

## CURRALEIRO PÉ-DURO CATTLE

**Curraleiro Pé-Duro bull**



**Origin:** Curraleiro Pé-Duro is a historic local breed involved with traditional cattle farming in Northeast and Central Brazil. Spanish and Portuguese breeds (especially Alentajana and Galega) brought to this country in the colonization process are the most important genetic ancestors (Viana, 1927). Curraleiro Pé-Duro cattle have been raised in extensive systems with no special sanitary caring or food handling. This long term process resulted in rustic animals, therefore, a promising genetic resource for sustainable livestock production (Carvalho and Amorim, 1989).

**Characteristics:** Small size and remarkable ability to graze on native pastures, hedges and bushes. It can survive and prosper under rough tropical climate and poor breeding systems (low technification). In such conditions it shows good maternal ability but discreet growth rates. Even in extreme extensive conditions breeders point out good carcass yields. First calving occurs when age is between 2 and 2.5 years and slaughter takes place when the animals are 3.5 and 4 years old (weighing between 150 and 165 Kg). Mounting happens in natural conditions and with no season definition. Besides meat, Curraleiro Pé-Duro cattle are sold to pull wagons when families travel and gather to celebrate catholic festivals in rural and

**Curraleiro Pé-Duro cow**



nearby urban areas (Fioravanti et al., 2010). Some value aggregation efforts are being considered in terms of using lower amounts of pesticides, antibiotics and other medication. This may open the door for Curraleiro Pé-Duro alternative meat and dairy products in specific markets worldwide (Fioravanti et al., 2010).

**Population number:** Most Curraleiro Pé-Duro cattle are spread out in the States of Goiás, Tocantins and Piauí. The National Curraleiro Pé-Duro Breeders Association (ABCPD) is placed in Piauí (Northeast) and played recently an important role in the breed recognition trial supervised by the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA). The population estimative is around 5,000 individuals. The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) keeps a conservation unit in the municipality of São João do Piauí, Piauí State. This takes place in a familiar landscape to where Curraleiro Pé-Duro was first challenged and developed. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, 2012), it is still in risk of extinction. There is no specific breeding program for this breed. However, official recognition is a recent accomplishment (2012) meaning a major starting point to work on the breeders herd book.

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**Pictures:** <http://abcpd.com.br>