

Linking Horse Production and activities in society -- change, renewal and growth

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Animal Production.

- Animal production is a system
- Animal production is an industry!
- The point of animal science is to support “animal production technically and economically and to assure efficient production for the needs of mankind” (4th Int’l Congress on Animal Production, 1939) (EAAP 2019, 2)
- Included in the early EAAP (est. 1949) was “genetics of longevity, fecundity, meat production, performance test of horses, the relative value of horses and tractors and calculation of feed values” (3)

Horse Production



- Already changes in horse use mirrored wider economic, technological and social changes in Europe
- The Study Commissions were founded – nutrition and cattle, sheep and goat, pig and horse production.
- In supporting the industry the SC's have been a constant presence in the EAAP ever since the beginning

“Animal Production in Society”



- Produce what?
- For whom?
- Systems of Production (serve society’s needs, using dominant relations of production)

Animal Production in Society



- History – cow breeding and production
 - *Aberdeen Angus* -- changes in size and confirmation
 - *Native breeds* – growing use for sustainable production
 - *Cow welfare* – was always an issue, but even more now
 - *Milk producers* – challenges of welfare and profitability
- In each case, the animal is optimized for the system of production

Animal Production in Society



Changes in Society – in economy, in identity, in taste, technological changes – affect what is produced, how, and how much.

- Breeders and producers change according to those changing demands

Animal Production in Society



- Farmers, after all, have to make a living, so they serve the market.
- New trends:
 - Local food, slow food, etc.,
 - Concern about animal contamination from production pharmaceuticals
 - Concern about genetic influences on conformation, hardiness, etc. within production chain.
 - Growth of native breeds as alternatives to mass industrial production
- Production systems change in response

Animal Production in Society

A faded background image of a horse wearing a harness, standing in a field. The horse is the central focus, with its head and neck visible. The harness is dark and appears to be made of leather or a similar material. The background shows a grassy field and some trees in the distance, all rendered in a light, semi-transparent style.

These changes pose new challenges for animal scientists, and animal production.

Horses in Europe



- Ongoing slow change
- First decline, and now steady growth
- We still employ a lot of traditional techniques when producing horses, but in the last few decades, animal science has transformed, for example, breeding.

The horse production industry



- Makes significant contributions to agriculture in Europe, across a wide range of aspects, from meat production to new leisure and health and well-being services

Horses in Europe



- EHN estimates:
 - 6 million plus horses
 - 12% Sport & professional competition
 - 70 – 80% used in leisure and recreation
 - Gender 75 – 80% female
 - Higher educational levels/disposable income

(EHN 2001, 2009)



Economic and social changes:

- Movement from Production Sector to Consumption Sector
 - Does this affect equine production?
 - And if so, how?

What are equine *production systems*?

- Producing horses for the various sectors of equine activity
 - Sport (professional)
 - Sport (amateur)
 - Traction
 - Leisure
 - Education
 - Therapy
 - Food
 - Grazing and eco-systems services

Production systems



- Across all the activities, many aspects of production remain the same
 - Breeding
 - Nutrition
 - Welfare
 - Economics

Production



- Other aspects vary in detail by sector
 - Land use
 - Breed, size, etc
 - Nutrition
 - Transport
 - Welfare

