Safeguard for Agricultural Varieties in Europe
Sicherung der landwirtschaftlichen Artenvielfalt in Europa
SAUVEGARDE POUR L'AGRICULTURE DES VARIETÉS D'EUROPE

SAVE Focus 2005

Special Edition Balkan

TRANSBOUNDARY OCCURRING BREEDS AND BREED GROUPS OF THE BALKAN

Version 1.2

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INTRODUCTION

The Balkan Peninsula is covered with the marks of different ethnic groups who have, over the centuries, spent time in the area. This is reflected in the richness of the many physical and geographical attributes - also in the many different breeds.
Some of the various breeds of the Balkans transboundary occur in several countries. The SAVE "Focus Special Edition Balkan" describes the crossborder occurring rare breeds and breed groups.

According to the SAVE-Monitoring project: "Balkans Network" the area of action is demarcated as follows in alphabetic order: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYR FYR Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro. Greece and the European part of Turkey is also included in this investigation (*Romania will be investigated by the project "Conservation of Agro-Biodiversity in the Carpathians").*

Often no breeding data exists. Therefore, it is listed in which country the breeds or varieties occur and - where possible - (estimated) population data are given.

The information and data are from different sources: A questionnaire sent to all known stakeholders in the different countries brought very little results. Sources like country reports, the DAD-IS database of FAO and various informative literature and Internet brought the following results.

We hope this work will initiate a lot of correspondence, discussion and concrete monitoring, identification and conservation work. Please do not hesitate to give us your comments, suggestions and opinions.

SAVE - Monitoring Institute Waltraud Kugler, winter 2005

Completed version 1.2, August 2006

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SHEEP

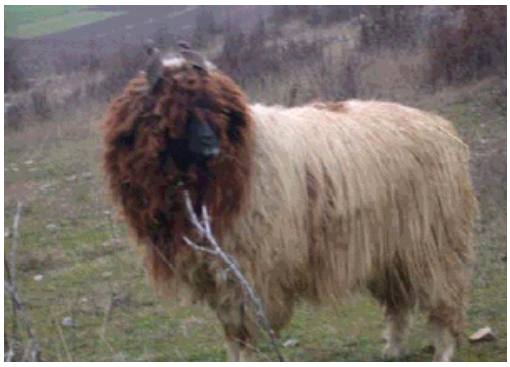
The breeding group of Pramenka sheep and of Tsigai sheep are representative of most of the autochthonous sheep varieties. These groups will be listed and described in the following chapter

Pramenka

Pramenks sheep in Croatia; source: Grunenfelder

The coarse, open fleece of Pramenka sheep hangs in locks, often with a parting running along the middle of the back. Pramen means "lock" in some of the Balkan languages. So the Zackel type sheep of the Balkans got the name "Pramenka". Usually they are frugal and hardy animals, well adapted to their life outside all the year without any supplementary feed. Pramenka are late maturing and complete their body development usually not under an age of 4 or 5 years.
There are about 20 breeds recognised. During the wars a number of flocks of the improved and local Pramenka sheep have been lost in some Balkan countries. Herdbooks or another kind of census didn't run in most of the involved countries up to now. The following breeds are identified. Sources are a questionnaire to the responsible people, the DAD-IS FAO database and several sources of literature (e.g. country reports, FAO studies)

BALUSHA / BALJUSHA



Balusha sheep, Kosovo; source: Mehmeti; Bytyqui

The Balusha sheep occurs in the Dukagjini plane in southwest Kosovo and in southwest Serbia. The name originates from the word (in Albanian language)“Bale-Spot”. The Balusha sheep is bred as triple purpose (milk-meat-wool), with special accent for milk production. The Balusha sheep has a black head, while the color of the fleece and the legs is white. The males are horned and the females are polled, usually. This strain has advantages of natural grazing abilities and easily milked.

