

**Project under FARM Responsive Mechanism**

**Project: “Improvement of a whole cycle of livestock production through application of a comprehensive approach of livestock maintenance, feeding and breeding”**

**Project Partners: People to Animal Technology Association (PAT)  
&**

**Canadian Beef Breed Council**

**Final Summary Report**

**July 2006 – August 2007**

## **Executive Summary**

The project resulted in the improvement livestock production through application of a comprehensive approach to livestock maintenance, feeding and breeding. The project introduced of new modern and progressive livestock production technologies and practices which were introduced to farmers, producers' associations, public organizations, farmers' associations, and extension services.

## **Background and Rationale for the Project**

The decrease of cattle and pig heads is one of the main problems of agricultural production in Ukraine. According to the last three year's statistics, cattle heads have decreased 3-3.5 times. In addition, with the reformation of large collective enterprises in Ukraine problems have arisen that are essential to resolve in the new economic situation in agriculture. The development of new approaches to cattle breeding, introduction of new technologies of complex approach to livestock is precondition for regeneration of cattle and pig breeding in Ukraine and will have positive implications for small and middle size agricultural producers far into the future.

## **Achieved Project Goal and Objectives**

- **Developed a comprehensive approach to livestock maintenance, feeding and breeding.**
- **Improved cattle feeding through forage reserve optimization.**  
Computer programs on forecast of soil, forage, livestock feeding, maintenance and breeding were developed, allowing farms to operate more efficiently. Calculations on profitability and costs were prepared for 30 demo farms and are being used by livestock producers.
- **Introduced new technologies for feeding, maintenance and breeding of pigs and cattle.**  
Training seminars and workshops conducted under the project introduced livestock producers, livestock specialists, veterinarians to new technologies of feeding, maintenance and breeding of pigs and cattle, allowing for the development and improvement of the Ukrainian livestock sector through the application of new practices and technologies.
- **Increased agricultural producers' profitability due to improved efficiency of their production.**  
As a result of seminars and workshops delivered under the project, participants have been provided with new information and skills which helped them to organize their operation in more efficient manner thus, increasing their profitability level.
- **Introduction into new artificial insemination technology.**  
As a result of workshops on artificial insemination producers were provided with new information on artificial insemination allowing them to increase efficiency of their operations and improve livestock-breeding practices.
- **Strengthened PAT's association.**  
As a result of the project implementation the association established new working contacts with various organizations allowing PAT to increase its membership, exchange new information on a regular basis, strengthen the association and contribute to the development of civil society in general.
- **Formed an information network for experience/information exchange among cattle and pig breeding enterprises and farms in Ukraine.**  
Activities implemented under the project helped establish partnership relations between cattle and pig breeding enterprises, big restructured farms, private farmers and small household plot owners involved in livestock production.
- **Development of association website**

## **Outcomes and Results**

- 95 people participated in round tables discussing land use and selection of forage varieties.
- 302 people participated in the following seminars:
  - “Innovation technologies of cattle feeding and maintenance in Ukraine”
  - “Potential planning and optimization of costs of veterinary service»
  - “Influence of cattle, poultry, pigs disease on farms economic efficiency”
- 20 workshops on common cattle diseases were conducted; 206 workshop people received training on issues related to cattle diseases and their prevention.
- 10 workshops dedicated to artificial insemination issues were conducted; 105 producers were provided with new information on artificial insemination.
- Approximately 85 veterinarians attended training seminars thus increasing their professional level and providing better veterinary services to their clients.
- 30 farms were used as demo plots for demonstration of a whole cycle of production developed by the Association specialists for each farm individually.
- Computer programs on forecast of soil, forage, livestock feeding, maintenance, breeding developed, allowing farms to operate more efficiently.
- Calculations on profitability were prepared for 30 demo farms.
- “Livestock passports” were developed for 30 demonstration farms.
- A database of the Association members was developed allowing the participants to orient themselves with livestock sector market conditions.
- Website was improved as a result of input from users and project events participants.

### **Canadian Partner Contribution**

The Canadian Beef Breeds Council (CBBC) was the Canadian partner on the project. The organization was represented by the Canadian consultant, Allan Hingston from Odyssey Livestock Consulting Ltd. Mr. Hingston was mainly concerned with improving the nutritional knowledge and skills of PAT members and providing some tools for them to work with. Development of modern feeding standards, balanced rations and readily available feed analysis are key preconditions for improvement of livestock nutrition and productivity.

Mr. Hingston stated that, “This is one of the most exciting projects I have been involved in for some time. First of all, it recognizes that livestock management must take a holistic approach and that nutrition is the missing link. Secondly it recognizes that on-farm demonstrations are one of the most useful tools in “showing” the cost/benefits of a particular management change. Thirdly, it recognizes the need for continually upgrading technical knowledge of professionals in the industry. Thirdly, it is grassroots driven by a voluntary membership.”

Mr. Hingston and PAT continue to communicate and are looking for future initiatives were they can work together.

### **Conclusion**

The introduction of a comprehensive approach to breeding, feeding and farming of pigs and cattle is a good precondition for the continuation of the project activities after the completion of FARM financing. The introduction and familiarization with new innovative technologies in this area are being supported though the provision additional information on where and how to get access to new products and technologies, by PAT.

Members of the association are exchanging information and experience and will continue to exchange information during events organized by the association. Producers’ interest in receiving and sharing information will be the key to project sustainability.

The project has proved that there is a need for technical information amongst stakeholders in the livestock industry. In future, the project management plans to continue activities aimed at the development of livestock sector. Considering its tasks and objectives the association is going to focus on the problem of cattle diseases and balanced nutrition.