



**SNEAK PEEK Symposium Booklet**  
***(Full booklet will be given at registration)***

*March 8-10, 2024*

*Lorsch, Germany*



Staatliche  
Schlösser und Gärten  
Hessen

HESSEN





Artist: Lauren Munev

## THE SYMPOSIUM

The aim of the symposium is to provide a comprehensive and interdisciplinary overview of the current state of research and knowledge on the topic of cattle traction. At the same time, it will discuss important new concepts regarding the future relevance of draft cattle as working animals in a global context and also as part of a healthy-planet future.

## HOST SITE



Lauresham Open-Air Laboratory for Experimental Archaeology, located in Lorsch, Germany, is an extended part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Lorsch Abbey (Kloster Lorsch), part of the State Administration of Palaces and Gardens Hesse. Lauresham conveys to the interested public the culture of rule and everyday life of the time around 800 AD. First and foremost, the Open-Air Laboratory is a place of science; research into historical cultivation methods

and traditional knowledge has played a central role. Lauresham's aim is to learn from the past for a more sustainable future.

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# FROM THE ORGANIZER

When I first came into contact with the world of draft cattle over ten years ago, I would never have believed the importance that this topic would one day have for me. Not only did I gradually become an advocate for the positive impact of draft cattle in agriculture or silviculture, but I also became a draft cattle farmer and trainer myself. It is with great pleasure that I get to teach people about working with draft cattle each year, and I am pleased that the demand for this all-important traditional knowledge continues to grow. Draft cattle can be so much – working companions, community builders, and securers of livelihoods.

Through networking in ALHFAM, AIMA, EXARC, the German and French draft cattle working group, but also through the exchange with colleagues from all over the world, I realized how important it is to bring draft cattle more into the focus of public discussion - not as an echo of the past, but as part of the solution for a better future. The people who still work with draft cattle in so many parts of the world need to be given a loud audible voice of support, there needs to be active advocacy for innovative and animal-friendly harnessing practices, and finally, there needs to be active work on preserving and expanding the traditional knowledge of working with cattle.

Keeping all of this in mind, I would like to state emphatically that the timing for a gathering such as the planned World Draft Cattle Symposium could not be better. It is the right time because there are enough people to create a momentum that can actually bring change. But it is also the right time because in many parts of the world the number of draft cattle is decreasing dramatically, a lot of knowledge is lost every year and therefore there is no time to lose. Let us therefore join forces to face this challenge!

**Claus Kropp**

Leiter Experimentalarchäologisches Freilichtlabor Lauresham  
*Manager Lauresham Open-Air Laboratory for Experimental Archaeology*

Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten Hessen  
*State Administration of Palaces and Gardens Hesse*

UNESCO-Welterbestätte Kloster Lorsch  
*UNESCO World Heritage Site Lorsch Abbey*



*Claus and his favorite draft ox and working companion David*

# SYMPOSIUM PATRONS

*in alphabetical order*

## TANJA BUSSE



*Tanja Busse is a German journalist, author and presenter, moderating discussions and conferences on the topics of agriculture, sustainability, nutrition, ecology, and resource efficiency. She is curator of the Schweisfurth Foundation and the Future Foundation for Agriculture, and fellow at the DFG Research Centre "Futures of Sustainability" at the University of Hamburg.*

## WENDELL BERRY



*Wendell Berry is a renowned American writer, farmer and environmental activist. In his works, such as "The Unsettling of America" and "Jayber Crow", he criticises the industrialised agricultural sector and advocates sustainable, local farming. He is a visionary who calls for us to take responsibility for our planet and our communities.*

## HELENA NORBERG-HODGE



*Helena Norberg-Hodge, linguist, author, filmmaker, is the founder and director of Local Futures, and the convener of World Localization Day and the Planet Local Summit. She is the founder of the International Alliance for Localisation, and a cofounder of the International Forum on Globalization and the Global Ecovillage Network. Helena is a recipient of the Alternative Nobel prize, the Arthur Morgan Award and the Goi Peace Prize.*

