



Animal Genetic Resources in Belgium

S. Van den Bergh (SLE)



Steunpunt Levend Erfgoed (SLE) or “Focal Point for Living Heritage”

- ❑ Belgian NGO for rare breeds of farm animals
- ❑ “Incooperated” in 1993 – www.sle.be
- ❑ Working groups for local breeds of horses, cattle, sheep and goats, rabbits and poultry, dogs.
- ❑ Appointed by the Government as a breeding organisation
 - ❑ for old breeds of sheep and goats (1998)
 - ❑ For poultry, turkeys, waterfowl and rabbits (2011)
- ❑ SLE Organised flock books for old breeds of sheep and goat (1998) and for the Kempens cattle (2011)



Steunpunt Levend Erfgoed (SLE) or “Focal Point for Living Heritage”

- ❑ Involved in the European subsidies program (PDPO III) for holders of rare breeds (together with Ministry of Agriculture)
- ❑ Member of SAVE (1997)–participated at the ELBARN project
- ❑ SLE has about 1200 members
- ❑ Publish a quarterly magazine “De ARK”
- ❑ and different booklets on species of rare breeds
- ❑ SLE set up in 2004 the Living Heritage Park in the Provincial domain Puyenbroeck in Wachtebeke (Province of East Flanders)

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- ❑ SLE recently launched the “Living Heritage Farm” label (Levend Erfgoedhof label)
- ❑ Organize annual Living Heritage Expo (In 2019: 23 rd Living Heritage Expo (in 24 years – interrupted in 2001 because of FMD) – honoured by the presence of the Ministre of Agriculture
- ❑ SLE participates regularly at agricultural shows
- ❑ All work done by volunteers
- ❑ One part time secretary

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 **Belgian draught horses**

Belgian draught Horse

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Flemish Horse

↓



Ardens draught Horse

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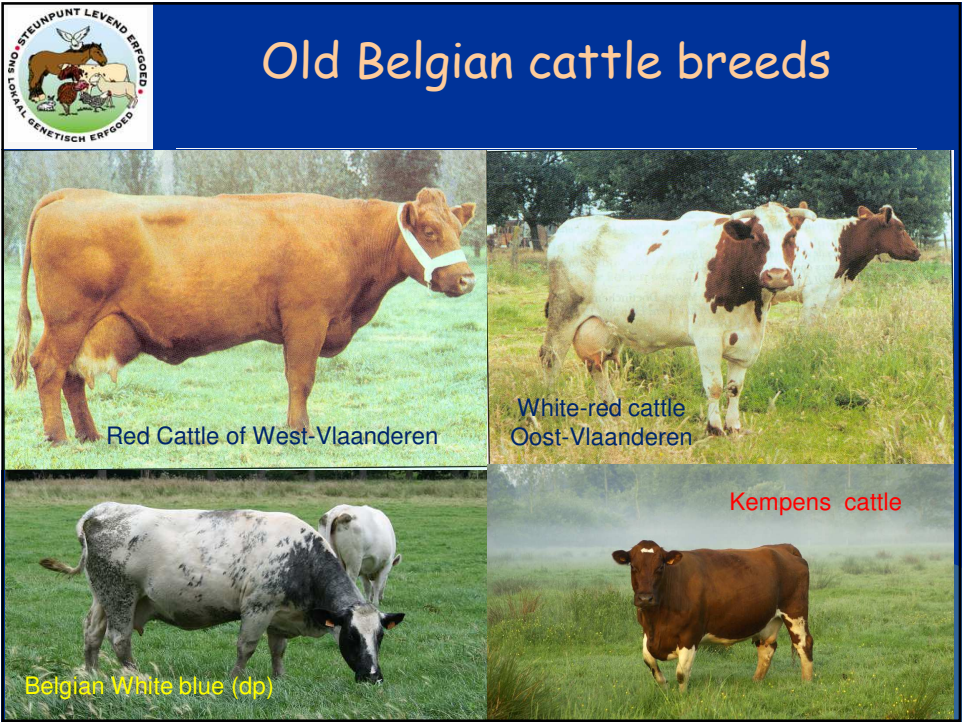
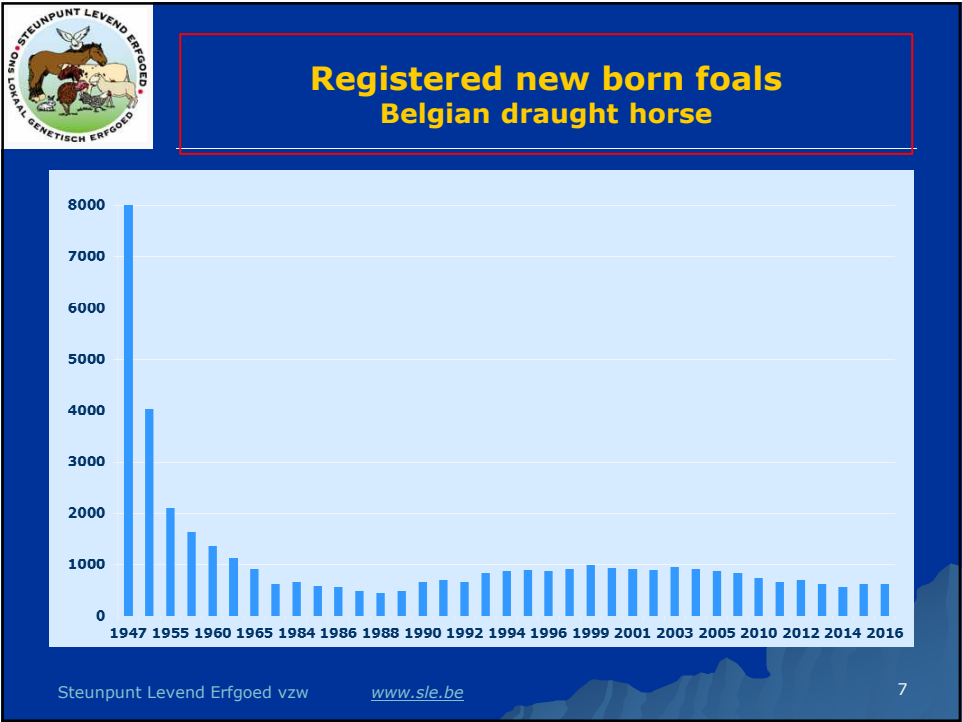


