Research on the Transylvanian Pustertaler Cattle Breed

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SUMMARY

Pustertaler is an Austrian breed from Southern Tirol that was brought in Transylvania, Banat and Bucovina together with the Pinzgauer cattle in the nineteenth century. In the Romanian expertise there is only one mentioning of the import of this breed, in Odainsky’ study from 1927 where he enumerates the important breeds in Bucovina. Due to the fact that it has been raised in Transylvania for approximately 150 years, this population can be considered as a traditional Romanian one.

The method employed was that of investigation, in which there were used individual records of every household. Data has been gathered in what concerns the species and the breeds reared in those households, the aim of rearing them, the destination of the products obtained from them and the professional training of the breeders.

There is no data regarding the number of specimens belonging to this breed. There have been identified 135 specimens in Transylvania in 2009-2010. This population of Pustertaler of Transylvania can be easily recognized by its specific color, which is genetically passed on. They are spotted on both sides of the trunk, sometimes also on the head, neck and on the extremities of the limbs and black and white, brown, red or light brown. The pigmented area often has a sprinkled aspect. The Pustertaler population is characterized by the following body measurements: the bulls are 130-140 cm tall, weighing 800-900 kg, and the cows 122-130 cm and 600-650 kg. This population has massive specimens, with a long trunk and quite a good width of their back. The crossbreeds of Pinzgau in Transylvania and Banat are sometimes smaller because of the Pinzgau factor.

Milk production. This breed gives approximately 2200 kg of milk, according to the information from the breeders. Meat production. These cattle are easily kept and fed on the pasture, taking in 700/850 g a day. When sacrificed, the young bulls, which are being fattened, have a productiveness of 57-60%. They are resistant to diseases and harsh environmental conditions, and they adapt well on poorer pastures. No problems at reproduction are noted. The kidling goes on very well and the cows make good mothers for their calves. It is important for these specimens to be identified as quickly as possible, as well as for the crossbreeds, in order for this population not to go extinct.

REFERENCES