## CHRIS SMAJE



*Chris Smaje is a small-scale farmer, writer and social scientist who lives in Somerset, southwest England. He is the author of "A Small Farm Future" and "Saying NO to a Farm-Free Future". He taught sociology at the University of Surrey, England.*

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

## BARBARA CORSON, USA

*Retired Animal Pathologist*



*Barbara Corson holds a doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. She completed a residency in large animal veterinary pathology at the University of Pennsylvania in 1996, after which she worked as a diagnostic pathologist for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. In 2013 she retired from the PDA and went to work as the historic farmer for the Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation. Now retired, Dr. Corson continues to pursue her life-long interests in historical and educational agriculture in various organisations.*

**Cattle and Community: why we need both**

## JIM SLINING, USA

*Director of Historic Collections and Exhibits, Tillers International*



*Jim Slining is a lifelong student, practitioner and teacher of draft animal power and historic trades. As a self-professed agrarian, Jim studies historic farm tools to understand: their design philosophy, the reasons and circumstances for their historic favor, the skills required for their optimal use, and their potential application in diverse communities today.*

**Forcing Resilient Models of Agriculture through Draft Animal Power**

## PAUL STARKEY, UK

*Senior Research Fellow, MERL*



*Paul Starkey is an international consultant in animal traction and rural transport and a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Museum of English Rural Life (MERL), University of Reading, UK. He has worked worldwide and has a wide-ranging photographic record of working animals and technologies.*

**Appreciating working cattle worldwide, their cultural heritage and their future importance**

# SYMPOSIUM SITE MAP

**Museum Centre:**  
Sessions: Friday  
Sessions: Saturday afternoon

**Lauresham:**  
Workshops: Saturday  
Field Day: Sunday

**Eastern Forest:**  
Logging Workshop:  
Sunday morning



The UNESCO World Heritage Site Lorsch Abbey  
("Kloster Lorsch") contains several buildings including:

- Museum Centre
- The King's Hall
- The Tithe Barn
- Lorsch Pharmacopola Herb Garden
- Church Fragment



*King's Hall, Lorsch Abbey*

Lauresham Open Air Laboratory for Experimental Archeology is located a short walk away, with its Visitor Centre on its eastern side.

The Tobacco Curing Shed will be open for those interested.

# MARCH 8: LIVE, VIRTUAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

*Live Location: Museum Centre Lorsch, Paul-Schnitzer-Saal, Nibelungenstrasse 35, 64653 Lorsch (Back entrance, follow the signs)*

## **7:30-8:30 AM**

Registration open for on-site participants (will remain open throughout the day)

## **8:30 AM:**

Live and Virtual sessions start.

### ***Morning Sessions Virtual Link:***

**8:30am - 12:15pm CET**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88250370247?pwd=7vKeadldUhGKwfWe6pImvb6EcBwZ9c.1>

Meeting ID: 882 5037 0247

*(See Afternoon Sessions for the afternoon Virtual Link - morning and afternoon sessions use different links)*

## **Introduction**

- 8:30-8:35 AM  
Welcoming Words by Kirsten Worms, *Director of the State Administration of Palaces and Gardens Hesse*
- 8:35-8:45 AM  
Introduction by Claus Kropp, *Symposium Organiser*
- 8:45-8:50 AM  
Patron Statement: Wendell Berry (*will be read to the audience*)
- 8:50-8:55 AM  
Patron Statement: Tanja Busse (*live*)
- 8:55-9:00 AM  
Patron Statement: Helena Norberg-Hodge (*virtual*)
- 9:00-9:05 AM  
Patron Statement: Chris Smaje (*virtual*)