Breed occurence

Kosovo - UNMIK

long lactation length, the average production ranges from 200-250 kg per lactation; body weight of mature sheep averages of 40-5kg.From total number of sheep bred in Kosovo, this strain is represented with about 5%..
Stock: 2005: 5120 animals status: stable

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Serbia & Montenegro

One of the biggest zackel sheep: Weight rams: 65kg; weight ewes: 55kg
Stock: 2003: 1000, status: decreasing; Risk status: endangered.
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BARDOKA / BARDHOKA

The Bardhoka sheep is a triple purpose sheep, milk-meat-wool. However, through natural and selective breeding this sheep became one of the most yielding strains of Pramenka breed. The average ewe lactation is over 200 kg milk per 270 days of lactation length, with about 6.0 % fat content. Its body weight is considered to be medium, female's individual averages 40 and male's 50 kg, respectively. The height at wither is 64.cm. The lamming is low, about 120%. The average body weight of the lambs at birth is 2.5 - 3 kg, and at weaning (after three months, approximately) they reach the live body weight of 20-22 kg. The grease fleece weight for females and males averages 2-2.5 kg and 2.5 – 3.5 kg, respectively. The males are horned and the females are polled, usually. Bardhoka sheep is well suited to a grazing production system, calm, easily milked and easy to work with.

Breed occurence

Albania

Stock: 2004: about 30.000
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Kosovo - UNMIK

The Bardhoka sheep, a strain of the Pramenka breed, since centuries in the southwest of Kosovo, in Prizreni, Gjakova, Peja, Istogu and Klina municipalities. The name originates from (Albanian language) "Bardhe = white", as the colour of the sheep is completely white.
Stock: 2005: 12.400 animals (18% of the total no of sheep in Kosovo);
status: stable

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Serbia & Montenegro

Stock: 1999: 290, 6 rams, 284 ewes. In-situ conservation programme 2003
Contact: DVM Srdjan Stojanovic
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BELA KRAIJNA PRAMENKA

The Bela Krajina Pramenka is an autochthonous sheep breed which was once bred on both banks of the river Kolpa, mainly in the rolling hills of the Karst regions of Bela Kraijna. The farming conditions are poor here and for this reason the sheep are quite small.
Description: Weight rams: 65-70 kg; ewes: 50 kg. Colour: white flece. Thin bones.

Breed occurence

Slovenia

Stock: 2004: about 250 animals; conservation programme running
Contact: M.Sci. Drago Kompan
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source: http://www.bfro.uni-lj.si; *D. Kompan*

DUBSKA / DUBSKA-VLASICKA OVCA / VLASKO VITOROGA

From the village Dub near Travnik. Dubska is the most useful varietiy of the Bosnian Mountain Pramenka (Bosansko-Hercegovacka) in the mountainous areas of central and western Bosnia and Herzegovina, mainly at mountain Vlasic. Also in Serbia Dubska sheep is occuring. Dubska sheep is adapted to high mountains, to harsh climatic conditions and poor pastures.
Description: Weight: rams about 60 kg, ewes about 30-40 kg; Fleece usually white; head and legs with black spots. Use: milk production for special cheese sold at local markets.

Breed occurence

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Stock: 1991: about 140.000; stock today is unknown
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Serbia & Montenegro

Stock: 2004. About 50 animals, only in community Vrsac at 2-3 breeders;
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ISTARSKA PRAMENKA / ISTARSKA MLJECNA / PRIMORSKA / ISTRIAN MILK SHEEP / ISTRIJANKA / KRASKA OVCA / KARST SHEEP / ISTRIAN PRAMENKA /PRIMORSKA

Along the Peninsula Istria, the Mediterranean type of Pramenka occurs. In the region of Karst and Istria sheep breeders have traditionally bred domestic, autochthonous sheep which they called Istrianka, Karst Sheep, Primorska sheep and even a Rough Wool Sheep.
Description: The Istrian Pramenka is of quite a large frame, owing to the highly placed torso and long strong legs. Its udders are well-shaped, fastened high, with large teats. Its slim head, with the nose's crest and jutting out ears, is placed on a long neck. Thus, the sheep

can use their slim snout to find even the best hidden blades of grass in between the rocks and boulders of Karst. Colour: multicoloured, white, brown or black; convex profile of the head, rather long tail, all animals are polled; Heat resistance, tolerate of shortage of water supply; Head, legs, and usually belly, are bare; Height: rams: 65-70cm, ewes: 60 cm Weight: rams: 55-68kg, ewes: 35-50kg

Breed occurence

Croatia

Stock: 2004:1500 animals in herdbook
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Slovenia

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Source: http://www.istrianet.org D. Kompan

