

FEFEVA

Relationship between horse transport, horse identification and horse abattoirs

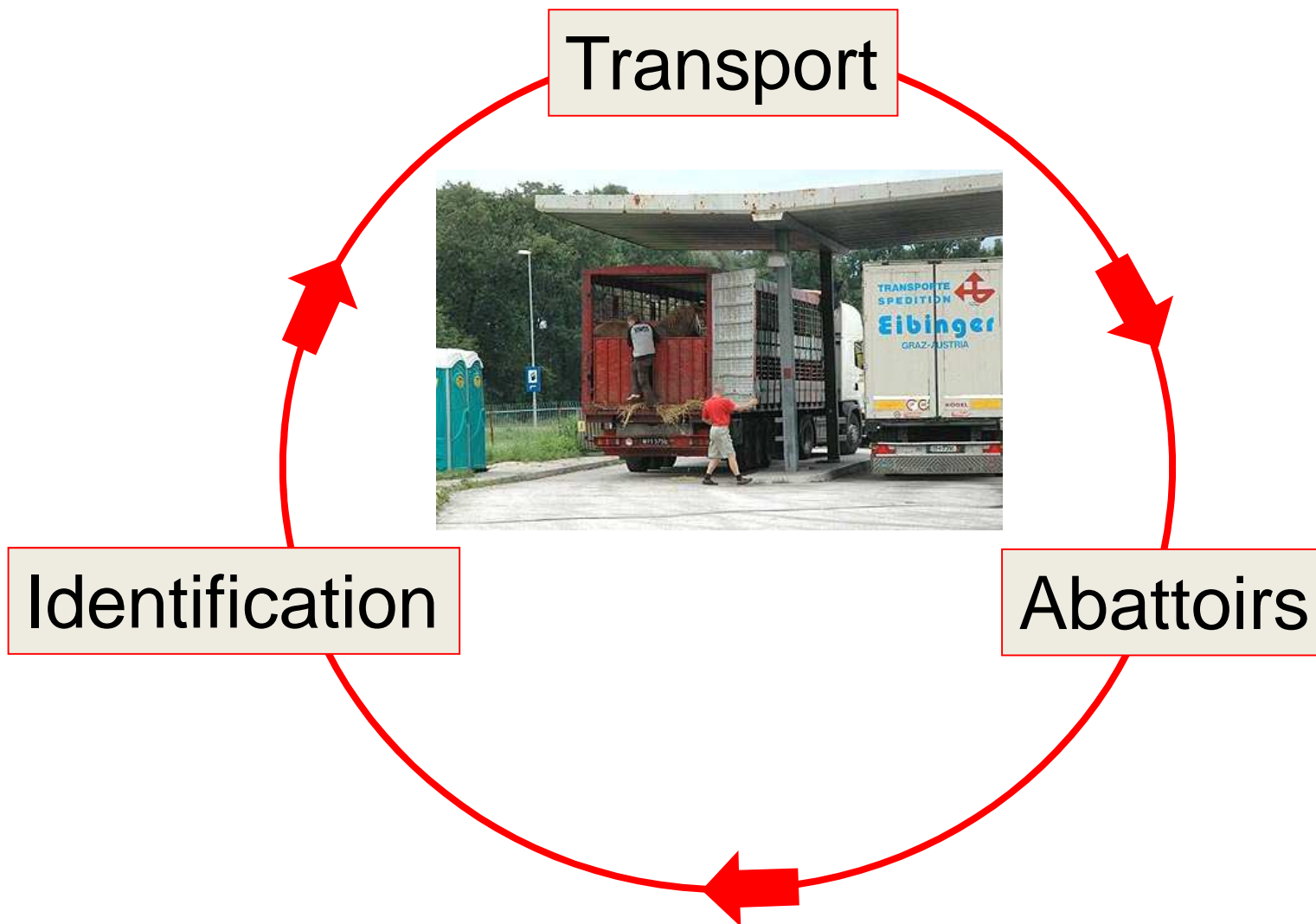
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FEEVA position statement

- humane slaughter for food is a required disposal route and a natural part of horse ownership
- horses should be slaughtered as close to the point of origin as possible
- every MS should provide slaughter facilities
- welfare is the priority when transport is necessary (and is the priority throughout the horse's life)
- consumption of horse meat is a matter of individual choice

Interlinked issues....