## **Session 1: A valuable look into the past – creating relevance for today**

9:05-9:35 AM

**KEYNOTE 1: Barbara Corson (USA)**, "Cattle and Community: why we need both"

## **9:35-9:45 AM**

**Coffee break** (10 minutes; coffee, tea, cake, baked goods from local bakery)

## Session 1: Section 1: Archaeology / Osteology

- 9:45-10:00 AM  
Phoebe Liu, *University of Sheffield, (UK)*, “In Search of Draught cattle: an identification method”
- 10:00-10:15 AM  
Minghao Lin, *Shanghai Jiao Tong University, (China)*, “The early history of cattle traction in North China through diverse lines of evidence”
- 10:15-10:30 AM  
Fabienne Pigiere, *Royal Holloway University of London, (UK)*, “Investigating pathologies in wild bovids to assess pathological indicators of traction”
- 10:30-10:45 AM  
Audrey Crabbé, *University of Groningen, (Netherlands)*, “Ploughing through Pathologies: Traction related bone deformations in cattle as indices of political economies in early empires, Hittite Anatolia as a case study”
- 10:45-11:00 AM  
Claus Kropp, *Open-Air Lab Lauresham, (Germany)*, “Connecting the dots: Interdisciplinary Draft Cattle Research and Experimental Archaeology”

**11:00-11:15 AM**

**Coffee break** (15 minutes; coffee, tea, cake, baked goods from local bakery)

## Session 1: Section 2: History, Museum Collections and Archives

- 11:15-11:30 AM  
William G. Clarence-Smith, *SOAS University of London, (UK)*, “Draught Animals in Balkan transport, c1300-1914”
- 11:30-11:45 AM  
Debra Reid, *Curator of Agriculture and the Environment, The Henry Ford, (USA)*, “Bovine Yokes and Collars in Museum Collections”
- 11:45 AM -12:00 PM  
Barbara Sosič, Gregor Kos, Žiga Rehar, *Slovene Ethnographic Museum, (Slovenia)*, “Curating and Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Oxen and Yokes in Slovenia”
- 12:00-12:15 PM  
Cozette Griffin-Kremer, *Associate Researcher, Centre de recherches bretonne et celtique, UBO Brest, (France)*, “Paths of Transmission: Using Draft Cattle and Recording Skills”

**12:15 PM – 1 PM**

**Lunch Break** (served by a local caterer)



## Afternoon Sessions Start again

Afternoon Virtual Link: 1:00pm - 7:00pm CET

([Your Time Zone Lookup link](#))

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89618448453?pwd=zSyQeOJtMpByuarY825Zj0PajyA5Wg.1>

Meeting ID 896 1844 8453

## Session 1: Section 3: (Archaeological) Open-Air Museums and Living History Farms

- 1:00 – 1:15 PM  
Pete Watson, *Director: Howell Living History Farm, Mercer County Park Commission, (USA)*, “Towards a culture of training and curating skills. The role of Living History Farms”
- 1:15 – 1:30 PM  
Fokko Bloema, *Archaeon, (Netherlands)*, “Draft Cattle and Public Engagement in Open-Air Museums”

## Session 2: Facing realities and finding solutions

1:30-2:00 PM

**KEYNOTE 2: Paul Starkey (UK)**, “Appreciating working cattle worldwide, their cultural heritage and their future importance”

## Session 2: Section 1: Case Studies

- 2:00-2:15 PM  
Boniface Okumu, *Oxen Clinic Uganda, Survey Northern Uganda*
- 2:15-2:30 PM  
Vlad Dumitrescu, *Photographer, (Romania)*, Ioana Baskerville, *Romanian Academy, Survey Romania*, Claus Kropp
- 2:30-2:45 PM  
Simataa Joseph, *Farmer / Conservationist, (Namibia)*, Survey Namibia

