



# Lithuanian horse breeding in 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries

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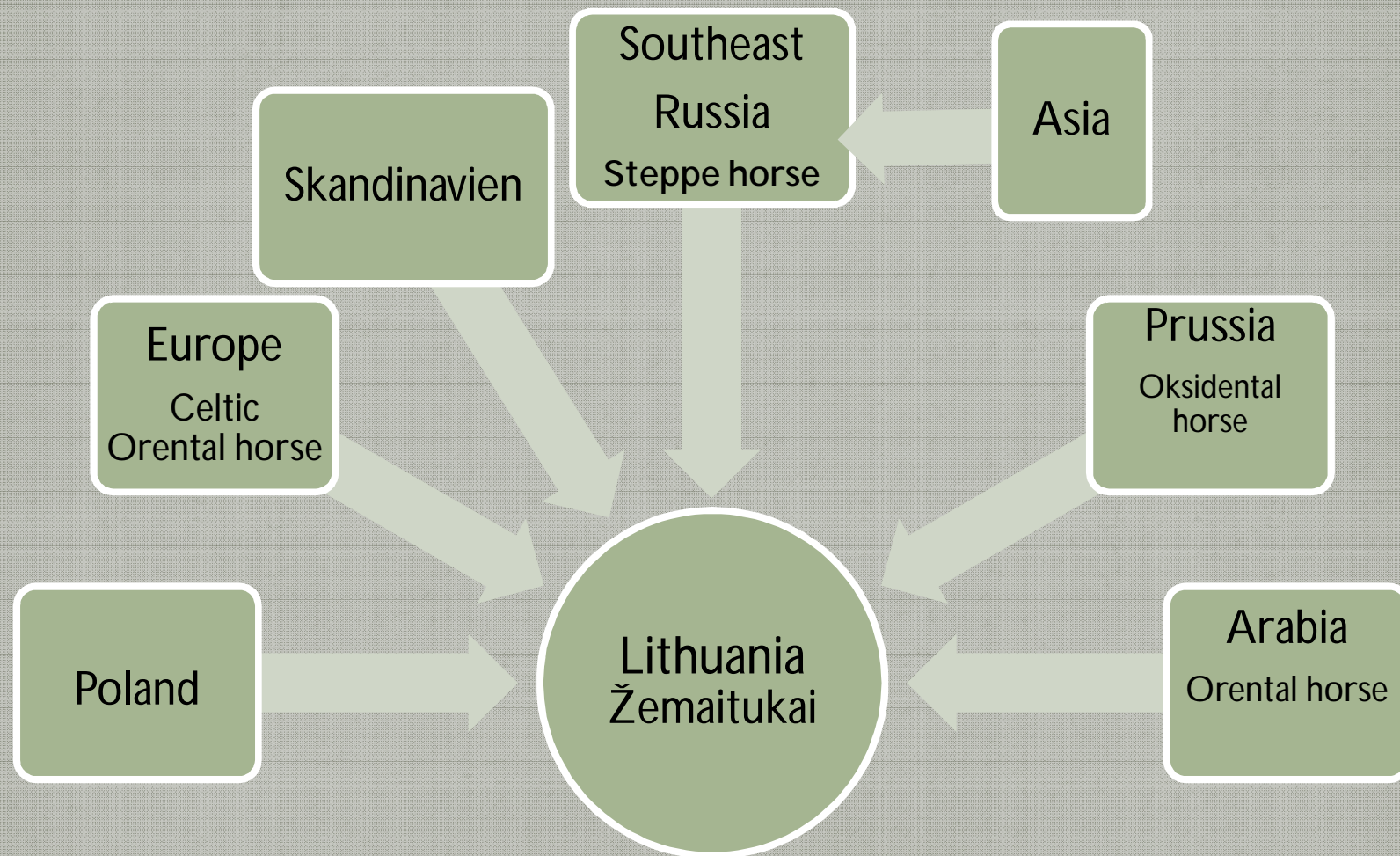
In the territory of Lithuania domesticated horses appeared during the times of great migration of nations together with the Indo-European tribes.

