

## Prof. Václav Jakubec, DrSc. – 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

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**This thematic issue focused on farm animal genetics and breeding is dedicated to Prof. Václav Jakubec, DrSc.**

Prof. Václav Jakubec celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 25, 2020. He was a prominent scientist, expert in the field of population genetics and livestock breeding. He significantly contributed to the development of this field in Czech and Slovak agricultural science and greatly influenced agricultural research abroad. His legacy is further developed and continued by his scientific followers at the Institute of Animal Science in Prague – Uhřetěves and several agricultural universities in the Czech Republic and in Slovakia.

His scientific work focused mainly on sheep breeding and hybridisation of livestock, and on the application of theoretical knowledge in breeding. He developed a general model for estimation of crossbreeding parameters and prediction of the yield of hybrids, which are the basis for optimising hybridisation programmes (Jakubec et al. 1987). In the last period of his active life, he devoted himself to the breeding of the most valuable genetic resource, Old Kladrub horse. He elaborated new methodological approaches in this area of horse breeding research: Analysis of linear description of type traits in the varieties and studs of the Old Kladrub horse, 2007; Selection in the genetic resource: genetic variation of the linear described type traits in the Old Kladrub horse, 2009; Analysis of inbreeding in the genetic resource of the “Old Kladrub horse” in the period from 1993 to 2003, 2004.



Prof. Václav Jakubec, DrSc. (Author: Ing. Lubor Houška, CSc.)

In 2020, a scientific seminar was held at the Institute of Animal Science in honour of Prof. Jakubec and to celebrate his birthday first planned in March. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the seminar took place on October 8, 2020. Prof. Jakubec did not live to see it. He died peacefully in July 2020.



Old Kladrub horse (Author: Ing. Jan Kalíšek)



Old Kladrub horses (Author: Ing. Jan Kalíšek)



Czech red cattle (Author: Ilona Bečková)



Czech red cattle (Author: Ilona Bečková)

## REFERENCE

Jakubec V, Kommender P, Nitter G, Fewson D, Soukopova Z. Crossbreeding in farm animals, 1: Analysis of complete diallel experiments by means of three models with application to poultry. *J Anim Breed Genet.* 1987;104(4):283-94.

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