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HORTOBÁGY TOURIST SIGHTS BASED ON HUNGARIAN GRAY CATTLE AND SHEPHERD TRADITIONS – BRIEF OVERVIEW

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• Introduction

In their work, the authors focused on one of the outstanding tourist attractions of the oldest Hungarian national park, the Hortobágy National Park, on the tourist attraction built on the stock of Hungarian gray cattle and the breed. The compiled material was based on literature sources. The role of gray cattle covers several areas, such as the preservation of genetic value, the use of Hortobágy pastures, the production of organic meat and meat products, a scenic attraction, the basis of seasonal programs and the continuation of pastoral traditions.

• Material and method

The significance of the Hungarian gray cattle in the life of the Northern Great Plain and Hortobágy National Park (HNP) was summarized based on data from the literature. The short review aims to present the contemporary significance of the traditional breed through its impact on rural tourism.



• Results and discussions

- All indigenous animals: the herds of silver-grey Hungarian cattle with crested horns, herds of Racka sheep with spiral horns, herds of Mangalitzas, stallions of Nonius, and the life of their caretakers the shepherds as well as their helpers: the achievements of the Puli, Pumi, Mudi, Kuvas and Komondor dog breeds, - are all very attractive to strangers.
- Tourist movement in HNP is strictly connected with seasons of year. The extreme period is in July and August, which is connected with the holiday time. Most of the attractions are not available outside of the holiday period.
- Special events (shows) based on gray cattle:
- April 24. St. George's Day is the time when the animals are herding to pasture.
- October 21-26. St. Dömötör's Day is the time when the animals are herding in from the pasture.
- October: breeding evaluation of three-year-old bulls. The bulls that perform well in the judging are sent to the producers of the Carpathian Basin.
- The consumption of gray cattle meat and meat products is increasing despite rising prices.
- The complex tourist products that make people want to stay for several days are quite absent from Hortobágy's range.

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