- Lithuanian horses are known from 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

*“Das Zmudische Pferd, its Shon seit dem 6 und 7 Jahrhundert brekannt, die Zeit, als die Litauer an der Ostsee se Bhafft wurden” Johannes Erich, Berlin, 1989*

- 12<sup>th</sup> (Pertz'o –XX S, 745) – “vermutlich den Ahn des masurisch-litauischen Kleppers”. *H.Kraemer. Aus Biologie, Tierzucht und Rossengeschichte, I Band, Stuttgart. 1912*

# Lithuanian horse development together with Lithuania (Aistuva)



- 13<sup>th</sup> - Jozef Kraszewski emphasised that “this battle stopped the Mongol - Tartar invasion of the West, which makes Europe indebted to Lithuania that it was not destroyed.”



- The Lithuanian horses were recorded, marked and their breed improved since 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Great Duke Vytautas had studs in Ašmena and near Kaunas.



Tradespeople of Lithuania  
*Chronicle of 15<sup>th</sup>*



Kristupas Mykalojus Manvydas  
(by his domain in Volyne -  
Dorohostajski's)

*Hippica*: The Best Manual for  
Rearing Horses in the 17th  
Century (Cracow in 1603)



- In 1721, J.I. Kraczynski wrote: "The horses of Žemaitija are small, but the toughest in the world."
- G.A. Biurger (1747-1794) – "laughing horse from Lithuania"
- M. Chapsky (1874), an expert in hippology, wrote about Žemaitukai horses stating that "Lithuanian cavalry was in no way inferior to any of the enemies even the majestic Swedes."

- There is a well-established opinion in historiography that horses and cattle were used for work in the 16th and 17th centuries



Žemaitukai had an impact not only on horse rearing in Lithuania, but also on that in other countries.

- In 1733 at the Royal Trakehner Stud were already 1200 horses on the stud, 513 of them mares, with some of them coming from estates in the vicinity of Tauragė.
- A total of 16 stallions, 50 mares and a number of foals lived in Trakehnen



## Sport horses in Lithuania (19<sup>th</sup>)

- In 1799 T. Koidelis (Keudell) was established the first stud in Lithuania of Trakehner horses.
- From 1838 the G. Koidel start breeding work with Thoroughbred.
- Thoroughbred from 1842-1868 participated on race in Warsaw
- 1877- Thoroughbred were breed not only by landlords but by peasants too.

# Horse breeding in 19th century

- Depot of stallions functioned in Vilnius (1844 – 1914).

This depot owned from 70 to 80 stallions of various breeds.

1865 – 19 breeding covering station were established

- But stallions from these Depot have not influenced in local horses

Beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> c.

Žemaitukai horses  
were started to  
use as working  
power in  
agriculture, as a  
means of  
transport and  
object of export.

The second half of 19<sup>th</sup>

The Žemaitukai breed was  
at high risk of extinction

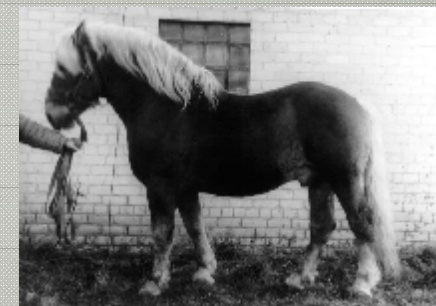
Crossbreeding of Žemaitukai  
horses with heavy-draught,  
saddle, Trakehner and Arab  
horses.