KARAKACHAN / KARAKACHANSKA/ KUKOVLASKA / KARAVLASKA / CRNA VLASKA / SARAKATSAN / SARAKATSANIKO

The Karakachan sheep is, besides the Karakachen dog and horse, a result of the most primitive type of livestock breeding - nomad livestock breeding. The Karakachans are nomadic people of livestock breeders, who are considered by most of the historians, as descendants of the ancient Thracian livestock breeding communities or Greek tribes. It is considered that thanks to their extremely conservative livestock breeding traditions, Karakachan people have saved primitive and pure domesticated forms of animals - a sheep type “tzakel”, a mountain horse and a livestock guarding dog.
Karakachan sheep are active, hardy migratory sheep traditionally spending the summer on high mountains and the winter on lowland pastures. Occuring in several countries of the Balkan peninsula.
Description: Colour: black to dark brown, sometimes with coloured spots on face and legs, also white varieties are occuring; Horns: rams carry usually heavy spiral or semi-circular horns. Ewes are usually polled. The tail is short. Height: ram: 60-65cm, ewe: 55-60cm; Weight: ram: 35-45kg, ewe: 25-35kg.

Breed occurence

Bulgaria

Stock: 2004: about 300 animals
Contact: Sider Sedefchev
Semperviva Society
kv. Tvardi Livadi, bl. 51, ap. 90
BG-2300 Pernik

Bulgarian Karakachan sheep (source: Sedefchev)

FYR Macedonia

Stock: 2005: less than 1000; a flock of 10 rams and 60 ewes is ex-situ conserved; replacement of rams is foreseen.

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FYR Macedonia

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Serbia & Montenegro

Stock: about 40 animals; no conservation programme yet

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Greece

Stock: less than 1000 animals
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Greek Sarakatsan sheep (source: D. Dervisis)

KOSOVO / KOSOVSKA

The Sharri sheep occurs around Sharri mountains in western Kosovo. About 60% of the total sheep population in Kosovo are crosses of Sharri X Merino (Würtemberger).
Description: The Kosovo sheep is characterised with its triple milk-meat-wool, purpose. The tail is long, the colour of the head and the legs is black, while the fleece is of white colour. They can also be with black, grey spotted face. Usually the males are horned and the females polled. Lactation: 180 days, approximately, yield about 100 kg per lactation. The body weight of mature sheep: 37 - 50 kg.
This strain has advantages of natural hardiness and grazing abilities.

Breed occurence

Kosovo - UNMIK

Stock: 20400; about 20% of all sheep; no conservation programme yet; status: stable
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KRIVOVIRSKI SOJ PRAMENKE / KRIVOVIR

This short tail sheep occurs in Eastern Serbia, in the area of Crnorecki basin, partly in the valley of Morava river, Sokobanja and Zajecar basin.
Description: Weight: rams about 55 kg, ewes about 40 kg; wither height rams: 65 cm, wither height ewes: 60 cm. Uncoloured white; Head covered by a crown of that looks like a top-not on the forehead. Other parts of the head and legs to the knees covered with short yellow or yellow sprinkled coloured fleece. Males are horned.

Breed occurence

Serbia & Montenegro

Stock: about 330 animals; 30 rams; 300 ewes; population is decreasing, no conservation programme yet, status: endangered
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KUPRESKA OVCA

Belongs also to the Bosnian Mountain Pramenka Sheep (Bosansko-Hercegovacka). Occuring on the Kupres Highlands and the polja of Duvno, Livno and Glamoc
Description: Weight: rams about 52 kg, ewes about 48 kg; wither height rams: 63 cm. Off-white colour; erect ears, males horned. This variety is a little bigger than other Pramenkas in BiH. Use: very good milk production, meat and wool is also used.

Breed occurence

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Stock: unknown
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Serbia & Montenegro

Stock: unknown
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LIPSKA / LIPE

North Serbia, lower Morava valley (village Lipe); a milk variety of Pramenka.
Description: Colour: white with black head and dark legs. Occasionally all black, head small with a convex profile, horns large and spiral, ewes usually polled; tail long; Weight: rams: 65 kg; ewes; 50 kg; Height: rams 70 cm; ewes: 65 cm; use: milk (made into Lipe cheese), meat.

Breed occurence

Serbia & Montenegro

Stock: 2005: ca. 200 animals; status: at risk, In-Situ-conservation programme running
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LICKA / GORSKI KOTAR / GATACKA / GACKA

From Lika province of Croatia, typical of the harsh limestone Karst, includes the Lika and Gacka valleys.
Description: one of the smallest Pramenkas; Colour: white with white, black, brown or part-coloured head. Sometimes black or brown; rams are usually horned, ewes polled. Height: ram: 58 cm; ewe: 55 cm; weight: ram: 30-40 kg; ewe: 25 kg; use: milk and meat (especially lamb is very aromatic).