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 **Registered Belgian draught horses**

1880	240.000
1900	241.500
1930	250.000
1950	200.000
1960	157.000
1983	16.250
2014	6.143
2018	+/- 7.400

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Evolution of Belgian cattle breeds

(adult animals)

Breed	1980	1990	2000	2011
White blue	398.011	495.311	577.397	489.639
Black spotted	248.794	254.078	289.689	330.595
Red spotted	235.660	211.886	161.819	109.800
White red O-VI	109.958	103.023	39.014	9.322
Red W-VI	70.875	43.472	13.672	3.101
Holstein	5.321	-	-	-
Charolais	9.376	9.384	8.853	5.148
Limousin	2.655	3.124	10.065	21.963
Blonde d'Aq.	868	1.222	7.862	16.316
Jersey	507	603	820	-
TOTAL	1.082.025	1.122.103	1.109.191	1.028.879

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Belgian old cattle breeds

Recent developments

	1980	1990	2000	2011	2015	2018
White-red	109.958	103.023	39.014	9.322	2.561	2.313
Red cattle	70.875	43.472	13.672	3.101	969	1.235
BWB dp				2.946	2.951	2.493
Kempens						573




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Belgian pig breeds

Belgian Landrace

- ❑ Goes back on the Celtic pigs which at the end of the 19th century was improved through crossbreeding with English Berkshire and Yorkshire pigs.



- ❑ Later on the breed was influenced by German, Finnish and English landraces
- ❑ Recently a stress negative strain was developed.
- ❑ The breed is fertile, rapid growing and produces lean meat.

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Belgian pig breeds

Piétrain

- ❑ Was discovered (developed ?) around 1920 in a small village in Brabant, named Piétrain
- ❑ Probably the result of crossbreeding of an local type with the Berkshire breed.
- ❑ Rediscovered around 1950 for its production capacities: high meat yield and low on fat.
- ❑ Now mainly used in combination with other breeds to produce lean meat piglets.



