MURBODNER (AUSTRIA)

Murbodner bull



Origin: In the 18th century the basis of breeding of the Murbodner cattle was the Mürztaler cattle. Advancing further into the Mur valley it mixed with the old Bergschecken and the Carinthian Blondvieh. The new type was fast-growing, well muscled and therefore absolutely appropriate for fattening and draught. With ox breeding being predominant, the milk yield was given less consideration. The popular features of exploitation of this typical mountain cattle were soon wellknown beyond its home-territory, and in the 19th century the Murbodner cattle soon eliminated even the Mürztaler cattle and largely spread into the Eastern alpine area and the Alpine foreland. Since 1869 the Murbodner cattle has been accepted as a separate Styrian breed. With the acceptance as a country breed, the breed and colour characteristics were strictly defined and have been valid ever since. Since 1896 livestock breeding organizations have been founded in Styria, since 1934 in Lower Austria and since 1938 in Upper Austria individual associations have been established.

Characteristics: The Murbodner cattle belongs to the group of the plain bright yellow cattle. Udder, hamstrings, lower parts of the legs as well as the surroundings of the jaws and the eyes are almost white. The muzzle is black with a white patch, called "Herzl" (honey, heart). The horn top and tail tip are between dark and grayish black. The claws are also dark pigmented, very hard and robust. Bulls are usually a little bit darker, with a bright saddleback patch.

Murbodner cow and calf



Products: Mostly focused on meat production, the breed is well-suitable for suckler cow husbandry. Murbodner cattle is robust, adaptable, persevering and long-living. Cows weigh around 550-600 kg, bulls reach a body weight of 900-1000 kg. They are bred in Styria, Carinthia, Lower Austria and Slovenia. Especially its robust nature, it's good character and strong grounding makes uncomplicated and extensive husbandry on grazing land and alpine pastures possible. The special quality of the meat with its tender and marble-like fibers is highly appreciated in the beef cuisine. It has a good fattening ability. The daily increase of weight among oxen ranges around 1300 g.

Development of breeding: In 1999 the Gelbvieh cattle association turned into the Styrian Murbodner cattle breeding association. Since 2003 the Murbodner cattle has belonged to the cattle breeding association Styria, and the association of the Murbodner breeders is now in charge of it.

Population number: In the middle of the 1990 the population shrank to 500 animals. At present there are again 5299 animals in Austria, and out of this 3060 in Styria.

Bibliography: www.murbodner.de, www.stmk.agrarnet.info;

Authors: Johanna Dietrich, Anneliese Hofbauer