**2:45-3:00 PM**

**Coffee break** (15 minutes; coffee, tea, cake, baked goods from local bakery)

- 3:00 – 3:15 PM  
D.K.Sadana, M. Din, S. Das, M. Shrivastava and T. Motilal, *ILSI and RRAN/WASSAN (India)*, “Challenges in reinvigorating draft animal power in India, and some opportunities”
- 3:15-3:30 PM  
M. Din, M. Srivastava, S. Das, T. Motilal, *Revitalizing Rainfed Agriculture Network / Watershed Support Services & Activity Network (India)*, “Present Status of Draught Animal Power and their Utilisation in Rainfed Regions of India”

- 3:30-3:45 PM  
Kevin Cunningham, *Shakefork Community Farm, (USA)*, "Oxen-powered vegetable growing and market gardening"
- 3:45-4:00 PM  
Raymundo Vento Tielves PhD., Félix Ponce Ceballo PhD., Joel Pacheco Escobar MSc., Andrés Loreto Díaz Pita MSc, *(Cuba)*, "The use of animal traction in Pinar del Río Province, Cuba"
- 4:00-4:15 PM  
Eamonn McDonagh, *Vegetable Farmer, (Ireland)*, "Agriculture and market gardening with draft cattle in Ireland"

#### **4:15-4:30 PM**

**Coffee break** (15 minutes; coffee, tea, cake, baked goods from local bakery)

### **Session 2: Section 2: New Concepts**

4:30-5:00 PM

**KEYNOTE 3: Jim Slining (USA)**, "Forcing Resilient Models of Agriculture through Draft Animal Power"

- 5:00-5:15 PM  
Tim Harrigan, *(USA)*, "The Role of Draft Animals in an Agroecological Approach to Appropriate Scale Mechanization"
- 5:15-5:30 PM  
Antonio Perrone, *(Italy)*, "Draft Animal Power versus Photovoltaic: a Technical and Economic Comparison"
- 5:30-5:45 PM  
Paul Schmit, *Schaff mat Päerd, (Luxembourg)*, "New animal-drawn machine concepts for future-oriented agriculture"
- 5:45-6:00 PM  
Wolfgang Ehmeier, *Farmer, (Austria)*, "The use of animal traction in an operational context"

#### **6:00-6:15 PM**

**Coffee break** (15 minutes; coffee, tea, cake, baked goods from local bakery)

### **Session 2: Section 3: Changing the Public Perception**

- 6:15-6:30 PM  
Ruth Burke, *Assistant Professor of Art, (USA)*, "Domestic Rewilding (A Living Land Acknowledgement)"

• 6:30 – 6:45 PM

Lynn Miller, *Editor: Small Farmers Journal, (USA)*, “A Prayer for Oxen. Working cattle held both as revered and essential”

**6:45-6:55 PM**

**Concluding remarks of Day 1:** Claus Kropp

**7:30 PM**

**Optional Conference Dinner** at the “Back- und Brauhaus” (‘Bakery and Brewhouse’) restaurant, Lorsch. (*Advanced registration with the conference committee required to guarantee your place.*)

Serves all food options: omnivore, vegetarian, vegan, traditional, regional, and seasonal options. Offers all types of drinks including non-alcoholic, beer, and spirits. Mid-priced; pay on your own. <https://back-und-brauhaus.de/lorsch>

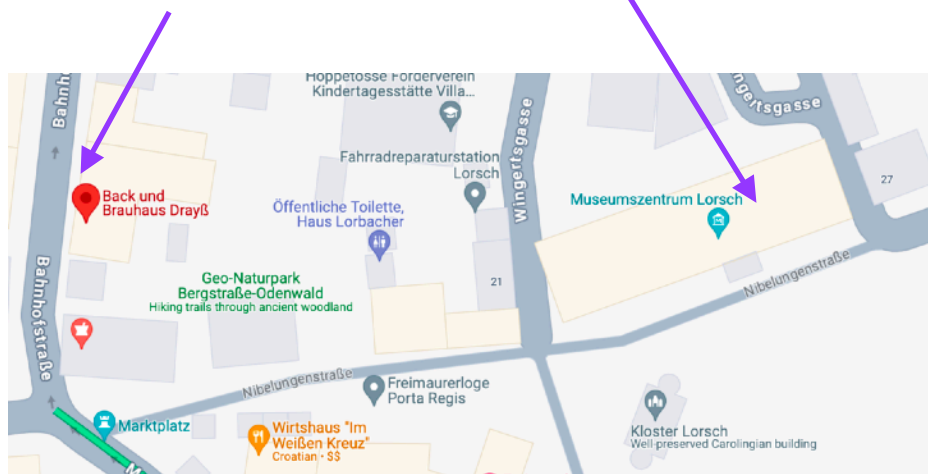
*Location: Drayss Back- und Brauhaus, Bahnhofstrasse 1, 64653 Lorsch*