Breed occurence

Serbia & Montenegro

Stock: unknown
Contact: DVM Srdjan Stojanovic
Ministry of Agriculture & Water Management
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11000 Belgrade
Serbia
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Croatia

Stock: 1998: 48500
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E-mail: ante.ivankovic@agr.hr

PIROTSKA / PIROT

Occuring in central and southern Yugoslavia. It is one of the smallest Pramenka sheep varieties.
Description: Colour: white, black or grey with black spots on their face and legs. Males and females may be either polled or horned. Adult males weigh on average 60 kg and females 45 kg with an average wither height of 65 cm and 60 cm respectively. Wool: coarse/carpet type.

Breed occurence

Serbia & Montenegro

Stock: 1999: less than 100 animals
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Pirotska ewe, Serbia; source: Stojanovic

PIVSKA / JEZERO-PIVSKA / PIVA / DURMITORSKA

Is the most important strain of Pramenka in Montenegro today. The animals are adapted to cold mountain conditions. It is named after the Piva mountains in the north of Montenegro and southern Herzegovina.
Description: Colour: White with spotted head and legs occasionally black or grey. Head with top-knot usually horned. Height: rams: 65cm; ewes: 60cm Weight: rams: 60kg, ewes: 45kg

Breed occurence

Montenegro

Stock: 2005: about 4580, rams: 80, ewes: 3000, young animals: 1500, about 25 breeders
Remarks: two flocks of about 400 heads are in a monitoring programme for on-farm conservation with governmental subsidies.
Performance: milk yield: up to 100kg; fertility: 120%
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Bosnia & Herzegovina

Stock: unknown
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PRIVOR / PRIVORSKA OVCA / PRIJEVORSKA / PRAMENKA

Occuring around town Gornji Vakuf, and mountain Vranica.
Description: Weight: rams about 52 kg, ewes about 40 kg; wither height rams: 71 cm; ewes: 66 cm. Off- white; erect ears, males horned. Use: Privorska sheep is considered the best type of Pramenka by the production of milk. Meat and wool is also used. This variety has been used for improving Licka sheep, as well as Kupreska type of Pramenka.

Breed occurence

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Stock: unknown
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PODVELESKA OVCE

Originally found in the South Eastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina where pasture is very pure.
Description: White except the hair on head and legs, which is black. Pure black sheep occur. Smaller than other types of Pramenka, erect ears. This type is smaller than the other Pramenka types: weight rams: 46 kg; weight ewes: 44 kg.

Breed occurence

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Stock: unknown
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SJENICKA OVCA / SJENICA / PESTERSKO-SJENICKA / VASOJEVIC / VASOJEVICKA (smaller type)

This Pramenka variety was traditionally kept in the eastern part of the country as a multi-purpose breed. Named after the village of Sjenica on the Pester plateau of western Serbia. It was bred in a wide area including parts of eastern Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro. Sjenica also was used to improve other local coarse wool Pramenkas.
Description: One of the largest Pamenka types, but rather leggy. Colour: white, usually with dark spots around eyes and nostrils, on ear tips and legs.
Weight: rams: 60 kg; ewes: 45 kg; Height: rams: 65 cm; ewes: 60 cm. Horns: medium-long, spiral (5% are polled) at rams; ewes occasionally small horns; Tail long, hangs below hocks.

Breed occurence

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Stock: unknown
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Serbia

Stock: unknown
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Montenegro

Stock: unknown
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81000 Podgorica
Montenegro
E-mail: bmarkovic@cg.yu

STOLACKA OVCA

Also a variety of the Bosnian Mountain Pramenka (Bosansko-Hercegovacka). Like Podveleska ovce found in the south eastern part of the country where pasture is very pur (Stolac, Ljubuski).
Description: White except the hair on head and legs, which is black. Pure black sheep occur. Smallest type of Pramenka, erect ears, weight rams: 46 kg; weight ewes: 25 kg (in: Autohtone Pasmine Domach Zivotinja u Bosni i Hercegovini, 2004)

Breed occurence

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Stock: unknown
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Serbia

Stock: unknown
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SVRLJISKA / SVRLJIG GULIJAN/ GULIJANSKA

Named after the village of Svrljig, eastern Serbia beyond Nis and also occurring in the Gulijanska mountains.
Description: Colour: yellowish-white, occasionally black or grey with black spots on the face and legs. Males and females may be either polled or have close spiral horns. Their head is naked with some wool on the forehead; long tail; Adult males weigh on average 60 kg and females 45 kg with an average wither height of 65 cm and 60 cm respectively. Wool: coarse/carpet type wool. Fleece weight and wool fineness have been improved by crossing with Corriedale since 1949.