Were started the development of

Large type  
Žemaitukai



Lithuanian Heavy  
Draught



# Horse breeding in 19<sup>th</sup> century

- in 1879 - The Raseiniai Society for the Encouragement of Breeding Žemaitukai,

- 1883 - Žemaitukai Stud in Plungė

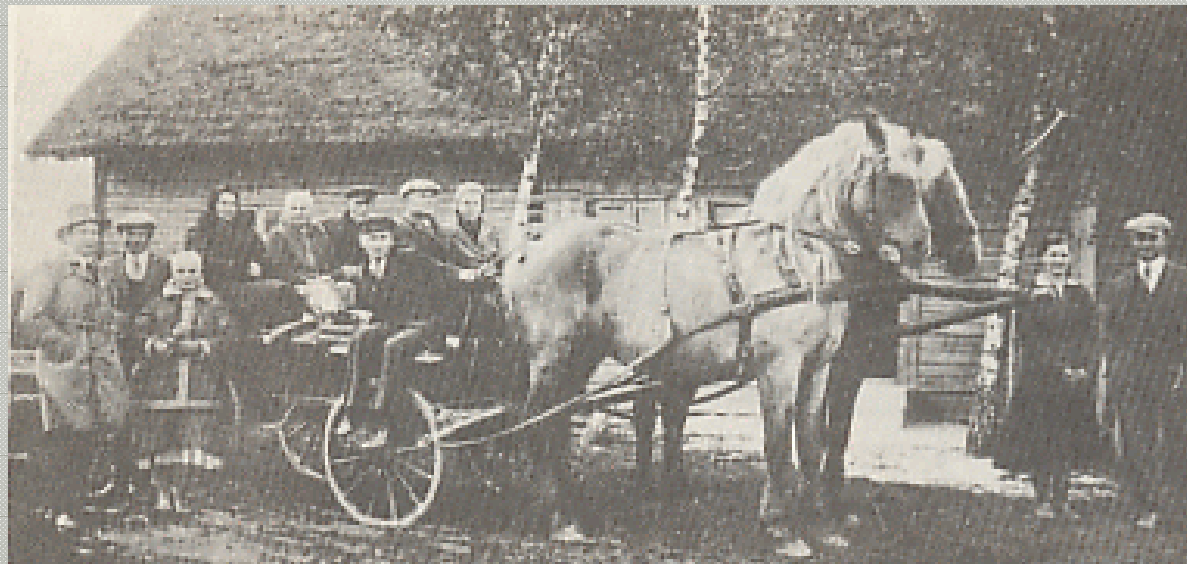
- 1900 – 2 Žemaitukai were awarded gold medals and one – silver at the World Exhibition in Paris.



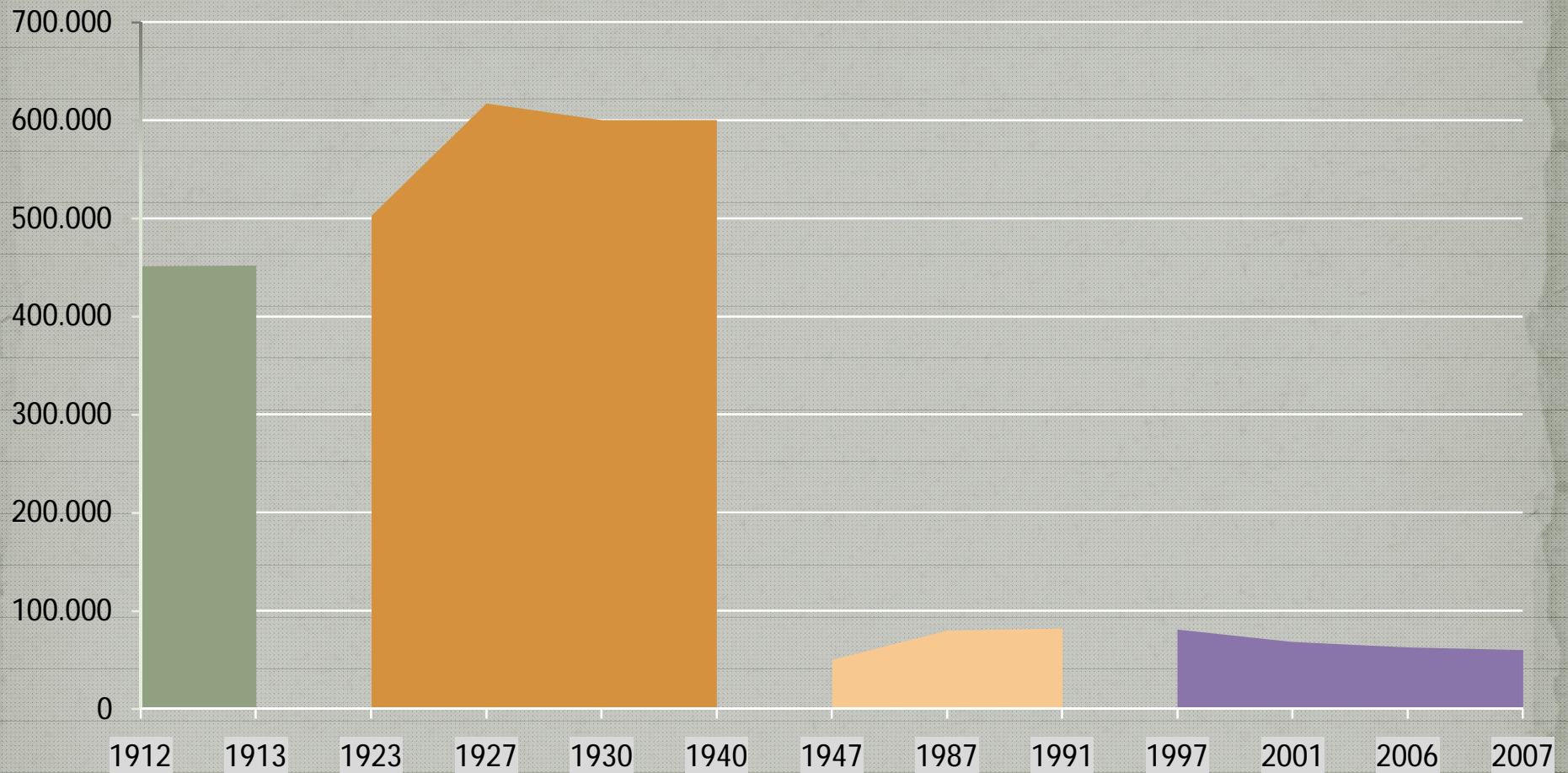
- 1890 – 1893 Raseiniai Society for Breeding Work and Driving Horses
- 1890 - 1902 the Rietavas Society for the Encouragement of Breeding Žemaitukai that was founded in Raseiniai supported the pure Žemaitukas.

