



## **Trip Report**

<b>Project:</b> <b>Developing Institutions and Capacity for Sheep and Fiber Marketing in Central Asia.</b>
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**Traveler (s):**    **Robert Stobart, Kathleen Galvin, Liba Brent**\_\_\_

**Location (s):**    **Kazakhstan**\_\_\_\_\_                      **Dates of Travel:**    **October 3-10, 2004**

**Purpose of Trip:**    **Travel to Almaty Kazakhstan to participate in a joint Macauley-GL-CRSP meeting, this is to discuss DARCA project and the CRSP projects currently underway in Kazakhstan with potential donors and other government officials.**

### **Brief Summary:**

Trip Report Kazakhstan, October 3-10, 2004  
Kathleen Galvin, Bob Stobart, Liba Brent

Sunday, October 3, 2004 Travel to Kazakstan. Stobart departed from Cheyenne airport enroute to Denver International Airport, met up with Kathy Galvin in Denver and departed Denver enroute to Almaty. Arrive Monday, October 4, 11pm without Galvan's luggage. The week was spent in Almaty as the proposed meeting in Astana was cancelled.

Tuesday, October 5, 2004 Team members Kathy Galvin, Carol Kerven, Bob Stobart, Aidos Smailov met to discuss the CRSP presentations at the DARCA/GL-CRSP meetings scheduled for Friday, October 08. Dealt with OVIR security clearance for Kazakhstan. Stobart and Galvin coordinated their presentations.

Wednesday, October 6, 2004 Galvin's luggage arrived, worked on talk for Friday and met again with CRSP team to discuss project and our respective talks. Liba Brent arrived in Almaty, Stobart met with her to discuss presentations and also go over personnel and 2005 workplan.

Thursday, October 7, 2004 met with Kazak team members (Drs. Serik Aryngaiev, Nurlan Malmakov) and U.S. team members (Bob Stobart, Kathy Galvin, Carol Kerven, Liba Brent) and DARCA group to discuss talks, the upcoming meeting and logistics for the meeting. Reviewed presentations. Stobart organized a Saturday meeting with the CRSP team to discuss revisions needed for 2005 Workplan.

Friday, October 8, 2004 Meeting with Donors 9am to 4pm. Attached are the program/agenda and the list of participants.

Saturday, October 9, 2004 Meeting with GL-CRSP Team members on 2005 workplan.



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Sunday, October 10, 2004 departed Almaty enroute to Denver and Cheyenne at 4am.

The following are notes on the meeting.

Roy Behnke opened the meeting with Introductions (Photos taken by K. Galvin)



Translator (in white sweater) and others at the workshop.

Dr. Behnke spoke about why the group was assembled. Kazakhstan's livestock population declined in the 1990s. This resulted in a loss of wealth for people. Institutions and infrastructure were lost. However, there has been an increase in livestock populations since 2000. The DARCA project addressed environmental issues and environmental sustainability while the GL-CRSP project addresses livestock production and marketing and increased incomes.

Dr. Ilya Alimaev spoke of his involvement in the DARCA project. He validated data collected on the ground with the data collected via satellite. He showed data on soil characteristics, erosion patterns, and types of vegetation. With increasing distance from villages vegetation biomass increases. The result is that the carrying capacity of the rangelands and productivity of livestock increases as distance from villages' increases.

Dr. Behnke addressed the mobility of livestock by looking at the effect of changing land laws on mobility. In 1991 81% of land was in Soviet farms. By 2001 agricultural land had fallen to 40%. Data suggests that in some villages people send out livestock seasonally but other villages no longer move their livestock because the Soviet infrastructure has disappeared.



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However large flocks (>430 head) tend to be more mobile. People do move when they have the means to do so; these are the rich. Those with very few animals also move their animals, but with the use of hired labor. Those in the middle (with about 60 head) do not move and it is these folks who should be the focus of development.