**“Back- und Brauhaus”**  
(‘Bakery and Brewhouse’)

Optional Friday Meal:  
*You must have signed up  
in advance*

**Museum Centre:**

Sessions: Friday  
Sessions: Saturday afternoon



# MARCH 9: PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS / DEMONSTRATIONS

(Location: Lauresham. Follow signs on site. There is no virtual access. Coffee, tea, cake and local baked goods will be served throughout the morning directly on site)

## 8:00-9:00 AM

**Registration opens** (will remain open throughout the day)

Location: Lauresham Visitor Centre

## Session 1: Starting the connection: cattle behaviour and training

### • 9:00 – 10:00 AM

Section 1: Observation of natural behaviour as the basis for the ongoing process of training and relationship, Main Speaker: Astrid Masson (Germany)

Location: Lauresham meadows, follow signs on site

### • 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Section 2: Options for Transfer in communication between people and cattle. Developing trust and respect, Main Speaker: Anne Wiltafsky (Germany)

Location: Lauresham meadows, follow signs on site

### • 11:00 – 12:00 AM

Section 3: Sharing one language: use of body language, visual signs, whip and voice commands, Main Speaker: Drew Conroy (USA)

Location: Lauresham meadows, follow signs on site

## 12:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**Lunch break**, served by Bäckerei Drayss

Location: Lauresham Visitor Centre

## Session 2: Finding the right solutions

### Session 2: Section 1: Yoke, Collar, Harness, Shoe

1:00 – 2:30 PM

**Expert panel with practical presentations, including yoke-making and blacksmithing of ox shoes**

*Speakers/Presenters include:*

Philippe Kuhlmann, *Farmer and Forester (France)*

Claus Kropp, *Manager: Lauresham Open-Air Lab (Germany)*,

Rolf Minhorst, *Animal Scientist and Ox-Collar expert (Germany)*

Frank Trommer, *Blacksmith Master (Germany)*

Boniface Okumu, *Oxen Clinic Uganda (Uganda)*

Elke Treitinger, *Veterinarian (Germany)*

Michel Nioulou / Gilles Pequignot, *Yoke Maker (France)*

Location: Lauresham: follow signs on site.

## Session 2: Section 2: Implements

2:30 – 4:00 PM

**Expert panel with practical demonstrations of various implements for agriculture, transport and forestry**

*Speakers/Presenters include:*

Paul Schmit, Schaff mat Pærd (*Luxembourg*)

Peter Herold, Agricultural Engineer (*Germany*)

Pascal Durand, farmer trainer (*Prommata International*)

*Location: Laresham meadows, follow signs on site*

## Session 3: Biographies Written in Bone: How the Working Lives of Draft Cattle Affect the Skeleton

4:15 – 5:15 PM : Main speakers:

Matilda Holmes, *Archaeozoologist*  
(*England*)

Barbara Corson, *ret. Veterinary Pathologist*  
(*USA*)