....causing common threats

- Equine welfare
 - poor compliance with journey times, water and food, space allowances, fitness to travel, individual and group stalls
- Disease control
 - trans-border movement of infectious & contagious disease
- Public health
 - food chain security and traceability from farm to fork

Key drivers of long distance transport for slaughter

- Rearing horses is cheaper in Eastern Europe & Spain than in France and Italy
 - cheap breeding stock
 - abundant cheap grazing
 - lower grain and processed feed prices
 - lower labour costs
 - greater margins for producers and abattoirs if horses are reared in the East & Spain and consumed in the Italy or France

Key drivers of long distance transport for slaughter

- Profit margins and price differentials
 - higher prices (20-25%) paid for horses in Italy than in country of origin

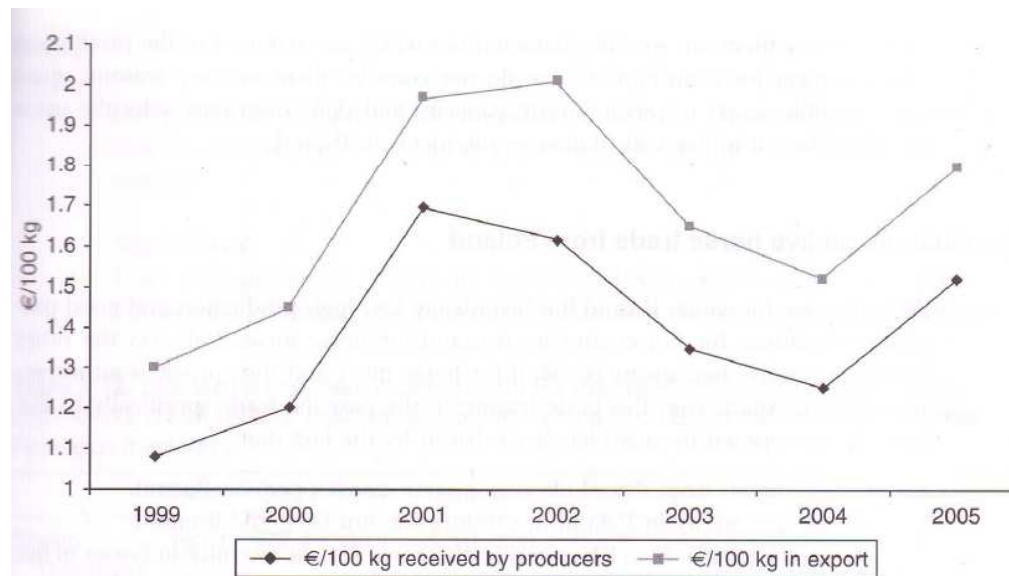


Fig. 2.14. Producer prices of live horses for export and for sale in Poland, 1999–2005. €/100 kg. (From IERiGZ (Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics – Polish National Research Institute).)

Source: Polish National Research Institute

Key drivers of long distance transport for slaughter

- Consumer preference
 - meat of ‘local’ origin rather than imported meat
 - fresh, chilled horse meat
 - specific (locally-preferred) meat cuts



Key drivers of long distance transport for slaughter

- Importance to the Italian economy
 - long-established industry
 - maintains capacity of abattoirs
 - maintains employment
 - high value (significant revenue per horse)
 - long-established by product trade which adds-value to core business of horse meat sales

Key drivers of long distance transport for slaughter

- Added value of Italian slaughter plants through locally-preferred meat cuts, processed meat products and by-products
 - biologicals for medical and veterinary use
 - hides (for leather)
 - pet food
 - fertiliser



Changing cultures.....

- from *live horse* export to *carcase* export
- extensive network of licensed abattoirs in all MS is the first step but is not enough
- other issues:
 - price differentials
 - supporting local economy and adding value
 - consumer preferences
 - ‘local’ meat vs imported meat
 - fresh chilled meat

Changing cultures.....