# Horse breeding in 19th century

- Society for Breeding work and Driving Horses was established in 1894 (Brabanson, Perscheron, Ardennes and other)



# Number of horses in 20<sup>th</sup> century



- Before World War I
- Interwar (1918-1940)
- World War II (1941-1944)
- Second Soviet occupation (1945-1990)
- Independent Lithuania



## Interwar (1918-1940)

- In 1922, the Ministry of Agriculture of Lithuania founded a state-owned **Žemaitukai Stud in Plungė** (In 1934 – was transferred to *Gruzdžiai*)



- The Stud was subsequently lost during World War II



The work of breeding in large scale began in only in 1925.

1925 - the Society for Ardennes Horse Breeding in Lithuania

1929 - the Society for the Improvement of Native Lithuanian Horses

1937 - the Society for the Breeding and Improvement of Lithuanian Horses (1936 till 1940)

— 1936 – the State Light Horse Stud in Kėdainiai (*Cavalery*)

# Period of Interwar



Records of the first  
approbation of stallions  
carried out in 1930:

of 3.609 stallion left to breed,

- 49% - heavy draught type
- 36.3% - native crossbreeds
- 12.9% - light type  
(Trakehners, Hanoverian,  
Thoroughbreds and  
crossbreeds)
- 1.8% - Žemaitukai

## Second Soviet occupation (1945-1990)

- At the end of 1944 in Lithuania, there was an agreement to reestablish horse breeding work, and the Board of Horse Breeding was founded, which began to determine the gene pool of the horses that remained after the war.

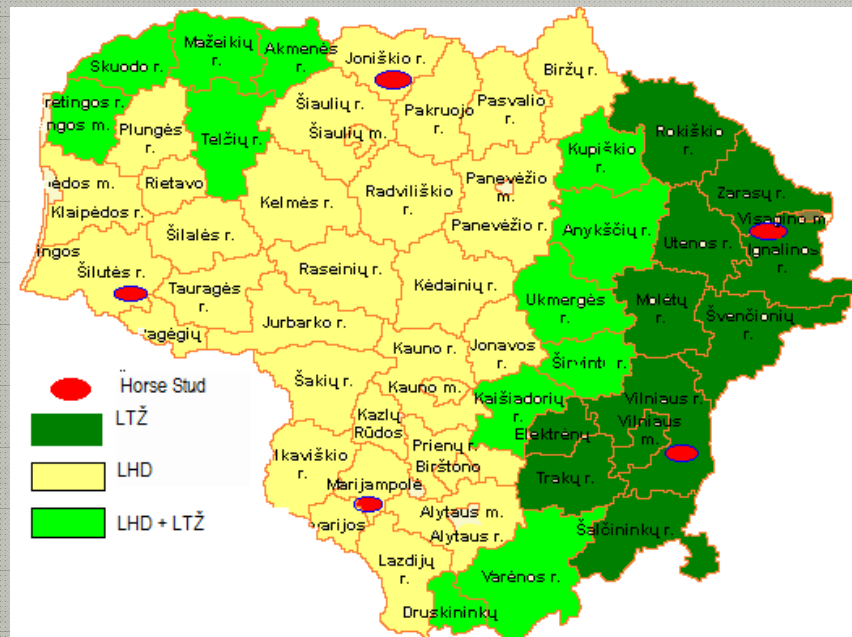
In 1947:

- making and issuing passports was started, along with the recording of stud horses in the State and District Stud Books.
- the Ministry of Agriculture decided to collect the best native horses and to record them in the stud book.