Claus Kropp, *Manager: Open-Air Lab*  
*Laresham (Germany)*

*Location: Museum Centre in Lorsch*

*(Shuttle service will be provided for those who do not want to walk)*

**Time Zone Reminders for March 8th**  
**Virtual :**

British GMT: 1 hour behind CET

North American EST: 6 hours behind CET

North American PST: 9 hours behind CET

Indian IST: 4.5 hours ahead of CET

Sydney AEDT: 10 hours ahead of CET

China CST: 7 hours ahead of CET

[Your Time Zone Lookup link](#)

## Session 4: Curating Collections: Past and Present Implements

5:15-6:15 PM : Main Speakers:

Deb Reid, *The Henry Ford (USA)*

Barbara Sosič, *SEM (Slovenia)*, Gregor Kos, *Žiga Reha*

Pete Watson, *Howell Living History Farm (USA)*

6:15-6:30 PM

**Closing Remarks of Day 2:** Claus Kropp

*Location: Museum Centre in Lorsch*

## Evening Event

7:30 PM

**Conference Reception and Exhibition Opening Event:** "Yoke-Joug-Ayoko. A cultural history of the yoke through the millennia" .

*Small snacks and drinks provided.*

*Location: Laresham Visitor Centre (Shuttle service available)*

# MARCH 10: FIELD DAY

*(Meals and cold and warm beverages will be served throughout the day at the Visitor Centre)*

**8:30-11:00 AM Registration open**

*Location: Lauresham Visitor Centre*

**9:00-11:00 AM**

**Demonstration: Logging with Draft Cattle**

*Location: Eastern Forest site*

Main Presenters:

Philippe Kuhlmann, *Farmer and Forester (France)*

Arne Oppermann, *Farmer and Ox-Logger (Germany)*

Gerhard Döring, *Ox driver (Germany)*

**10:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

**Field Day and Open-Day at the Lauresham Open-Air Laboratory**

*Location: Lauresham Open-Air Laboratory*

*The public Field Day will include presentations of the following:*

Testing prototypes and new machinery

Cattle behaviour

Training techniques

Agriculture / Market Gardening

Ox shoeing / Chain making

Historical Agriculture and Experimental Archaeology

Yoke making

**1:00 - 5:00 PM**

**Live Silhouette portraiture** with a special Lauresham-themed farm background, by international artist Lauren Munev (USA)

*(Pay on your own: €15 + optional €5 donation for draft cattle training fund)*

*Location: Lauresham Fields (follow signs)*



**Guided Tours** *(Advance registration required to guarantee your place)*

*Meeting Point: Lauresham Visitor Centre*

**11:00 AM:** Lauresham Open-Air Laboratory for Experimental Archaeology

**2:00 PM:** UNESCO World Heritage Site Lorsch Abbey



*Artist: Lauren Munev*

# SPONSORS

The sponsors of our conference make it possible to support selected conference presenters and participants with a travel grant in order to maximize the reach and scope of the conference.



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**WIR  
IN  
LORSCH**

Gemeinsam  
nachhaltig  
und  
regional



GLOBAL DRAFT CATTLE NETWORK

## The Worth McClure Fund For Promoting Draft Cattle



All of us who enjoy working with cattle can think of someone who was important in guiding our first steps and supporting us in our learning. This fund is intended to honor those mentors by passing on to new people the support that they offered in the past. The fund is named for Worth McClure, who was an example of this kind of mentor.

Worth was born in 1918 in the state of North Carolina, USA. The farm where Worth grew up was powered solely by oxen; there were no tractors, petroleum powered machines or horses. Oxen were used in the fields and woods, and for pulling wagons for human transportation. Where ever he lived, Worth always had a team or two of oxen and he delighted in sharing his enthusiasm and his skills with anyone who was interested.

## HELP SPONSOR THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE CATTLE TRACTION ACROSS THE WORLD

Do you want to help fund fellow conference participants and presenters? We have ideas how your support, no matter what size, can assist our participants.

Please contact us: [worlddraftcattlesymposium2024@gmail.com](mailto:worlddraftcattlesymposium2024@gmail.com)

