

FORE WORD

The horse commission of the European Association for Animal Production takes the opportunity of the VI. World conference on Animal Production from June 27 to July 1st, 1988 in Helsinki, Finland, to organise a one day symposium on the genetic evaluation of trotters.

Particularly in Europe the need of a more scientific approach for the estimation of the breeding value grows in connection with the increase of the exchange of animals between countries. Nearby European geneticists are more and more involved in horse breeding.

We got papers from Belgium, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United States. You will find them in this booklet. They give a good overlook on the topic and I hope that this publication will increase the interest in horse genetics.

Most of these countries developed systems based on classical regression method or BLUP sire models, whereas all of them want to go using BLUP animal models, which seem particularly adapted to the horse situations.

However the criterion used for measuring racing ability varies from country to country according to the data available and the breeding orientation. Some countries like France and The Netherlands are using earnings, others like the USA are using timing, and again others multitraits evaluation like the Scandinavian countries. We are still in an analytical phase in this area. But I think that the situation will evolve very rapidly in a way that in most trotting countries routine methods based on BLUP animal model methodology will be available in a very few years.

We had in Helsinki a good and constructive meeting and we thank our Finnish hosts for the working facilities they provided us and for their kind hospitality.

B. LANGLOIS
Coordinator