Breed occurence

Serbia

Stock: 1999: 131 animals; 2005: unknown
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ZETSKA ZUJA / PODGORICA / SCUTARI / SHKODRA / DELJA SHKODRANE

Pramenka of the Zeta-Bjelopavlic valley.
Description: It is one of the smallest Pramenkas and identical to the Scutari breed of Albania (Mason 1967) Colour: White with yellow or yellowish-brown head and legs. Horns usually absent; weight: rams: 35 kg; ewes 25 kg; height: rams: 60 cm, ewes: 55cm.

Breed occurence

Montenegro

Stock: 2005: about 188, rams: 8, ewes: 130, young animals: 50, about 3 breeders
Remarks: two flocks of about 400 heads are in a monitoring programme for on-farm conservation with governmental subsidies.
Performance: milk yield: up to 100kg; fertility: 120%
Contact: Dr. Bozidarka Markovic
Biotechnical Institute,
Dept. of animal science
Trg Kralja Nikole bb
81000 Podgorica
Montenegro
E-mail: bmarkovic@cg.yu

Zetska Zuja sheep, Montenegro source: Grunenfelder

Albania

Stock: 2004: purebreed 269 animals
A nucleus herd is kept at a small ruminants breeding station located in Korça district.
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Tsigai / Cigaja

Tsigai sheep are typical of the Pannonian plain of Romania, some Balkan countries and Hungary. It is also bred in Bulgaria and southern Russia. Already in c. 800 BC it originated from Asia Minor and was imported from Romania to the Balkan peninsula in the 18th century It is the main breed of the fertile lowlands of the north-eastern of the Balkan peninsula: Slavonia and Baranija, Syrmia (Srem) and Vojvodina, also Bosnia and Sumadija.

'Staroplaninski Tsigai', Troyan; Photo by J. Frame

Tsigai sheep, of which there are two varieties (Cokanski and Pvinicki) are found in Vojvodia, northern Serbia. The animals are white with black head and legs and have semi- or lop ears. Adult males weigh on average 85 kg and females 60 kg with an average wither height of 75 cm and 67 cm respectively. These sheep have coarse/carpet type wool. Males and females may be either polled or horned.

COKAN TSIGAI / COKANSKI / CHOCKEN

Description: Colour: unicolour white with a black head; large lop ears; legs: covered with black and brown shags; Weight: rams: 85kg; ewes: 55kg; Height rams: 75cm; ewes: 67cm;

Breed occurence

Serbia

Stock: 2005: 550 animals; breeding rams: 30; breeding ewes: 500; in-situ conservation programme running
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Serbia**E-mail:** agrvet@hotmail.com

Croatia

Stock: 2004: 336 animals in herdbook
Contact: Dr. Ino Curik
Faculty of Agriculture, Univ. Zagreb
Animal Science Departement
Svetosimunska 25
HR-10000 Zagreb
E-mail: icurik@agr.hr

Albania

Stock: purbred unknown; improved: about 30.000
Contact: Prof.Dr. Kristaq Kume
Assoc. ALBAGENE
Rr. "Abdyl Frasheri" Pall. 3/3 sh. 1, Ap. 5
AL- Tirana
E-mail: kkume@icc-al.org

KARNOBAT / KARNOBATSKA / THRAKI / KIVIRCIK

The *Karnobatska* sheep breed is a local strain of the Red-Brown sheep that has been bred in Eastern Bulgaria for ages. It is supposed that this breed's origins have much in common with those of the Tsigai sheep and sheep breeds of Asia Minor. It occurs in Greece under the name Thraki sheep and in Turkey as Kivircik sheep.
Description: small and compact body, Rams have heavy, whorled horns, while ewes are polled. Their fleece is mostly red and brown and very rarely pale. Height: 50-55 cm; weight: rams: 38-40 kg; ewes: 31kg.

