a yellow tube, and you can easily find in internet that it is only worth as bed for cattle. [Read more about Chudej's talk in the version for members](#)

You can read the rest of the talk of Dr. Chudej, as well as the talks of other speakers, in the member section of the web page of IDUBA. In order to make the news about the congress more easily readable, we will continue in the following newsletter with the rest of the talks.

2. An analysis of the deer sector and its prospects at international level: The future of deer breeding (part III).

If you read this (particularly the full version of the article, which means that you are a member of IDUBA), is because either you are a deer breeder, or a company in the sector. No matter if one or the other, this article is important for you to give you a panoramic of the importance of deer and its products. This, in turn, is important to understand not just the present, but also the potential for the future. This article is mostly based on an analysis included by Dr. Landete-Castillejos as its contribution of the chapter of deer meat (number 9) in the following book:

3. Serrano MP, Maggolino A, Pateiro M, Landete-Castillejos T, Domínguez R, García A, Franco D, Gallego L, De Palo P, Lorenzo JM. 2019. Chapter 9: Carcass Characteristics and Meat Quality of Deer. Book title: More than Beef, Pork and Chicken – The Production, Processing, and Quality Traits of Other Sources of Meat for Human Diet (Eds: José Manuel Lorenzo • Paulo E. S. Munekata Francisco J. Barba • Fidel Toldrá). Editing company: Springer. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-05484-7>. Pages: 227-268.



After explaining why history of red deer breeding has a different importance in western and Asian countries, and how this influences the present picture with its main figures, in this third and last part, we anticipate what, in our analysis, is the future of deer breeding, dominated by the demand in Asia.

The increasing prices of the meat and co-products, driving force of the potential for the future. Hunting is not very popular among the general public. This has led, particularly in many countries in EU, to conceal one of the reasons to breed deer: trophy hunting. It is rather common that national associations in countries where animal right activists are strong like in the UK, their deer farming associations defend venison production as almost the only aim to breed deer. However, one only has to check their association web page (<http://www.bdfpa.org>) or that of the most famous deer park and farm in the UK to see that they

advertise deer with large antlers. [Read more in the version for members.](#)

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IDUBA-OFWABA-Latvian Ministry of Agriculture deer congress and antler valuation in August 2019

Dear Deer breeders and related sector,

Like every year at the end of July or beginning of August, our Vice-president Dr. Dainis Paeglitis is organizing the international antler competition and, in cooperation with IDUBA, the deer congress entitled "Latest technologies and actual problems in deer farming". Some of the talks are suggested by invitation either from the Latvian Association of Organic Farming of Wild Animal Breeders (OFWABA) or by IDUBA, and, as usually, we are open for our readers to suggest possible speakers and talks (if the topic is of interest for deer breeders or related sector). We are just starting to give the first

details about the congress: the dates. The congress will take from August 7th till August 9th. The dates for antler valuation competition are August 5th till 8 th (if you bring cast/cut antlers or skulls with antlers either from red or fallow deer). More details about prizes, program of talks, etc. will be given in coming newsletters. The conference, will take place on 7th-8

th and the 9th is reserved for the "social day": the award ceremony, banquet and party at Dainis' farm.

IDUBA members are provided with a discount for registration. The stands for sponsors of

IDUBA are free, as before. For membership, sponsorship or stands, please, contact Dr. Tomas

Landete-Castillejos by mail: Tomas.Landete@uclm.es

For registration of participants, evaluation of antlers, please, contact Dainis at:

deerparks@inbox.lv.

Accommodation and meals during the conference: We recommend you to take care of your accommodation in advance. Regarding hotel booking and catering services during the event, getting recommendations about nearby hotels and detailed information, please, contact Dr. Dainis

Paeglitis: deerevent@gmail.com

Actions speak louder than words: a new strategy for wild ungulates management in Tuscany Region

1Banti P., 1Mazzarone V., 1Mattioli L., 1Lenuzza A., 1Taddei M., 1Ferretti M. and 2Zaccaroni M.

1Agriculture Department - Wildlife Management Office – Tuscany Region Administration (Florence), Italy.

2University of Florence, Department of Biology, Via Madonna del Piano, 6; 50019; Sesto Fiorentino (Florence), Italy.

Topic: Wildlife – human conflict and its mitigation;

Tuscany is the Italian region with a higher density of wild ungulates (wild boar, roe deer, red deer, mouflon, fallow deer). Since the 2000s, wild boar, roe deer and red deer greatly increased their populations, due to the national conservative laws, the abandonment of agricultural areas and the increase in wooded areas. In this context, in 2016 the Tuscany Region approved a law to reduce the number of wild boars in three years and change the hunting management of ungulates in agricultural areas.

The core of the strategy applied was to give to a broad number of hunters, without social relation among them, the possibility to hunt during all the year in agricultural areas with the possibility to sell the meat of ungulates. At the same time, the Tuscany Region implemented the strategies for the transparency in the compensation of damages to farmers and for the marketing of the meat.

The results were positive, beyond the expectations: In 2018 the hunting bags of wild boar in hunting districts with conservative management strongly decrease, at the same time the hunting bag in districts with non-conservative management increased by 10 times and crop damage has decreased by 60%.

Paratuberculosis in red deer farm in practice - remarks and observations of an experienced breeder

Dr. Bartek Dmuchowski

Deer Service & MILU, Poland

Johne's disease is caused by a bacterium, *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis*. Is a chronic (long-standing) disease of the intestines, leading to productivity losses, ill-thrift and in many cases, death. It is emerging as a serious problem on many deer farms in New Zealand, where is the best diagnosed disease with which a real, wide-ranging fight was made. The author's own observations and experiences as deer breeders confirm that this is just as big a problem both in Poland and throughout Europe, and that it may be more dangerous in the future, because that it is officially skipped, poorly recognized and thus growing.

The purpose of this short presentation is to help deer farmers understand the nature of Johne's disease in deer, identify Johne's disease and practice prevent and control Johne's disease on their farm based on selected New Zealand publications supplemented with own practical experience as a deer farmer.