



Future trends in grazing with Hungarian extensive beef farming in Hungary



**Future for Grazing
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Trends & Numbers

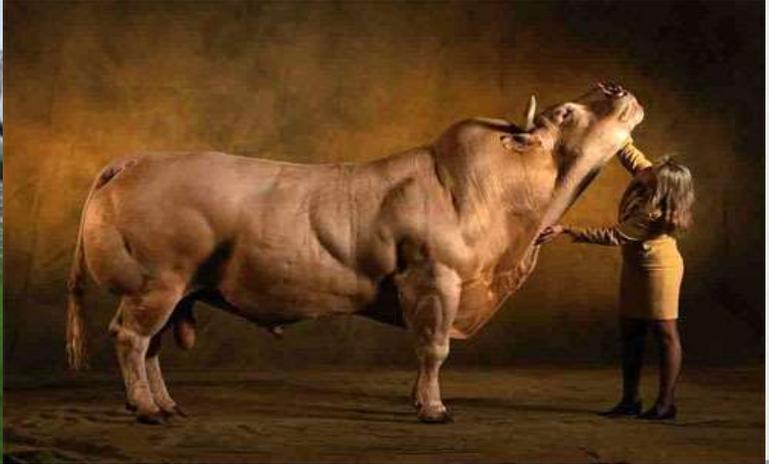
- ❖ 758.000 cattle—»335.000 cows (233.000 LSU)--» **102.000 beef cows**(30,5% of total cow No; 81.600 AU) 1 LSU (livestock unit-1,00 = dairy cow)
- ❖ 100 % of beef cattle is on grass for about 240 days, calves weaned at 8-9 months
- ❖ 1.164.000 sheep--»810.000 ewes (81.000 LSU)
- ❖ 80% of sheeps (65.000 LSU) on grass. Only dairy sheep kept in stables.
- ❖ 62.000 horses--»33.000 mares (26.400 LSU)
 - ❖ 100% on grass all year around however 90 % of horses receive extra forage from tillage farming (alfalfa, oat)
- ❖ 88.000 goats--»42.000 does (4200 LSU), 9000 for dairy (900 LSU, 21,5%)
 - ❖ 100% on pasture and hay only 21,5% is for dairy (kept in stables)
- ❖ Total grass connected female livestock in LSU: 344.600 LSU --» Irish 1 million<; Hungary 93.000 km²«-» Ireland 84.000 km²; Avarage rainfall 750 mm«-» 1000<
- ❖ About 70% (240.000 LSU) of these animals are on grass all year around.
Data from National Statistical Office

Grasslands in Hungary

- ❖ 1 million hectares
- ❖ 750.000 in farming (meadows & pastures); 6ha/cattle (dry conditions)
- ❖ 250.000 is fallow (abandoned fields)
- ❖ About 400.000 in nature reservation (NATURA 2000, National Parks)
- ❖ 240 days grazing season
- ❖ Sorghum (*Sorghum sudanense* L.) grazing in july-august, stubble-fields (after corn), cabbage-leaves (*Brassica oleracea*)
- ❖ Subsidies maintain the beef cattle numbers (€283)
 - ❖ €158 (cow)
 - ❖ €70 (bulls)
 - ❖ €55 (extensification)
- ❖ 30-40 cattle profitable at family farms

Today

- ❖ 90% export (Turkey (60%), Italy, Slovenia, Belarus, Kasakhstan?, Russia?)
- ❖ Beef consumption (6kg/head; Slovakia 14 kg)
- ❖ Optimal calf weight 200-250 kg (6-7 months old)
 - ❖ bad weather conditions cause 40-50 kg deficit
 - ❖ cows' condition deteriorate during winter, in calf chance lower by 20%
- ❖ Forestalling price trends: €2,7/kg up to €4 (turkish effect); 800-1300 HUF, price is about 1€ higher than in EU market
- ❖ Reproduction (how many calves)-Production (weight gain)-Meat quality (10:2:1)
- ❖ Best terminal beef breeds are **Angus & Hereford cows x Charolais bulls**; 15.000 pc of angus & 10.000 pc of charolais
 - ❖ Angus cow costs about €400/annum contra charolais costs €800/annum
 - ❖ Angus x Charolais results homogeneous meat quality



Tomorrow

- ❖ Good prognosis
- ❖ Economical environment suit for small and mid sized farms
- ❖ Sensitive market new CAP
- ❖ Beef farming is strong but depends from subsidies--» European problem, see more in Brazil or US
- ❖ Grazing will be more important in Bio-meat production--» GI products (Hortobagy hungarian grey beef)
- ❖ Organic farming

Hortobagy Eco Region



Thank You !



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