Breed occurence

Bulgaria

Stock: 2004: 200 animals;
Contact: NCA
Prof.Dr. Kostadin Zhelev
EASRAB (animal breeding agency)
26 Bistrishko shose
BG- Sofia
Bulgaria
E-mail: sdkrdj@mb.bia-bg.com

Greece

Stock: about 120 animals
Contact: phD stud. Msc. Dimitrios Dervisis
Meteoron 42 Z
GR- 57013 Oreokastro, Thessaloniki
Greece
E-mail: ddervisi2000@yahoo.com

Turkey

Stock: about 100 animals
Contact: Prof.Dr. M. Ihsan Soysal
Trakya University
Tekirdag Faculty of Agriculture
TR-59100 Tekirdag
Turkey
E-mail: misoysal@ttnet.net.tr

provided by Prof. Dr. M. Ihsan SOYSAL and Research Asst. Emel ÖZKAN

COPPER-RED SHOUMEN / MEDNO-CHERVENA OVSTA

The **Copper-Red Shoumen** breed is distributed mainly in northeastern Bulgaria in regions with moderate continental climate conditions from 0 to 800 m above sea level.
Derscription: Colour: rusty-red fleece, also black individuals occuring; Rams have twisted horns, ewes are polled; legs are free of wool; Medium to large animals with a compact body; Weight: 43-45kg; Height: 59cm

Breed occurence

Bulgaria

Stock: 2004: about 800 animals; subsided by government;
Contact: NCA
Prof.Dr. Kostadin Zhelev
EASRAB (animal breeding agency)
26 Bistrishko shose
BG- Sofia
Bulgaria
E-mail: sdkrdj@mb.bia-bg.com

CATTLE

Two kinds of cattle are of interest in the context to rare breeds of the Balkans: The brachyceros type of cattle, a kind of shorthorn cattle, and the Grey Steppe, descending from Bos primigenius.

BUSHA CATTLE / ILLYRIAN CATTLE / BRACHYCEROS / RHODOPI / RODOPY SHORTHORN

Busha cattle is of brachyceros type. It is an autochthonous cattle of the Balkan Peninsula. According to some sources, it has existed here since Neolithic times. Sometimes it is also called Illyrian cattle. Busha is a small native breed with numerous strains found throughout Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia and FYR Macedonia. In 1984, it represented about 20% of the cattle population of Yugoslavia. The average cow stands 104 cm at the withers and weighs between 230 and 270 kg, while the average bull measures 115 cm at the withers and weighs between 340 and 430 kg. Colour varies according to the regional strain. Busha from the Metohija region, for example, are red, while the FYR Macedonian strain is blue-grey.

Busha cattle, Montenegro; source Grunenfelder

Breed occurence

Albania

Stock: purebred unknown
Contact: Prof.Dr. Kristaq Kume
Assoc. ALBAGENE
Rr. "Abdyl Frasheri" Pall. 3/3 sh. 1, Ap. 5
AL- Tirana
E-mail: kkume@icc-al.org

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Stock: unknown
Contact: Dr. Salko Muratovic
Faculty of Agriculture
Livestock Sector
Put zivota bb
BH-71000 Sarajevo
E-mail: mlulo@utic.net.ba ; msalko@bih.net.ba
Remarks: Besides the Busa cattle, that occurs in blue or brown colour in Bosnia & Herzegovina. During the war, a large population of Busa cattle was destroyed. Today there is no clear information of any larger population of pure bred Busa in the country.

Bulgaria

Stock: 134 cows
ABIB, Assoc. for Breeding Indigenous Breeds
8 Ekzarh Josef str. Plovdiv dstrct
BG-4300 Karlovo
E-mail: abib@abibbg.com

Greece

Stock: 2005: about 1200 animals
Contact: Prof.Dr. Andreas Georgoudis
Aristotle University
Dep. of Animal Production
GR-540 06 Thessaloniki
E-mail: andgeorg@agro.auth.gr

KEA

A red brachyceros cattle; It seems to be lost. Probably some relict animals can be found for a re-creation as "New Kea Breed"
Stock: 2005: unknown
Contact: Prof.Dr. Andreas Georgoudis
Aristotle University
Dep. of Animal Production
GR-540 06 Thessaloniki
E-mail: andgeorg@agro.auth.gr

Montenegro

Stock: 2005: 5 bulls; about 60 cows, 15 young animals; 7 breeders
Remarks: Under favourable conditions, the breed easily achieves bigger body weight and much better production.
Performance: Fertility: 10%; Yield of milk: max. 1500kg;
Contact: Dr. Bozidarka Markovic
Biotechnical Institute,
Dept. of animal science
Trg Kralja Nikole bb
81000 Podgorica
Montenegro
E-mail: bmarkovic@cg.yu

