

Extension Projects in Sudan and Gambia



Farriery training and Cart Modification

Introduction to Five Pointers for efficient management of equine drawing carts.

Farriery Training



- ◆ Selection on aptitude, experience and motivation.
- ◆ Assessment of conformation and gait.
- ◆ Proper handling and walking/trotting-up procedures.



Inspection of hoof wear
and foot fall.



Checking and rechecking
hoof levels.
“Outside arm and inside eye”

Correct use and maintenance of tools.

Use of foot stand recommended.

Skill required to use toeing knife effectively.

*Many cases of undiagnosed lameness resolved by correct trimming and balancing alone.



Cart Modifications



Design, construction and operation influence BALANCE.

Cart height to match animal between shafts.
Shafts should be sufficiently long but not heavy.



Axle position not nearer rear than from cart's front. Compare measurements, mid point to back and front respectively. Swingletree and swivel point provided.

Efficiency and Welfare

- ◆ Tests were conducted to quantify modifications.
- ◆ Physiological parameters of traction animals also recorded.
- ◆ Ramp trials compared modified with unmodified carts using complementary harness or 'normal' equipment.



Demonstrations and Trials - including humans.

Pushing and towing show importance of whole body weight : attachment from thoracic level provides poor traction.

Humans can demonstrate efficiency of different attachment methods.



The Five 'NEVERS'

Points for understanding
Efficient Draught Animal Traction



1) NEVER say 'PULL' Say 'PUSH'. A draught equine should push on its collar and the cart or wagon is drawn behind.



2) NEVER expect maximum performance when an animal is not able to move as freely and naturally as possible.



3) NEVER drive with unnecessary weight on the animal's back as efficiency and welfare are compromised.



4) NEVER operate with shafts sloping down to the front.
(Applies particularly to two wheel carts)



5) NEVER should the axle of a two-wheel cart be positioned towards the rear, i.e. Behind the cart's mid point.