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For about 3500 years there have been Kempen heathsheep in parts of Belgium and the Netherlands. They supplied their shepherds with meat, wool and manure. We know from documents that around 1200 some 30.000 Kempen sheep were held in our region. Living on the profit made by selling meat and milk, wool and most importantly, manure, shepherds were an important economical link in a bigger chain of smallscale multipurpose agriculture. By using, what we call now an in and outfield situation, heathlands got less nutritious, and the fields surrounding the farm became fertile. In a modern fast society there is no room for an agro culture witch moves slow. Around 1940 Kempen sheep almost disappeared due to the inviting of artificial fertilizer and barbwire and there was also a new, modern breed, the Texel breed. Some Kempen sheep survived mostly in small flocks. In 1960 the effort was made to increase Kempen sheep and save the old Dutch breed from disappearing completely. Now about 4000 Kempen sheep once again are grazing Dutch cultural grounds and shepherds are being paid for the ecological result of their grazing, and for their positive effect on biodiversity. I am a shepherd. I have a flock of some 500 Kempen heath sheep ewes. Every year we produce 600 lamb. We use the ewes as an instrument for maintaining heathland, in a semi-nomadic system. 8 months of a year we are paid for our work on the heath fields where our forefathers worked with their animals. Heavily subsidised by the government we lived like this the past 10 years. Now due to economic pressure our government is cutting funds and more and more we rely to selling lamb products and tourist activity. For the first time in 15 years we chose to crossbreed with a more meat typical father animal. 200 Kempen ewes with 10 Flemish land bucks (ram). 200 Kempen sheep ewes in my flock are still purebred. With the crossbreed we aim for more kilograms, using purebred mothers for their excellent terrain capacity and hardness. We try to make a combination, an old profession in a modern frame.