

TIDILI (Morocco)

Tidili cow



Tidili bull



Origin:

The Tidili breed was identified in 1981. The name "Tidili" means "The green country", with reference to the vegetation abundance found in the breeding area. The Tidili breed might be a variety of Brune de l'Atlas breed that was selected for a high milk production. It is found everywhere in Ouarzazate and Taroudant regions, south of Morocco, either in mountains or oases, but with different densities.

Characteristics:

At first view, the Tidili breed looks like the Brune de l'Atlas breed, but with a voluminous udder. Tidili animals have a strong head with a straight nose and short, asymmetric, horizontal or curved horns. The neck is short with a non-apparent dewlap. The skin is thin and lithe. Legs are thin with black hooves. Nostril, vulva, anus and tongue are also black. The udder is homogenous with 4 teats of 5 cm long. Coat's colour is yellow with black leg sides, neck and head. Tidili cattle have a medium size. The height at withers is 108 cm for cows and 118 cm for bulls. Mature weight is 285 kg for cows and 330 kg for bulls.

Products:

The maximum daily milk yield of Tidili cows varied from 4.2 to 6.5 kg. It is reached during the first or second month of lactation and then decreases slightly with 91% persistency. Lactation length is relatively longer than those of the other native breeds, since it averaged 320 days. Milk yield of Tidili cows milked in the presence of calves is about 2000 kg. However, when cows are milked in the absence of calves, milk yield drops to 980 kg. Percent milk fat of Tidili cows averaged 4.7%.

Tidili calves weighed 17.9 kg at birth, 34 kg and 55.2 kg at 3 and 6 month old, respectively. The average daily gain from birth to 6 months is equal to 207 g/day.

Population number:

The number of Tidili cattle is estimated by the Ministry of Agriculture at about 15,000 head.

Bibliography:

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

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