

Georgian mountain cattle

Georgian mountain cattle are represented by the ancient local sorts, created by national selection, which are extended in all regions of Georgia. Aristotle remarked that there are small cows at the river Phazisi (West Georgia) that are characterized by large quantity of high fatness milk, this was Georgian mountain cow, which is still preserved in Georgia. During the centuries it was formed many kinds in this sort of cattle by the result of isolated breeding in different parts of the country and different direction selection, which are Khevsuruli, Pshavuri, Rachuli, Adjaruli, Osuri, Svanuri; They differ from each other exteriorly, also by the development and productivity indicators. The unique peculiarities of Georgian mountain cattle are: the adaptation to the stern climatic conditions and to the poor food, endurance and sustenance. Georgian Mountain cow is bred in the high mountain regions of Caucasus, where there is shortage of winter food for animals and the pastures are so steep, that no other cattle can feed themselves but Georgian Mountain cow. It is very small-sized body-dwarf (100cm) but it has unique productivity potential. This is suitable for the country which territories more than 50% are represented by mountains and hills. They use steep tablelands (30-35⁰). These breeds have peculiarities characteristic exclusively to them and have no analogues anywhere. These are: high endurance to diseases (absolute resistance to leucosis and pyroplazmosis); adaptability to the temperature fluctuations and low oxygen consistence in mountainous area; adaptability to the steep pastures, which is practically impossible for other breeds; specific taste of milk and milk products.

The sort is small, but it has universal productivity. The weight of grown-up cows is 200-250 kg. and of producing bulls- 350-400 kg. The average lactation yield of Georgian mountain cow is 500-700kg. The dairy product in the breeding farms hesitates between 1000-1500 kg with the fatness of 4,2-4,4 in different years. It is characterized by low milking rate in primitive feed conditions, but in case of improved feeding and maintenance, milking rate increases on average up to 2000kg. with 4.2% fatness. The milk is characterized by small diameter fat bubbles. In the best years grown-up cows, which represent the sort's potential ability, are equal to the productivity indicators of the specialized high cultural sorts. The Georgian mountain cattle are characterized by the good taste peculiarities of meat.

Characteristics	Cow	Producing-bull
Live weight, kg.	180-220	250-300
Average yield, kg	500-700 (max 4111)	-
Consistence of milk (%):		
Fat	4.3-4.6	-
Protein	3.2-3.3	-
Live weight of calf at born, kg	10-12	12-15
The steers weight (18-20 months), kg	-	200-220
Average daily increase, g	-	500-600
Outcome of slaughter (%)	-	52-54