

Oulmès-Zaer (Morocco)

Oulmès-Zaer cow



Origin:

The origin of Oulmès-Zaer breed is unknown. Some historians reported that it resulted from a crossbreeding between Moroccan local and Iberian cattle introduced formerly to Morocco. Some considered it as a Brune de l'Atlas variety. However, owing to its likeness to some South-western European breeds, others linked it to the Blond branch cattle that might be introduced to Morocco many centuries ago. The Oulmès-Zaer breed is found in the Centre-North of Morocco.

Characteristics:

Oulmès-Zaer breed has a slightly long head with a large and convex nose, a slightly protruding chignon and eyebrows, large ears directed back and crowd covered with long hairs. Horns are light with dark extremities, a medium length, starting horizontally, and go up then to the front. The muffle is large. Nostrils are pink and well open. The neck is short with a slightly developed dewlap. The withers is flat and tick. The chest is depth. The pelvis is large. The rump is moderately developed. The tail tie is little protruding. Mucous and hooves are blond. The coat colour is red. Height at withers varied from 120 to 135 cm. The weight varied from 300 to 325 kg for cows and averaged 450 kg for bulls.

Oulmès-Zaer bull



Products:

Milk yield of Oulmès-Zaer cows averaged 600 kg. The maximum daily production is about 6 kg reached during the first month of lactation. Persistency averaged 97%. Lactation length varied from 150 to 300 days. Percent milk fat and fat yield during whole lactation averaged 4.4% and 26 kg, respectively. Other milk constituents averaged 4.14%, 4.58%, 0.70% and 15.7% for percent proteins, lactose, minerals and dry matter, respectively. Weight of calves is 20 kg at birth, 62 kg at 3 months and 110 kg at 6 months. The average daily gain from birth to 6 months averaged 500 g/day. Carcass weight of males, slaughtered at 392 kg, averaged 217 kg with a dressing percentage of 56.4%. Fat, muscles and bones represented approximately 40%, 50% and 10%, respectively.

Population number:

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the number of Oulmès-Zaer cattle is about 80,000 head.

Bibliography:

Boujenane I. 2002. [Cattle breeds in Morocco]. Actes Editions, Rabat, Morocco. 144 p. ISBN: 9981-801-52-6.

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