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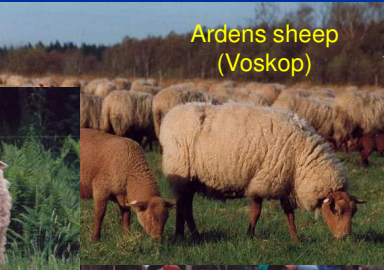


Old Belgian sheep breeds


Belgian milk sheep


Flemish sheep


Kempens sheep


Ardens sheep (Voskop)


Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse

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Overzicht: de afgeleide rassen


Houtlandschaap


Mergellandschaap

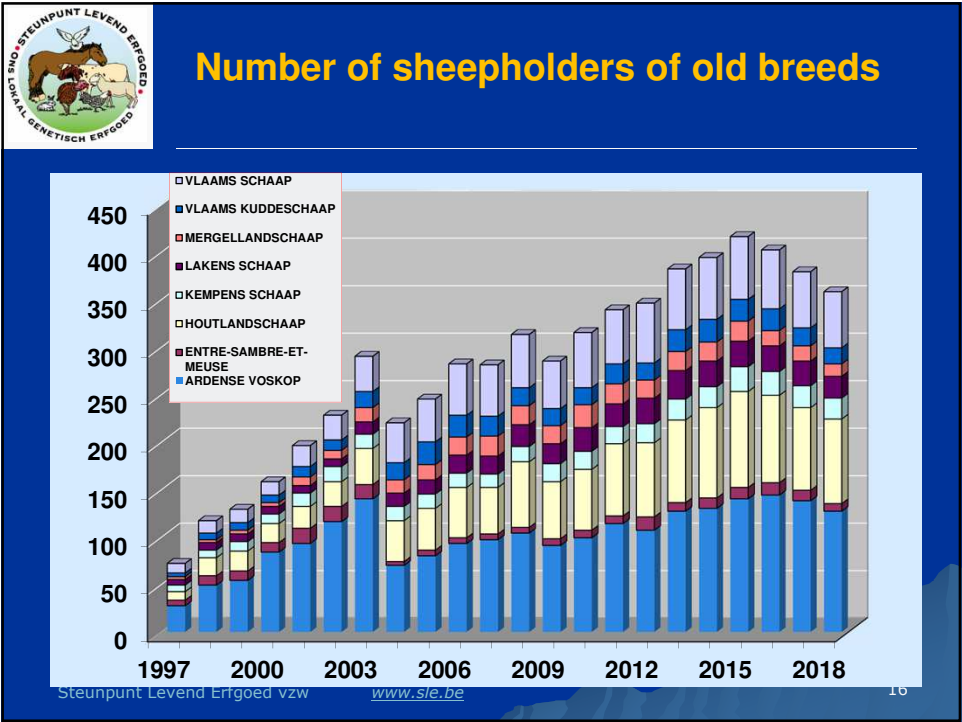
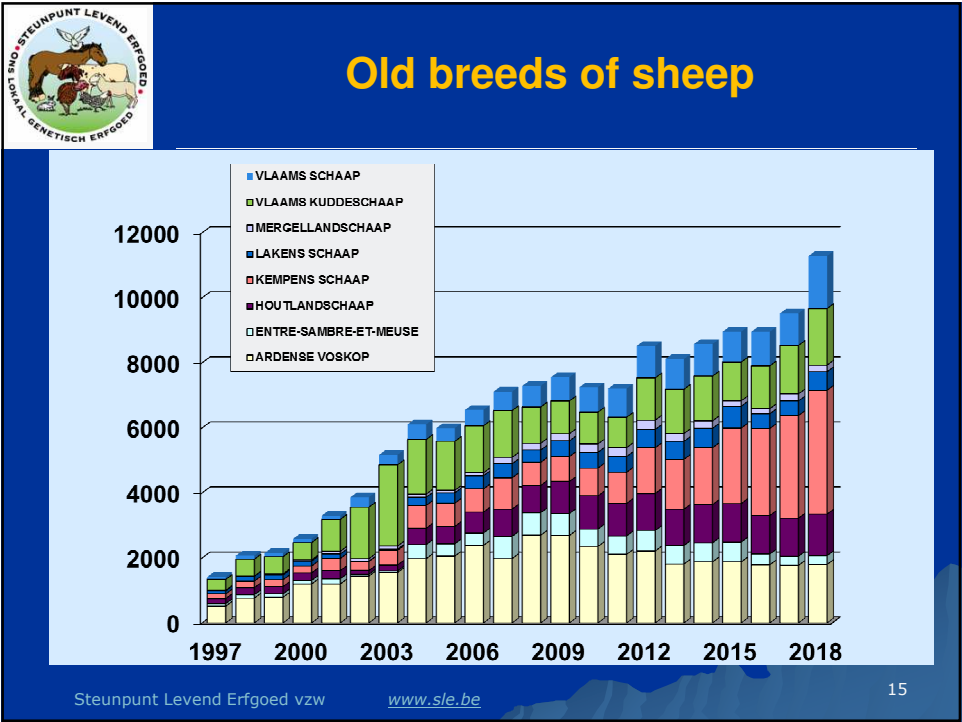

