

Croatian Busha

Origin and history

Croatian Busha (Figure 1) belongs to the group of native shorthorn cattle breeds (lat. *Bos Brachyceros Europeus*) whose formation began before 6.500 years by entrance of domesticated cattle from the Middle East and crossed with wild population. At the end of 19th century Busha accounted more than 92% of cattle population and after World War II accounted only 50% of cattle population Croatia. Breeding Busha involved two strategies: breeding in pure blood and crossing with more productive breeds (in continental western part of the country she is crossed with Pinzgauer, in northern with Simmental, and in Lika and Dalmatia with Oberinthal cattle).

Breed standards, productivity characteristics and reproduction

Busha is highly adaptable to unfavorable environmental condition (lack of food, harsh climate) and long life animal. Nowadays Busha is used for milk and meat production. It is always one-colored, from light to dark brown, red, black, or brindle color. Main features of the breed are: stripe on the back (which is contrast with the base color), deer muzzle, apex of horns and hoofs are always dark colored, 1/3 or 1/2 of the testicles are dark colored. Busha is late matured breed.

Main exterior measure		Productivity		Reproduction	
Wither high (cm)	110-14	Lactation (days)	240	Sexual maturity (month)	16
Hip height (cm)	117	Milk yield (L)	1000	Age of mating (month)	24
Body length (cm)	136	Fat content (%)	4-6	Fertility (calves/year)	1
Body weight		Protein content (%)		Breeding time (years)	10-12
bulls	300	Meat (kg)		Lifetime (years)	20
cows	180-250	Randman (%)	45	Economic maturity	
calves (at birth)	15				
Chest width (cm)	36	Other	resistance		
Chest depth (cm)	61		adaptability		
Rump length (cm)	46		easy calving		
Rump width (cm)	44				

Breeding status

In 2013 population is consisted of 932 animals (46 bulls, 461 cows, 452 offspring) distributed in 81 herds. Effective population size is 167.31, and belongs to group I (highly endangerment) according to FAO classification. Busha is included in National breeding program for cattle in 2007, and in 2008 in Dubrovnik Association of Busha Breeders was established.



Picture 1. Bull and cow of Croatian Busha

References: CAA (2014). Annual report. Križevci.; Konjačić, M. (2005). Fenotipske i genetske odlike buše u Hrvatskoj. Magistarski rad. Agronomski fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu. Zagreb.;