Serbia

Stock: 2003 officially estimated 1000 animals;
Contact: DVM Srdjan Stojanovic
Ministry of Agric. & Water Management
Dep. for Genetic Resources and GMO
Nemanjina 22-26
11000 Belgrade
Serbia
E-mail: agrvet@hotmail.com

UN entity Kosovo

Stock: unknown
Contact: Dr. Nuridin Mestani
HPI - Kosova
Agim Ramadani Street A-2/10
Pristina / UN-entity Kosovo
E-mail: nmestani@yahoo.com

GATACKO CATTLE

Besides the pure Busa cattle a crossing between Tyrol and Busa exists since the end of the 19th century. It is bigger than Busa, grey, with an average wither height of 112cm-115cm, weight: 300-350kg up to max. 500kg.

Breed occurence

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Stock: 2005: unknown
Contact: Dr. Salko Muratovic
Faculty of Agriculture, Livestock Sector
Put zivota bb
BH-71000 Sarajevo
E-mail: mlulo@utic.net.ba ; msalko@bih.net.ba

Montenegro

Stock: 2005: unknown
Contact: Dr. Bozidarka Markovic
Biotechnical Institute,
Dept. of animal science
Trg Kralja Nikole bb
81000 Podgorica
Montenegro
E-mail: bmarkovic@cg.yu

Gatacko Cattle in Montenegro; Photo: Grunenfelder

GREY STEPPE / PODOLIAN / CROATIAN STEPPE / SLAVONSKI PODOLAC / PODOLSKO GOVECE / GREEK STEPPE / BOZ STEP / SLAVONIAN SYRMIAN / ISTRIAN GREY / BOSKARIN / BULGARIAN GREY

Descending from Bos T. primigenius, also named "Tur". Originally Grey Cattle were widespread in the Carpathian basin. Grey Steppe is grey-white, grey or white in colour. It has round, smooth and long lyre horns. They are large, strong animals. Front part of the body is usually more developed than the back part.

Breed occurence

Bulgaria

Stock: 2002: 299 animals
Contact: ABIB, Assoc. for Breeding Indigenous Breeds
8 Ekzarh Josef str. Plovdiv dstrct
BG-4300 Karlovo
Bulgaria
E-mail: sdkrdj@mb.bia-bg.com

Croatia:

Stock: 2004: 60-80 animals
Description: The Slavonski Podolac is found in Slavonia and is an indigenous native breed of Podolic origin. The animals are grey in colour. They are very long animals with lyre-shaped horns. Adult males weigh on average 600 kg and females 460 kg with an average wither height of 135 cm and 128 cm respectively. The breed is known for its adaptation to the locally extreme climatic conditions, calving ease and longevity. Only one herd remains. There are 12 females registered in the herd book, of which 100% are bred pure. The semen of 3 males is stored.
Contact: Ante Invankovic; Faculty of Agicultural, Univ. Zagreb; Deptartment of Animal Sciences; Svetosimunska Cesta 25; HR-10 000 Zagreb
E-mail: ante.ivankovic@agr.hr

Greece: KATERINI / SYKIA

Greek Steppe cattle is divided in Katerini, and Sykia cattle:

KATERINI

Description: variable from brown to black-brown mixed with yellow to black hair; lyre shaped horns; this breed is known for its low feeding requirements.

Stock: 2005: 198 animals, 2 breeders
Contact: Prof.Dr. Andreas Georgoudis
Aristotle University
Dep. of Animal Production
GR-540 06 Thessaloniki
E-mail: andgeorg@agro.auth.gr

provided by Dr Georgios Arsenos

SYKIA:

Description: multicolour: black (30%) and grey (70%); white, saddled ring around the nose; lyre-shaped horns; indigenous local breed, derived from Bos Taurus Primigenius. Weight bulls: 210kg, cows: 119kg; Height: Bulls: 115cm, cows: 112cm;
Stock: Officially extinct, only a "new Sykia" breed could be founded. Other sources say, that pure bulls in semi wild herds do occur.
Investigations are urgently necessary.
Contact: Prof.Dr. Andreas Georgoudis
Aristotle University
Dep. of Animal Production
GR-540 06 Thessaloniki
E-mail: andgeorg@agro.auth.gr