Drs. Serik Aryngaziev and Carol Kerven spoke on mobility and livestock productivity. Data from DARCA showed that those livestock, which were kept around villages in the winter, lost much more weight than did those who moved outside of villages. Small flock owners have proportionally more goats than flock owners with larger numbers of animals. Goats have increased in this decade by about 3 million head.

Dr. Carol Kerven talked about flock size and profitability. Sixty-eight of sample households have small flocks, that is, less than 100 head. Data showed that income returns from flocks were higher in small households. Small flocks bring more value per head to their owners. This is because a high proportion of small flocks are sold which is bad for the viability of the herds. In addition, each animal is cared for carefully. The small livestock owners state that what they need is credit. They want to move but do not have the assets to do so. Goats have become important for small flock owners because they breed faster than sheep.

Drs. Stobart, Galvin, Kerven and Brent each presented results of the GL-CRSP project. All presentations are attached as separate files.

Mr. Maurizio Guadagni from the World Bank stated that the WB has two projects that can link to ours. There is an Agricultural Competitiveness project, some funds of which will be available for farmer associations and laboratory equipment for testing fiber quality. There is another project funded by the Government of Kazakhstan and WB for competitive grants.

Mr. Gabit Abdukarimov from the Ata Wool Buying Company talked about fiber processing. He stated that during Soviet times there were three large processing plants. Now there are private companies.

Mr. Akylbek Rakaev of the Kyrgyz Sheep and Goat Breeders Association told of the role of his institution in helping farmers.

The delegation from the Israeli Development Agency talked of training as an important part of their program. They want to introduce effective use of fodder based on the Israeli model of sedentary farms. They have invested in industrial production of camel milk products.

Other general and useful discussion followed. Below is a list of participants and workshop itinerary.

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Dave Besch and others at the workshop.

List of Participants:

Gabit Abdukarimov – Ata Wool Buying Company  
Serik Aryngaziev – Mynbaevo Institute of Sheep Breeding  
Roy Behnke – Macaulay Institute  
Dave Besch – US AID Mission for Central Asia  
Liba Brent – University of Wisconsin  
Daulet Chunkunov – Winrock International  
Joe Dale – Winrock International  
Katherine Engleham – British Embassy  
Kathleen Galvin – Colorado State University  
Carol Kerven – Macaulay Institute  
Emanuel Libin – Israeli Development Agency, MASHAV  
Nurlan Malmakov – Mynbaevo Institute of Sheep Breeding  
Akylbek K. Rakaev – Kyrgyz Sheep and Goat Breeders Association  
Aidos Smailov – Independent translator and interpreter  
Bob Stobart – University of Wyoming  
Ada Terechshenko – Embassy of Canada  
Maurizio Duadagni – World Bank



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**FINAL PROGRAMME Macaulay DARCA and GL CRSP**  
**Meeting with donors Friday 8 October 2004**  
**Ala Tau Sanatorium, Almaty**

**IMPROVING LIVESTOCK AND PASTURE MANAGEMENT  
AND DEVELOPING WOOL AND FIBER MARKETS**

**Start: 9 a.m. Welcome and introduction**

Dr. Roy Behnke, Coordinator of project “Desertification and Regeneration: Impacts of Market Reforms on Central Asian rangelands” (DARCA). Macaulay Institute, Scotland, UK

***Environmental degradation and livestock productivity***

**9.30 *Land degradation impacts of current pasture management***

Prof. Ilya Alimaev, Dept. of Pasture and Fodder, Kazak Scientific Institute of Livestock and Veterinary Research

**9.50 *How mobile are Kazakstan’s flocks?***

Dr. Roy Behnke, Macaulay Institute, UK

**10.10 *The impact of mobility on livestock productivity***

Prof. Serik Aryngaziev, Deputy Director, Mynbaevo Institute of Sheep Breeding, Kazak Scientific Institute of Livestock and Veterinary Research  
Dr. Carol Kerven, Macaulay Institute, UK

