

## SURĂ DE STEPĂ CATTLE (ROMANIA)

Sură de Stepă cow



**Origin:** It is an unimproved breed with origin in *Bos taurus primigenius*. Breed formation was realised in a natural way and in strong connection with the local environment, breeder had a small contribution. Till the end of 20<sup>th</sup> century, breed was predominant in Romania and later its share to know a dropping. Nowadays being at risk of extinction, Sură de Stepă breed was introduced in genetic preservation, the most representative place being at SCDCB Dancu, Iași. The total number of the breed is reduced but there are making efforts for its preservation.

**Characteristics:** In the breed pedigree are mentioned many varieties, named after the forming area, respectively: moldavian, transylvanian, ialomitean and dobrogean. This breed have a variable corporal development, respectively 118-134 cm waist and a corporal development which placed it in the middle group: adult cows have 400-450 kg. The weight of calves at birth is 27-30 kg. During growing period is realised a weak daily gain of 500-700 g/day. Corporal shape is rectangular (120-125 %), reduced massiveness, longilin profiles and slender creature. Have a big head with an elongated face zone (cephalic index being of 33.3 %) and a straight forehead-nose profile. Horns are long (40-75 cm), thicke (perimeter at base 12-20 cm). Neck is long and weak covered with muscles, being quite well attached to the body and with a developed chain. Torso is short, narrow with a developed anterior train, superior line is sinuous and oblique antero-posterior, withers is well revealed, dorsum and loins are long, rump is long, narrow and sharp at the posterior part and hips are revealed. Chest is

Sură de Stepă bull



quite well developed but with a low breadth and depth of the thorax. Bulky abdomen and a weak developed and hairy udder. Members are long and strong, with rough, resistant and black coloured hooves. Skin is thick and removable hard, abundant hair and gray coat color (gray) with different shades. Structure is rugged, light thick compact and with a lively temperament. Youth till the age of 2-3 months have a yellow-red colour.

**Products:** Have universal skills – haulage, milk-meat. The average age for first calving was 39.03 months, with limits between 22 and 58 months and gestation duration is 280 days, at little bit shorter as at dairy breeds. Lactation duration is short (7-8 months), milk production is variable 800-1500 kg and in good exploitation conditions could realise even 2500 kg of milk, with 4.1-4.6 % fat and 65-90 kg of total fat per lactation. In the first three lactations milk production describe an ascendant curve, production increase in the second lactation being 53.96 % and in the third one of 107.54 % in comparison with first lactation. Meat production is quite small, daily gain being 500 g/day, reduced carcasses and a low slaughtering efficiency 48-52 %. Feed specific intake is high 1.8 UNL/kg of milk and over 11 UNC/kg gain. Longevity of Sură de Stepă breed is long, cows being exploited till the age of 12-14 years and even more. Milk from Sură de Stepă, is qualitative superior to other breeds due to the fact that infestations with leukocytes and TBC are extremely rare.

**Population number:** Nowadays, the breed have a number of 375 individuals, from which 145 are in the natural environment from Danube Delta, and the rest being at SCDB Dancu-Iași, SD Jucu-Cluj, SC TreiBrazi SRL, SC Csendlolye SRL and other breeders.