

O B I T U A R Y

NILS GUSTAF ÅHMAN
19.9.1925 – 12.06.2005

Gustaf Åhman, the late professor in reindeer husbandry at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, passed away on the 12th of June 2005, at an age of nearly 80 years. He was born on the 19th of September 1925 and grew up on a farm in Innervik, Skellefteå, in the county of Västerbotten.

He worked at his parents' farm for a few years, became trained as a warrant officer in the army and then got his high school degree at the Vilan special high school for students aiming at higher studies in agriculture and forestry. In 1951 he started his studies at the Royal Agricultural College in Uppsala, where he graduated with a MSc in animal science in 1956.



Gustaf continued working with research at the Royal Agricultural College (later a part of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences) He specialized in animal feeding and got a licentiat degree in 1962. In 1971, after working for some years with fur animals, he got the newly established position as professor in Reindeer Husbandry, which he was persuaded to apply. The position was intended as help for the reindeer husbandry with solving important applied problems in the industry. He had no previous experiences of reindeer husbandry but became immediately trapped by his new commission. He kept his position until he retired in 1990. During this period he had extensive collaborations with the reindeer industry.

As researcher Gustaf Åhman became active particularly within four fields; the development of supplementary feeds for reindeer for use at critical grazing conditions, consequences of silvicultural practices on reindeer grazing resources, the effects of predators on reindeer production, and, from 1986, the consequences on the industry of radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl accident.

Gustaf was early involved in Nordic cooperation within reindeer research and was one of the driving forces behind the establishment of NOR in 1980. Over many years (1980-1992) he was a delegate of NOR and part of this time also a member of its working committee. Together with NOR's former secretary, Sven Skjenneberg, he was the main organiser of the first NOR conference in Hemavan, Sweden, in 1981 and also one of the organisers of the 5th International Reindeer/Caribou Conference in Arvidsjaur, Sweden, in 1988.

Öje Danell

Mauri Nieminen