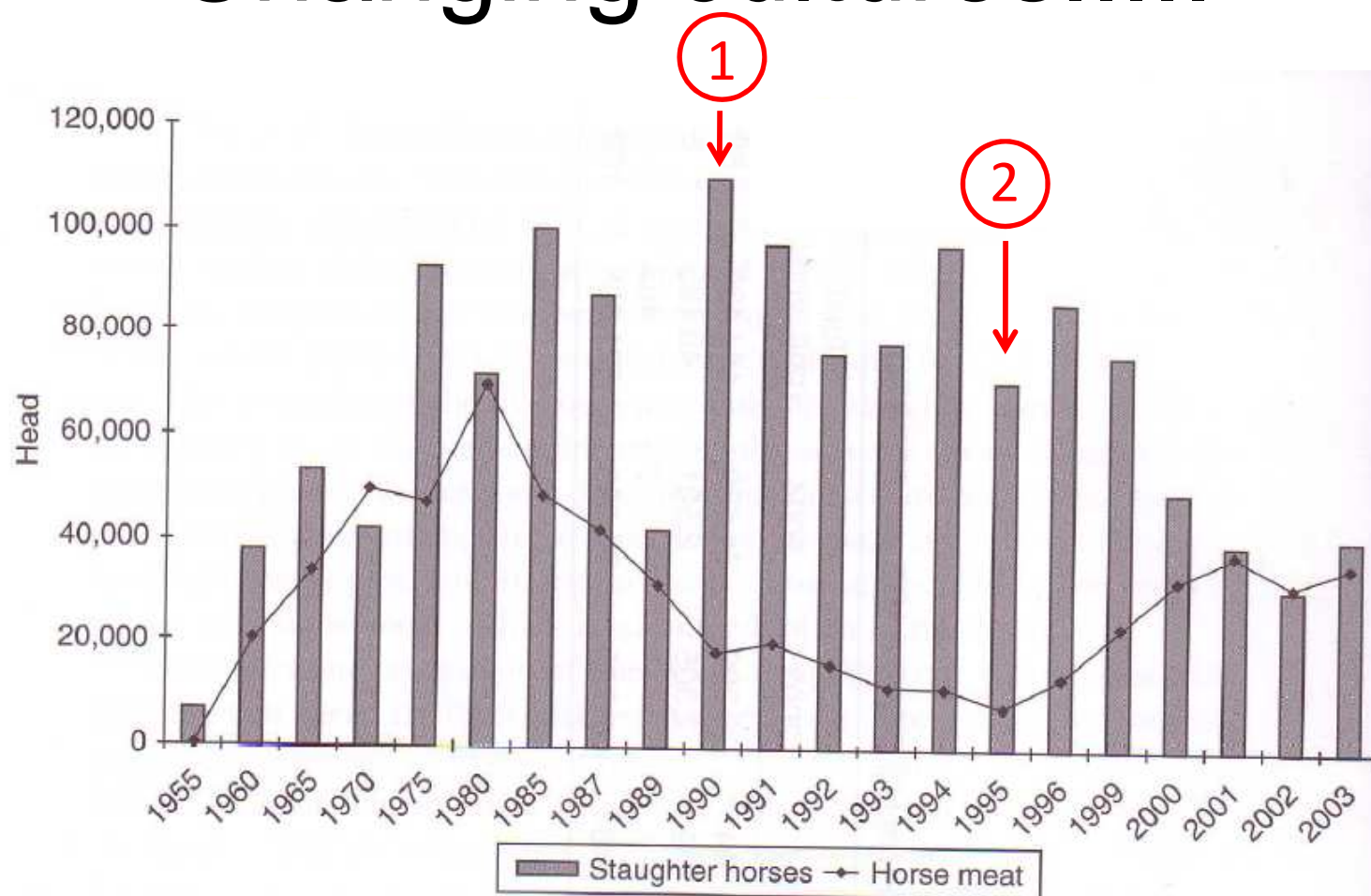


Fig. 2.13. Export of live slaughter horses and horse meat from Poland, 1955–2003 (head). (From Polski Związek Hodowców Koni (Polish Horse Breeders Association).)

Making 1/2005 work

- clarity and proper interpretation of the meaning of 'registered equidae'
 - possession of passport (FEEVA survey 2010)
- harmonisation and standardisation in all MS
 - common approach to avoid confusion
 - maximum journey times; rest, food and water
 - document checks (plans, ID, health cert)
 - veterinary inspection at loading
 - border control vehicle and horse checks
 - horse-based welfare measures
 - veterinary inspection at unloading/abattoir



Making 1/2005 work

- consistent, welfare-focussed enforcement
- consistent penalties across all MS
- communication, collaboration and information exchange between MS, especially at points of origin and slaughter (including identification)



Making 1/2005 work

- welfare education of horse producers, transporters, border inspectors and abattoir inspectors – key role for veterinarians?
- industry led Code of Practice/Guides for Best Practice (cultural change)



Identification

- exemptions for 'registered' equidae, including Tripartite Agreement, must not be a shield for avoidance of 1/2005 for slaughter horses
- consistent verification of horse ID essential to safeguard food chain
 - point of loading
 - point of unloading
 - arrival at abattoir
- robust linkage of identification to 1/2005 to improve protection of slaughter horses?



Public health

- consumer protection and food traceability



Key points

- change from trade in live horses to carcasses
 - slaughter at place of origin rather than place of consumption: licensed horse abattoirs in all MS
- improvements to implementation and enforcement of 1/2005
 - harmonised, common approach
 - meaning and interpretation of ‘registered Equidae’
 - inspection, journey times, space allowances
 - horse-based welfare measures
 - harmonisation, communication, cooperation
- inspections at abattoirs: welfare and identification
- public health risk: food chain security

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