

## BRUNE DE L'ATLAS (Morocco)

**Brune de l'Atlas cow**



### **Origin:**

The Brune de l'Atlas breed belongs to the brown type cattle found in North Africa from the beginning of time. Its origin is difficult to establish. Some historians reported that it descended from the *Bos primigenius mauritanicus* type discovered in North Africa during the quaternary. Others put forward that it resulted from a crossbreeding between Iberian and Asian breeds or between long horns and short horns cattle. The Brune de l'Atlas breed is located in North Africa, mainly in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.

### **Characteristics:**

Brune de l'Atlas cattle have a small body size with a strong head, a straight nose and little protruding eyebrows. Horns have a crescent shape and were slightly bending up with black extremities. The chest is slightly large. The back is regular and horizontal. The rear lacks of fullness and the pelvis is narrow. The thigh is flat and the buttock is slim. The tail tie is not protruding. Legs are thinly without being lanky. The skin is supple and smooth. The dewlap is slightly developed. The coat is yellow strengthened with a black colour on the head, flanks and legs. Hooves, tongue, skin, scrotum, nostril,

**Brune de l'Atlas bull**



vulva, anus, tail extremity and palate mucous are black. The muffle has a white hair frame. The height at withers averaged 125 cm for males and 120 cm for females. The mature weight varied from 250 to 300 kg for cows and from 350 to 450 kg for bulls.

### **Products:**

Brune de l'Atlas cows have a low milk yield of about 300 kg when milked in the absence of calves and about 800 kg when milked in the presence of calves. Lactation length is short since it doesn't exceed 180 days. The percent milk fat is high averaging 4.8%.

Brune de l'Atlas calves weighed 21 kg at birth, 60 kg at 3 months and 100 kg at 6 months. Average daily gain from birth to 6 months averaged 450 g/day.

### **Population number:**

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the number of Brune de l'Atlas cattle in Morocco is about 0.8 million head. This number has decreased tremendously by about 50% between 1975 and 2010.

### **Bibliography:**

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

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