



Ecological value of free ranging livestock

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SAVE Foundation

- Safeguard for **A**gricultural **V**arieties in **E**urope
 - Sicherung der landwirtschaftl. **A**rten**V**ielfalt in **E**uropa
 - Sauvegarde pour l'**A**griculture des **V**ariétés d'**E**urope
-
- SAVE is an European I-NGO
(International Non-Governmental Organization)
 - SAVE was established in 1993 as an NGO-Network for the conservation of endangered breeds and cultivated plants
 - SAVE's Network office is based in Konstanz/Germany
 - SAVE's Project office is based in St.Gallen/Switzerland
 - SAVE is wide anchored with 24 Partner Organisations in 16 countries, 12 Persons out of 10 countries form the Board of Directors





Free ranging or Feral?

- Feral
 - Semi domesticated
 - Semi-wild
- The definitions of "semi-wild" and "semi-domesticated" represent points on the continuum from feral to domesticated species
 - ➡ free ranging



Feral Populations in Europe

- Feral populations are well adapted to their environment
- Feral populations are widespread in Europe, but largely ignored
- A first overview is given through <http://www.agrobiodiversity.net/regional> → Feral populations
- Knowledge about the situation of the feral populations is widely missing
- Management plans are missing in many cases
- Often feral populations are seen as a disturbance of agriculture



Pro & Contra feral populations (FP)

Importance of FP:

- Genetic resources
- They have adapted to and live often in marginal areas
- They are interesting objects for scientific studies (ethology, population dynamics, etc.)
- Nature protection is often looking for “large herbivores” for conservation grazing
- FP could be a last chance to keep some rare breeds alive

Endangerments and Problems:

- Nobody cares about FP
- FP often suffer from diseases, instead of managing them they get culled
- FP have bad reputations as they often get in conflict with other land uses (eg. Agriculture, tourism)
- Public opinion is against them
- Nature Protection often likes to get rid of ,domestic breeds’ and doesn’t see advantages
- Often FP are hunted

=> There are, of course, interdependences between pro and contras



Most common problems

- *diseases and prevention concepts*
- *Registering (traceability)*
- *Herd management control of population*
- *Animal welfare*
- *Environmental protection and impact*
- *Forest grazing*
- *Water protection areas*
- *Slaughtering*
- *Public acceptance*



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Needs

- The special status of feral livestock populations is not recognized yet.
- Information and support of the public and of the government is needed.
- There is a need for practicable compromises within the veterinary laws and rules
- Single problems differ from country to country – sometimes also within one country





Needs

- There is a competition among institutions: often the competences are not clear. The rules also are sometimes incompatible. The health policy and sanitary rules for domestic animals lead to a culling e.g. when only signs of tuberculosis are seen, but no outbreak
- Legal exceptions for feral livestock populations are necessary. In some respects, feral populations should be handled according to the regulations for wildlife.





Situation in Europe

The situation in Europe is very heterogeneous

South-Eastern Europe

- Less information available
- No concern as long as there is no interference with agriculture, tourism etc.
- Balkans: some populations were left during the war
- Monitoring of the situation is necessary





Situation in Europe



Feral and semi-feral animal populations have an unclear legal position

Northern and Central Europe

- free-ranging animals interact with the local people and with tourists (e.g. Pyrenees)
- semi-feral husbandry, especially in large protected areas
- More acceptance of the public



Database: feral Popualtions in Europe



- More than 100 breeds or populations in 24 countries have been identified.
- Questionnaire, sent to 150 people and organizations in Europe.
- Results published on <http://www.agrobiodiversity.net/regional/index.htm> → Topic Networks → Feral populations



- 50 Horse
- 22 Cattle
- 21 Goat
- 5 Sheep
- 4 Donkey
- 4 Pig



Regional NGO Networks for Agrobiodiversity

A Service of the European SAVE Foundation

Area Networks

Topic Networks

Shorthorn cattle

Water buffaloes

Feral populations

Project Information

Search Ferals

Donkeys

Home

Feral Populations

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Feral Populations: Breeds and Occurrence in Europe, data as of July 2012

Search Feral Populations: Please choose a selection from the menu or click on a picture to search the species.
If you don't select anything, all breed-entries will be shown.