Lakenschaap


Vlaams Kuddeschaap

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Belgische zeldzame schapenrassen

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Kempens goat en Flemish goat

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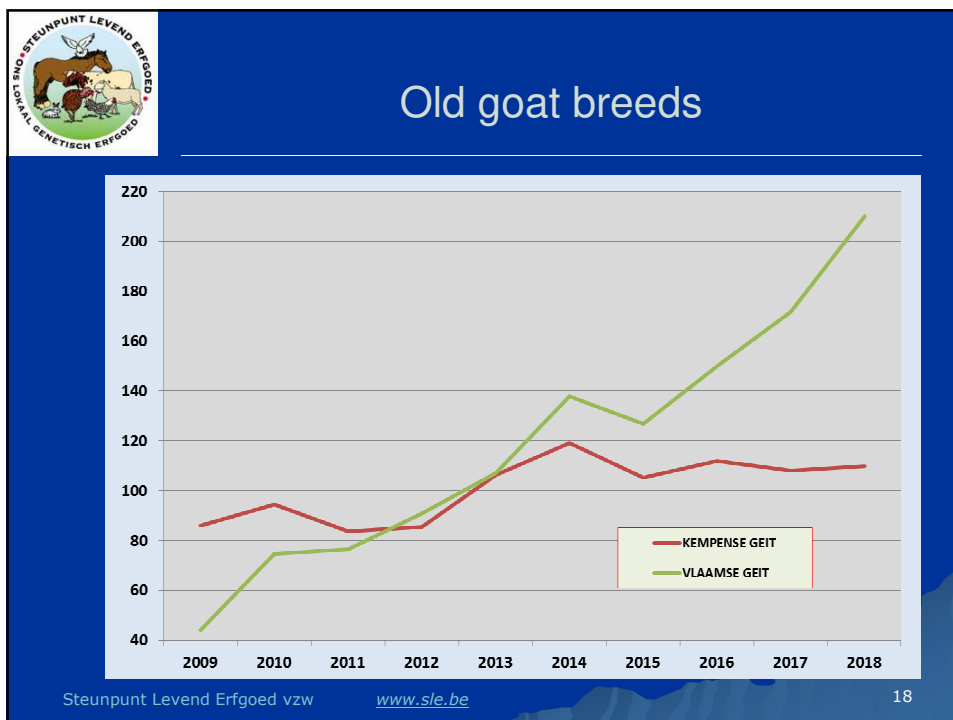
Kempens goat

Flemish goat

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Different breeds per specie
(small animals)



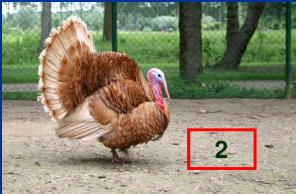
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Some old Belgian poultry breeds



Brabants
hoen ↓



Brugse
vechter ↓



Mechels
hoen ↑



Brakel
hoen ↑





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Small farm animals

Registration of holders

Year	chicken	bantam	pigeon	duck	goose	turkey	rabbit	TOTAL
2012	70	21	8	1	4	9	11	124
2013	85	35	27	18	11	12	18	206
2014	94	36	16	20	5	17	22	210
2015	61	23	22	9	5	11	16	147
2016	95	45	33	24	10	21	20	248
2017	64	22	13	16	4	4	16	143
2018	81	29	19	13	3	4	10	159

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