Serbia:

Stock 2003: bulls: 8; cows: estimated 100; 4 breeders known;
Description: unicoloured grey; males are darker, calves are reddish. Weight bulls: 800kg; cows: 500kg; wither height bulls: 150cm; cows: 135cm. Extremly huge hay-fork horns.
Contact: DVM Srdjan Stojanovic
Ministry of Agric. & Water Management
Dep. for Genetic Resources and GMO
Nemanjina 22-26
11000 Belgrade
Serbia
E-mail: agrvet@hotmail.com

ISTURSKO GOVEDO / BOZ STEP / PLEVNE / ISKAR CATTLE / GREY ISKUR / THRACIAN

The Iskursko Govedo is found around the Iskar, Vitt and Ossam rivers and descends from local Grey cattle. The animals are light to dark grey, shading to black. Muzzles and eyelids are black. Horns are U- shaped, pale with black tips. Proportionate body, strong legs.

Breed occurence

Bulgaria

Stock 2005: 20 cows
Contact: Ph D Hasan Ali
Research Inst. of Mountain stockbreeding and Agriculture
281, Vasil Levski Str.
BG-5600 Troyan
Bulgaria
E-mail: hasan_ali_bg@yahoo.com

Turkey

Stock: 2005: unknown
Remarks: largest of the Turkish cattle breeds; grey, light silver to dark ash, black neck narrow breast, slow growing.
Contact: Prof.Dr. M. Ihsan Soysal
Trakya University
Tekirdag Faculty of Agriculture
TR-59100 Tekirdag
E-mail: misoysal@ttnet.net.tr

DOMESTIC BUFFALO

The Crusaders brought the Water Buffalo to Europe in the Middle Ages, where it acclimatised to the cooler conditions. Bulgaria and Italy are home to long established herds of Water Buffalo, and hence they are often called Mediterranean Water Buffalo.

Domestic buffalo of Mediterranean type is spread over several countries of the Balkans.

Breed occurence

Albania

Stock: 2002: 65 animals registered
Remarks: (2003) In Albania there is a buffalo conservation program, which will financially support the farmers to keep and increase the animals. The program is compiled from MAF and is approved by the Albanian Government. The Animal Production Department is in charge of implementing the program
Contact: Prof.Dr. Kristaq Kume
Assoc. ALBAGENE
Rr. "Abdyl Frasheri" Pall. 3/3 sh. 1, Ap. 5
AL- Tirana
Albania
E-mail: kkume@icc-al.org

Bulgaria

Stock: 1997: 120 cows, 5 bulls in Dragana, Troyan, Shumen and Chiflika
Contact: Prof.Dr. Kostadin Zhelev
EASRAB (animal breeding agency)
26 Bistrishko shose
BG- Sofia
Bulgaria
E-mail: sdkrdj@mb.bia-bg.com

Greece

Stock: 2005: about 1400 animals in 9 breeding groups
Contact: Prof.Dr. Andreas Georgoudis
Aristotle University
Dep. of Animal Production
GR-540 06 Thessaloniki
E-mail: andgeorg@agro.auth.gr
Remarks: The Mediterranean type of River buffalo, originating from the water-buffalo was imported from Asia in the 8th century; living in the Wetlands of Central and Eastern FYR Macedonia and Thrace. Unicoloured black grey, brown. White areas on the head, feet and tail, absence of pigment in the iris of the eyes; 2 big horns with large base, folded lower part and smooth upper part. The products are occasionally sold in the local market.

FYR Macedonia

Stock: 2005: unknown
Contact: Dr. Sreten Andonov
University of Ss Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Agricultue - Skopje
P.O. Box 297
MK-1000 Skopje
FYR Macedonia
E-mail: sandonov@zf.ukim.edu.mk

Montenegro

Stock: 2005: unknown
Contact: Dr. Bozidarka Markovic
Biotechnical Institute,
Dept. of animal science
Trg Kralja Nikole bb
81000 Podgorica
Montenegro
E-mail: bmarkovic@cg.yu

Serbia

Stock: 2005: 5000 animals estimated;
no conservation programme running
Contact: DVM Srdjan Stojanovic
Ministry of Agric. & Water Management
Dep. for Genetic Resources and GMO
Nemanjina 22-26
11000 Belgrade
Serbia
E-mail: agrvet@hotmail.com

Greek Buffalo; source: http://www.ellinikazoa.gr/_english/page2.htm