

Megruli red cow



Megruli red is produced by brothers Kvaratskhelia in the second half of the 19th century as draught cattle. This is the local sort and is extended through the small territories of west Georgia, mainly in Samegrelo and Guria. During the World War I brothers Kvaratskhelia sent 300 bulls to the Russian Emperor-Nikoloz II, as the labor power. They received the Honorable Diploma from the Emperor for special achievement. Megruli red is established on the base of Georgian mountain cow by selection. Megruli red cow is bred in nomadic conditions. This sort spends summer in the Alpine mountain zone. In winter, it feeds itself in Kolkheti bogs and does not need barns or any extra food. It's characterized by high endurance and strong constitution. This sort is mainly red and has up-curved horns of light color. It is characterized by live temperament. The average live weight of Megruli red cow is 250-290kg., of producing bulls - 400-450kg. the average annual yield is - 1500-2000kg. with 4,3 -4,4% fatness. In the poor nomadic conditions its milking rate is low, but in the case of improved feeding - it reaches 2900-3000kg. It is late matured animal, its meat productivity is lower than average.

This breed is characterized with 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; These characteristics of the local Gene Pool are achieved by selections carried out for a long time, representing a source for genetic completion.

| Characteristics | Cow | Producing-bull |
|---|----------------------|----------------|
| Live weight, kg. | 250-280 | 450-500 |
| Average yield, kg | 1500-2000 (max 4400) | - |
| Consistence of milk (%): | | |
| Fat | 4.2-4.4 | - |
| Protein | 3.1-3.2 | - |
| Live weight of calf at born, kg | 15-16 | 18-20 |
| The steers weight (18-20 months), kg | - | 300-320 |
| Average daily increase, g | - | 600-700 |
| Outcome of slaughter (%) | - | 52-55 |