## Secound Soviet occupation (1945-1990)

- In 1945, studs were registered.
- A total of 3,722 breeding stations were established,
- 280 of them for saddle horses.
- In all, 10,338 stud horses were registered, of which 708 were Trakehners, 148 local Trotters, 50 Russian Trotters, 77 Hanoverians, 19 English Thoroughbreds, and four Hungarian Nonius.

# Second Soviet occupation (1945-1990)

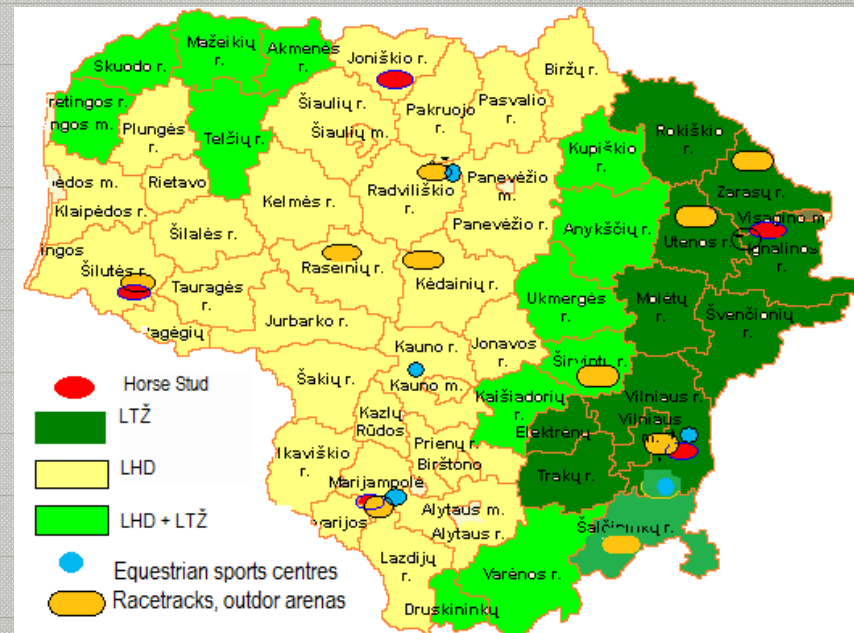
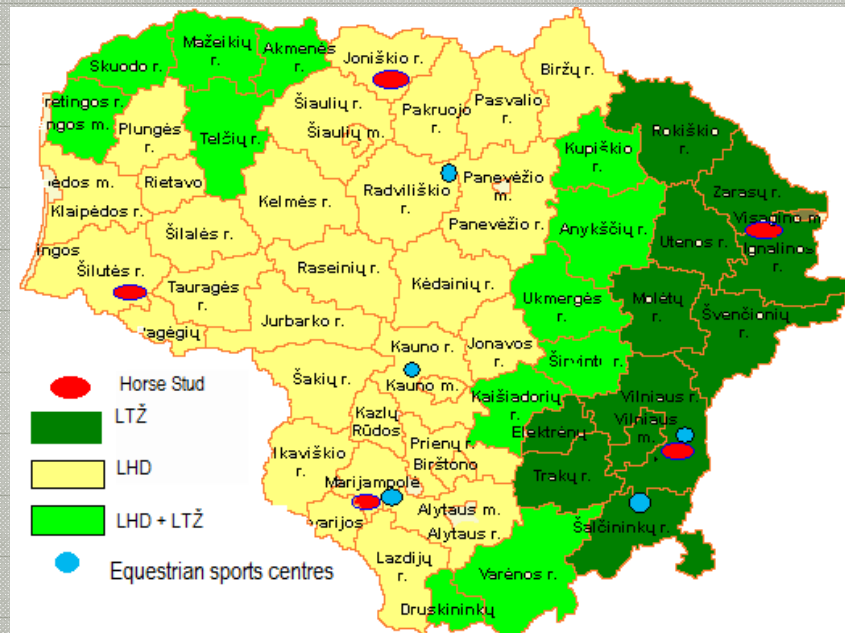


— The catchment areas of the stud farms were established by a decree in 1958

— The Vilnius Stud Farm served 13 districts, Sudavija ten, Nemunas 11, and Žagarė ten.

