

# Call for Papers and Displays

## World Draft Cattle Symposium

March 8-9<sup>th</sup> 2024

Lauresham Open-Air Laboratory for Experimental Archaeology (UNESCO World Heritage Site Lorsch Abbey)



From March 8th to 9th 2024, the first World Draft Cattle Symposium will take place in Lorsch (Germany). 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 (with both bulls, oxen as well as cows) in agriculture, transportation, irrigation and crop-processing. 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 sustainable future. The conference will be divided into a conference day with paper and poster presentations and a practical workshop day, culminating in the debut of a fascinating new museum exhibition on the cultural history of yokes worldwide.

### **Conference Overview**

*March 8th*

Session 1 Cattle traction in the Past - research and relevance for today

Session 2 Cattle traction in the Present and Future

Expected speakers include Schlebecker Award Winner, Barbara Corson (USA), the world renowned draft animal expert, Paul Starkey (England), draft cattle and networking expert, Cozette Griffin-Kremer (France), the Curator of the Tillers International Museum, Jim Slining (USA), the well known Archaeozoologist, Matilda Holmes (England), as well as the director of the Oxen Clinic Uganda, Okumu Boniface (Uganda)

*March 9th*

Hands-on Practical Workshops

Opening of the special exhibition "Yoke - Joug - Ayoko. A Cultural History of the Yoke through the Millennia"

### **Post conference schedule**

March 10<sup>th</sup>

Open-Day at the Lauresham Open-Air Laboratory for Experimental Archaeology

Field-Day with draft animal presentations (plowing, cultivating, harnessing) and info booths of various organizations

**We are looking for:**

Conference papers (15 minutes in length) and poster presentations (5 minutes in length) from the fields of history, agriculture, geography, socioeconomics, anthropology, archaeology (including archaeozoology) and osteology on ongoing or completed research projects that address the topic of cattle as working animals.

Conference papers (15 minutes in length) and poster presentations (5 minutes in length) from development organizations, NGOs, governmental and private institutions as well as museums which deal intensively with the current situation in different regions of the world and have actively developed solutions in the areas of training, application possibilities, animal welfare, harnessing or international cooperation. We are also looking for projects and companies that want to present themselves and their work and are able to illustrate the role that cattle traction can play as an economic factor in the 21st century.

For the practical workshops we are looking for craftsmen, farmers, experts and scientists who would like to present their work or teach skills of interest to this community (e.g. yoke production, training of cattle, collection management, etc.) and thus contribute to a deeper understanding of the topic as well as stimulate further dialogue amongst participants. Please state the details of your workshop, including length of time, space, tools, and maximum participants.

**Selection process:**

If you would like to actively participate in the conference with a presentation, poster or workshop, please send us an email ([worlddraftcattlesymposium2024@gmail.com](mailto:worlddraftcattlesymposium2024@gmail.com)) with a 100-200 word abstract and a brief comment on why you are interested in the conference. If you are interesting in presenting virtually, please note your interest. Posters and workshop proposals can only be submitted for in-person presentations.

Proposals Due: Sept 30, 2023, by 12:00 midnight Central European Time

Notification: After Oct 15, 2023. You will be notified about your proposal status after the selection committee determines the results of all entries.

In case of questions please contact:

**Claus Kropp, Symposium Director**

**Manager, Lauresham Open-Air Laboratory for Experimental Archaeology**

**Lorsch, Germany**

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