

TYROLEAN GREY CATTLE (AUSTRIA)

Tyrolean Grey Cow



Origin: The Tyrolean Grey Cattle is an old, robust breed, native to the upper Inn Valley, Tyrol, Austria. At the beginning of the 20th century, livestock cooperatives established the “Oberinntaler Grauviehzuchtverband” (Grey Cattle livestock farming association) to promote the pure breeding of the Tyrolean Grey. Because of the good milk performances, the Tyrolean Grey was used to improve local breeds in South-Eastern Europe and Italy. However, recently, the population has decreased. Nowadays, due to their light-footedness the breed is mostly kept at sparse areas mainly in Tyrol, Austria and South Tyrol, Italy.

Characteristics: Cows weigh about 500-550 kg and have a height of the withers of 120-125 cm. Bulls weigh 900-1000 kg and their height of the withers is 130-135 cm. Their coat is silver to iron grey, the head and neck are darker in colour. The muzzle, the lower abdomen, the udder and the inside of the shanks are light-coloured. The horns and claws are dark. Bulls are darker coloured than cows.

Products: The Tyrolean Grey cow is a dual purpose breed. The annual milk yield is about 4850 kg with 4.0 % fat and 3.3 %

Tyrolean Grey Bull



proteins. The milk is of good quality and can be used either for the direct consumption or for the processing to high-quality products (cheese, butter, yogurt). In addition, the beef oriented breeding is gaining importance as a result of excellent husbandry characteristics. Mast cattle have a net daily gain of 1300 g. The breed has a good slaughter yield of 60 %. Other important properties of the Tyrolean Grey are an efficient food conversion, good milk-ability, high fertility and easy calving.

Population number: Austria counts about 4800 herd book cows and 41 herd book bulls. Further representatives of this breed exist in Germany, Switzerland and Italy.

Recent developments: Since 2003, the Demetz-Syndrome is known to Tyrolean Grey Cattle. It is a neurological disease with symptoms like paralysis and ataxia. A gen mutation is believed to be causative.

Bibliography: www.tiroler-grauvieh.at, www.grauvieh.at, www.vetmeduni.ac.at, www.wikipedia.org, www.oengine.at, www.nbwikis.at, Sambraus, H.H. (2010): Farbatlas der Nutztierassen.

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