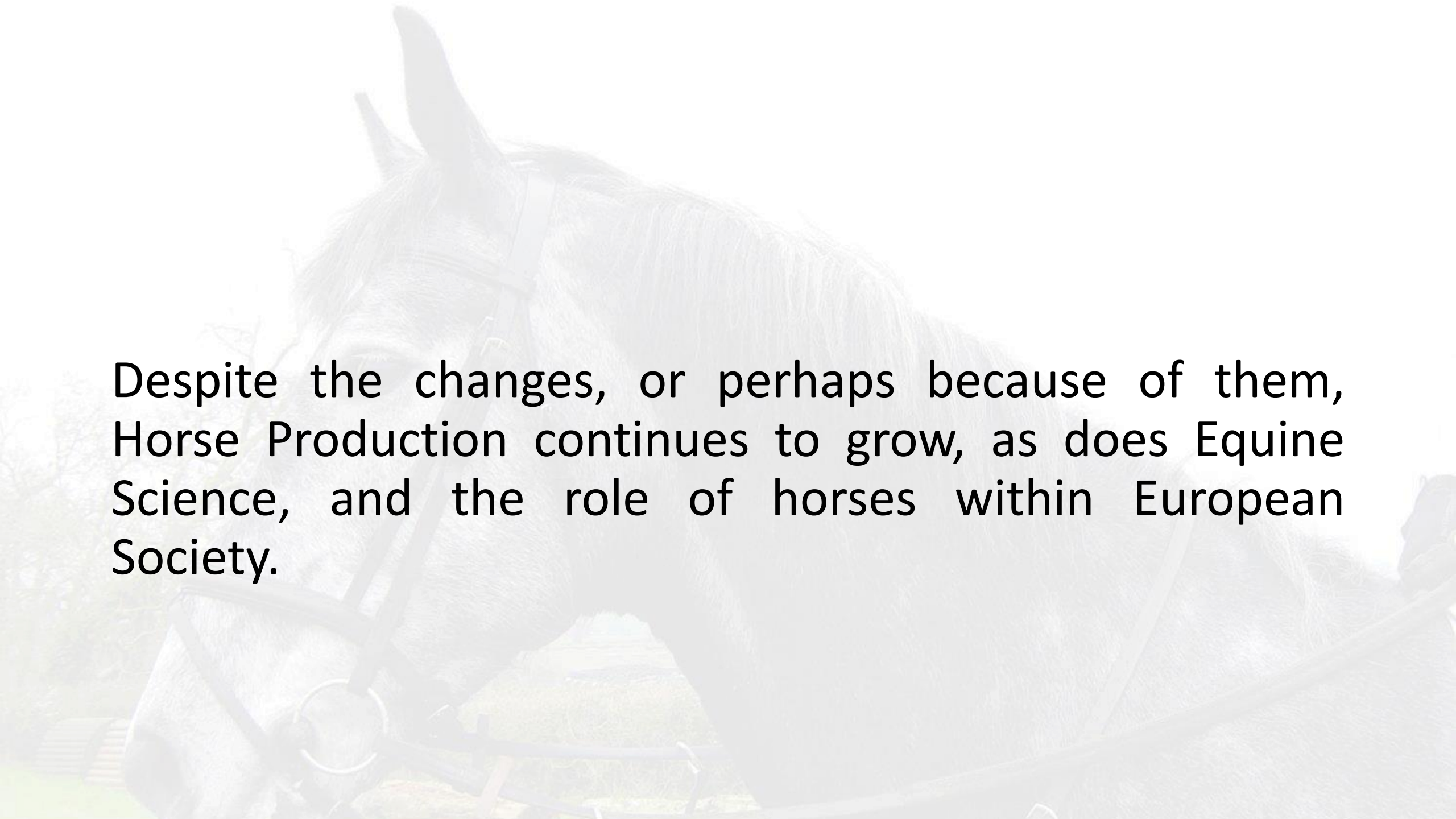


Does equine production include *training* and *horsemanship*?

- Production of equines of course, goes beyond breeding or nutrition
- What are the roles of
 - Ethology?
 - The Environment?
 - The Economy?
- All of these contribute significantly to the size and scope of the industry – Equine Production

The future?

- Numbers are growing
- Traditional activities and products continue to exist
- Breeders and Breed Societies are beginning to respond
- The public still values horses widely
- New uses (i.e. eco-grazing) are becoming more important



Despite the changes, or perhaps because of them, Horse Production continues to grow, as does Equine Science, and the role of horses within European Society.