Search Breed

Select species:

All Species ▼

Select countries:

All types ▼


Select Management typ:

All management types ▼

Search for "Breed name",
"Local name" or "Location"

SEARCH

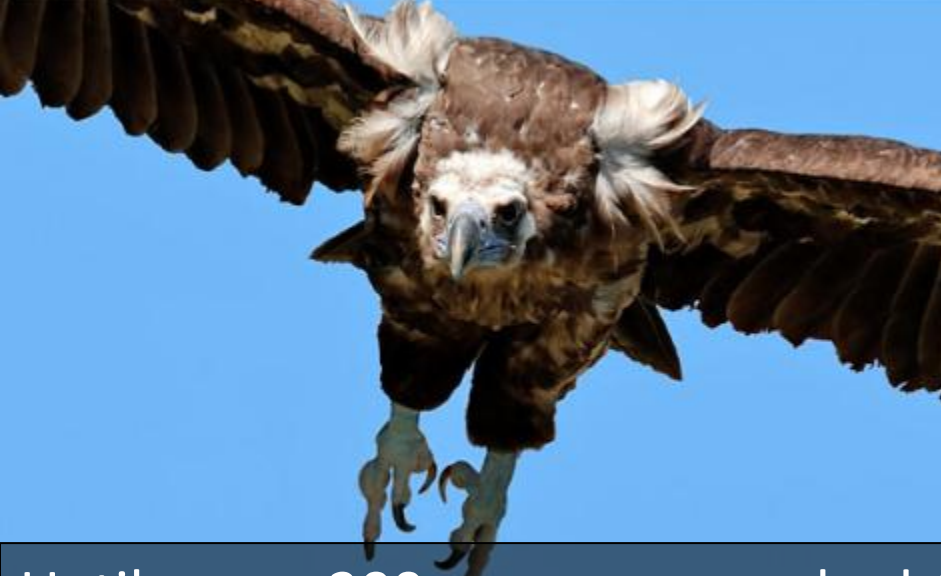


Thumbnail	Country	Species	Local name	Location	Description
	Austria	Pig	Güssinger Waldschwein	South Burgenland	...
	Belgium	Cattle	Heck Cattle	Parc animalier de Bouillon, SW Belgium	...

Impact of Feral or free ranging populations on the landscape



- Since ancient times free ranging animals are kept in the Karst of the Mediterranean
- Without extensive grazing biodiversity could not appear as it is today
- To protect an open landscape from unwanted vegetation free ranging animals are optimal
- Prevention of natural fires



Until some 200 years ago we had these four vulture species in Central Europe: Black-, Griffon-, Bearded- and Egyptian vulture. They lived mainly on live stock carcasses.