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- The first postwar races took place in Tauragė in 1956. Until 1961, competitions were a way of promoting horse rearing and equestrian sports, and did not have much impact on horse breeding.
  - From 1965, equestrian sports sections were set up

# 1972 horse breeding centres and equestrian sports centres started being built.



Lithuanian Heavy  
Draught  
recognized as the  
new breed in  
1963.

Accounted for  
70% of all  
breeding horses in  
Lithuania



In Lithuania, horse breeding was the first branch of animal production that became marketable.

— Every year were sold about

before World War I - 30,000 horses

before World War II - 8,000 to 27,000 horses

*(exported to Germany, Belgium and Latvia)*

From 1946 to 1984, over 100,000 breeding working and meat horses - *into Soviet republics, China, Korea, Holland, Italy and France.*

In 1974-1984, 128 sports horses bred in Lithuania were sold by Moscow auction.

- The specialisation of stud farms was established by a 1972 decree from the Lithuanian Ministry of Agriculture.

- The Nemunas Stud:

1. Trakehners,
2. Lithuanian heavy horses.

- The Sudavija Stud

1. Thoroughbred horses,
2. Lithuanian heavy horses,

- The Dusetos Stud:

1. Russian Trotters,
2. Large-Types Žemaitukai.

- The Vilnius Stud:

1. Žemaitukai,
2. Large type Žemaitukai,
3. Thoroughbred,
4. Arabian.

- The Žagarė Stud:

1. Hanoverian,
2. Lithuanian Heavy Draught .



- The Sartai races on lake ice have been going since 1905.
- It is recognised as a national sport.



# Scientific works:

## 1721-1939

1. History of origin of native horses
2. Biological-framing quality (Žemaitukai and heavy Draught horses)
3. Archaeological, morphologic(al) (native horses)

- 1721 - Kravčinskis,
- 1874 - Čapskis, 1899 m. S.Urusovas,
- 1912 - Moračevskis, 1925 m. Z.Mockus
- 1929 - 1948 - Petraitis.
- 1929 - Gudavičius
- 1934 - Žebenka
- 1939 - Globys

## 1951- 1983

1. Biological-farming quality (Žemaitukai, Large type Žemaitukai, Lithuanian Heavy Draught)
2. Archaeological, morphologic(al) (native horses)

- 1951 Prof.A.Aleksa
- 1953 Petraitis, **PhD Thesis**
- 1953 Barauskas, **PhD Thesis.**
- 1973 - Žemaitukai
- 1982 –Large type Žemaitukai
- 1976 – Barauskas.
- 1983 - Kanapeckas, **PhD Thesis**

## 1990 until now

1. Biological–farming quality (Žemaitukai, LT Žemaitukai, Lithuanian Heavy Draught)
2. Archaeological, morphologic(al) (native horses)
3. Immunogenetic (Sport and native horses)
4. Immunogenetic (native horses)

- **1990** - Krikščiūnas, **PhD Thesis**
- **1996** – Juozaitienė.
- **1998** - Garbačauskaitė ,**PhD Thesis**
- **1998 m.**
- **2000 m.** Šveistienė. **PhD Thesis**
- **1996 – 2002 m.** Boveinienė B., Jatkauskienė, Jeninas.
- Daugnora, Bertašius
- 2005 - Juras, **PhD Thesis**
- Cothran

# Conclusion

- Traditional horse breeds are part of nation culture
- Lithuanian horses are originated from East steppe tarpans that reached the territory of Lithuania together with the indo-Europeans approximately 5000 years ago.
- The question of the Lithuanian horses origin are open ...
- Until the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century the main population was native horse breed Žemaitukai
- The wars and reforms of 20<sup>th</sup> century had a devastating influence on the Lithuanian horse breeding.
- In the end of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century the main population was Heavy Draught horses.
- In the second half of 20<sup>th</sup> was started sport horse breeding.

Thank you for  
your attention