**10.30 *Does livestock mobility pay?***

Dr. Carol Kerven, Macaulay Institute, UK

**10.50** Coffee break and video film “Kazak pastoralists and scientists discuss problems of and solutions to pasture management”. DARCA

**Production and marketing of wool and other animal fibers**

**11.30 *Introduction to GL CRSP project “Developing institutions and capacity for sheep and fiber marketing in Central Asia”.***

Prof. Robert Stobart, University of Wyoming, USA

**11.50 *Marketing of animal fibres from dry areas of southern Kazakstan***

Prof. Kathleen Galvin, Colorado State University, USA

**12.10 *Developing cashmere to increase pastoral incomes***



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Dr. Carol Kerven, Macaulay Institute, UK

and Prof. Serik Aryngaziev, Deputy Director, Mynbaevo Institute of Sheep Breeding, Kazak Scientific Institute of Livestock and Veterinary Research

**Note: all times include translation and questions after presentations**

**12.30** Lunch break and video film:

*“From Goat to Sweater: Cashmere training and information for Kazak farmers”* GL CRSP/British Embassy Almaty

**2:00** *Developing wool markets in Kazakstan*

Dr. Liba Brent, University of Wisconsin, USA

**2.20** *Wool marketing potential in Kazakstan*

*Gabit Abdugarimov, Ata Wool Buying Company, Almaty*

**2.40** *The Kyrgyz Sheep and Goat Breeders Association*

Akylbek Rakaev, Director

**3.00** *Livestock development projects in Central Asia*

*Dr. Emanuel Libin, Israeli Development Agency, MASHAV, Almaty*

**3.20** *Questions and discussion*

**4.00** *Tea break and conclusion of meeting*

The World Bank, USAID and the British Embassy were represented by senior people. Absentees were the EU (Brian Toll, Head of Technical Cooperation, was out of town) and UNDP and GTZ (both of whom said they were coming but did not show up on the day). The Asian Development Bank is located in Astana and could not attend.

A revised agenda (in English and Russian) was distributed on the day of the meeting, but basically the format of the meeting was unchanged from the draft agenda that was circulated to all of you: Each speaker had 20 minutes, including questions and translation. The biggest changes from the draft program were Tag's absence from the opening speech and the addition of Dr. Liba Brent, CRSP/University of Wisconsin, speaking on wool marketing. There were 4 DARCA and 5 CRSP Presentations. One CRSP video (on Cashmere) and one DARCA video (on circum-village pasture degradation) were shown. At the end of the meeting we had presentations from three of our guests: MASHAV, Ata Wool Buying Co. and the Kyrgyz Sheep Breeders Association.



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The British Deputy Ambassador specifically asked for five minutes to address the meeting and used this time to praise Macaulay's and Carol's work with the Sheep Breeding Institute on cashmere, which (of course) the Embassy was funding. They seem exceptionally pleased with this effort and are an enthusiastic supporter, though they are not in a position to provide large sums of money. Maurizio Guadagni of the World Bank spoke about a new World Bank agricultural competitiveness project to support improved access to markets and agricultural technology. The project includes a grant scheme totaling \$30 million that provides grants of up to \$50,000 per grant for farmers associations, extension activities and quality testing of agricultural commodities. He suggested that we might be interested in applying for support for some of our ideas, he also mentioned that this project had not included wool and fibers but will now do so after hearing our presentations. He offered encouragement for some of our activities to seek funding under the new World Bank Agricultural Competiveness Project, for categories including "market oriented infrastructure", "applied research", "extension/demonstration" and "laboratories for testing and standards of agricultural products". Size of grants will range from \$20,000 to \$100,000 in the latter case with international research collaborators.

From Dave Besch, there is interest in developing farmer training on cashmere and wool, in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan where USAID already supports several projects on agriculture, including market development. In Kazakstan, USAID's agricultural activities are mainly through the Winrock Farmer-to-Farmer program. Dave was a bit uncertain how CRSPs contribute to USAID development activities, but talked about how practical research can be fed into development projects.