

CARINTHIAN LIGHT-COLOURED CATTLE (AUSTRIA)

Carinthian light-coloured cow and heifer



Origin: The breed name „Carinthian light-coloured cattle“ (Kärntner Blondvieh) appeared in the late nineteenth century for the first time. It has been developed out of one-coloured cattle from Slovenia and red spotted cattle from the South of Germany, which came to Carinthia, Austria, with settlers. At first the breed was splitted in the so called „Lavanttaler type“ and the „Mariahofer type“. These notations appealed to the region where the cattle had been bred at that time. At least the two types were combined and shared the name „Carinthian light-coloured cattle“. The breed was also known as „Gelbvieh“, a general term for a few light coloured cattle from Austria.

Characteristics: The Carinthian light-coloured cattle are a mid-sized, robust and strong bovine. Cows weigh about 600 to 700 kg; bulls weigh about 700 to 1.000 kg. The coat is homogeneous light- or silver-coloured or yellow like corn/maize without any markings. The mouth is also light coloured. Horns and claws are coloured like wax. They got their typical form of their horns from the origin Hungarian cattle. The peak of the horns can be dark coloured. The breed is characterized by its very good resistance and robustness. The great fertility and the good mother instinct make this breed suitable for mother-cow-keeping.

Products: In former times the light coloured cattle was good for working in the fields and products like meat and milk.

Carinthian light-coloured bull



Today it delivers milk with an average milk yield of 3.670 kg at 4.0 % butterfat and 3.46 % protein (2007, www.zar.at). Very important is the high quality of the meat. It is delicate, marbled and it is streaked with fat.

Population number: The Carinthian light-coloured cattle breeding association was founded in March 1924. After the Second World War it was combined with the breeding association of Styria. The association introduced artificial insemination and achieved a number of 60.000 light coloured cattle in Carinthia till 1977. Unfortunately the stock scaled down to a number of 100 animals till 1990. A new breeding association was founded in 1994 and in the year 2003 the stock had 500 mother-cows again. In Carinthia are also regional associations, like „Arche Austria“ or „ÖNGENE“, which plan to receive the light coloured breed. In 2009 were a number of 2.872 animals as Carinthian light-coloured cattle registered. The breed is categorized as high endangered and the Austrian government promotes it with a special fund.

Bibliography:

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