Indigenous Breeds Economic Features

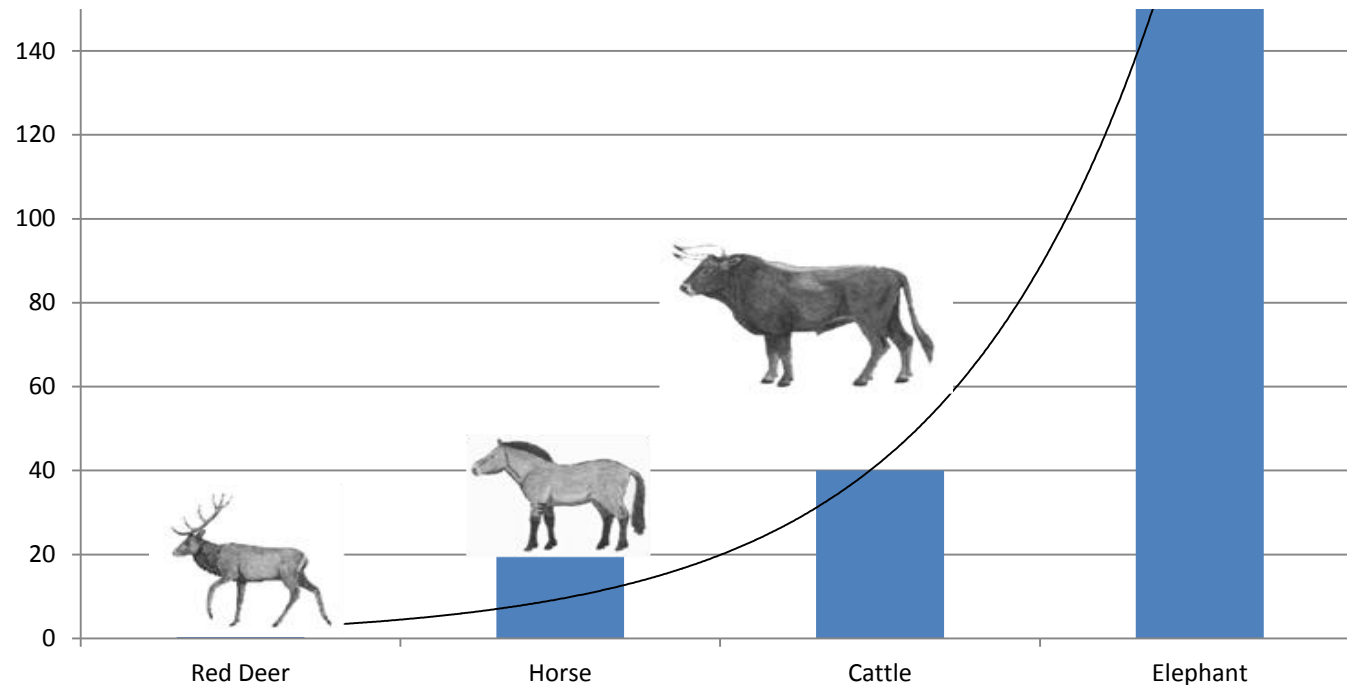


4 Years
140 cm
607 kg (6914 Kg Milk)
45.6 Kg (Life milk yield per 1 Kg body weight)

4 Years
101 cm
192 Kg (1300 kg Milk)
54.2 Kg (Life milk yield per 1 Kg body weight)



Grazers produce much more dung as the remaining wild life such as red deer.



Great Bustards (*Otis tarda*) chicks will need about 100 g of insects daily \approx 3.200 small beetles. So 2 horse droppings can sustain a chick each day, 10 horse droppings can sustain a complete cludge of Great Bustards. So just horse per GB family is enough!



Bosanski brdski konj



Littoral-Dinaric donkey



Istrian Cattle



Slavonian Grey cattle



Dubrovnik Ruda



Jezero-Pivska



Domaca Balkanska Koza



Busha Cattle



Dinaric Karst Poljes as Wetlands of National and International Importance; Livno, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1. – 2. 10.2013



Nature Protection

- Many habitats (EC Directive 92/43/EEC) are suitable for year round grazing by cattle and horses in a density of 0.3 - 0.6 large animal units per hectare.
- Since October 2010 nature protected areas have been able to claim agricultural support.



Use

- Wild studs
- Nature protection
- Meat & Products

FFH-Lebensraumtyp (Kurzbezeichnung)	Natura 2000 - Codierung	Prioritäre Lebensräume	Naturnahe Beweidung für die Erhaltung geeignet	Beweidung grundsätzlich für die Erhaltung nicht geeignet
Atlantische Salzwiesen	1330		x	
Salzstellen des Binnenlandes	1340	*	x	
Dünen im Binnenland	2310-2330		x	
Feuchte Heiden	4010		(x)	
Trockene Heiden	4030		x	
Alpine Heiden	4060		(x)	
Krummholzgebüsche	4070	*	x	
Wacholderheiden und -rasen	5130		x	
Kalk-Pionierrasen	6110	*	(x)	
Blauschillergrasrasen	6120	*	x	
Alpines Grasland auf Silikat	6150		(x)	
(sub)alpine Kalkrasen	6170		x	
Kalk-Trockenrasen	6210	*	(x)	
Artenreiche Borstgrasrasen	6230	*	x	
Steppenrasen	6240	*	x	
Pfeifengraswiesen	6410		(x)	
Feuchte Hochstaudenfluren	6430		(x)	
Brenndolden-Auenwiesen	6440			x ¹
Magere Flachland-Mähwiesen	6510		(x) ²	(x) ¹
Berg-Mähwiesen	6520		(x) ²	(x) ¹
Naturnahe lebende Hochmoore	7110			x
Geschädigte Hochmoore	7120		(x)	
Übergangs- und Schwinggrasmoore	7140		(x) ³	(x) ⁴
Senken mit Torfmoossubstraten	7150			x
Kalkreiche Sümpfe	7210		(x)	
Kalktuff-Quellen	7220	*		x
Kalkreiche Niedermoore	7230		(x)	

Table relates to the text of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora see: Annex 1 of <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1992L0043:20070101:EN:PDF> Table source: „Wilde Weiden“, Praxisleitfaden für Ganzjahresbeweidung in Naturschutz und Landschaftsentwicklung, ABU, Bad Sassendorf, 2008/2009.



Rare Livestock Breeds and feral Populations (free ranging livestock) in ecologically important Landscapes and Wetlands

2. October 9.00 – 16.00





www.save-foundation.net

www.agrobiodiversity.net

www.arca-net.info

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<http://variety-savers.net/>



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