



Local breeds landscape management in Germany

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Structure

- **Domestic breeds in Germany**
- **Examples of suitable domestic breeds for landscape management**
- **Problems/Obstacles**
- **Initiative of the National Advisory Board on Animal Genetic Resources**

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Domestic breeds in Germany

Horses: 27 breeds (13 breeds are classified as endangered)

Cattle: 21 breeds (15)

Pigs: 5 breeds (5)

Sheep: 24 breeds (20)

Goats: 3 breeds (3)

Total: 56 out of 80 breeds of these species are classified as endangered

Criteria for domestic breeds determined in national animal breeding law

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Domestic breeds in Germany

Chicken: 33 breeds (23 breeds are classified as endangered)

Duck: 9 breeds (6)

Goose: 7 breeds (6)

Turkey: 3 breeds (3)

Pigeon: 3 breeds (0)

Rabbit: 30 breeds (8)

Criteria for domestic breeds set up by the National Advisory Board on Animal Genetic Resources (poultry/rabbits are not ruled by the animal breeding legislation)

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Federal Office
for Agriculture and Food

Domestic breeds in Germany



Bundesanstalt für
Landwirtschaft und Ernährung



NAB


Einheimische Nutztierassen
in Deutschland und
Rote Liste gefährdeter
Nutztierassen 2021



Red List of domestic livestock breeds in Germany

- Published every two years by the BLE
- Endangerment classification by the BLE in cooperation with the National Advisory Board on Animal Genetic Resources

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Federal Office
for Agriculture and Food

Suitable domestic breeds

Dülmener (wild horse)

- Domestic horse breed with high risk of extinction
(Only 7 stallions and 36 mares registered in studbook in 2019)
- Herd of approx. 400 horses in a 400 ha reservation ("Merfelder Bruch")



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Suitable domestic breeds

Dülmener (wild horse)

- No stables or non-natural shelters
- Wide area consisting of moor, heathland, forests and oak trees
- Supply with hay only in the winter months

→ **highly adapted to the environmental conditions and very suitable for all-year outdoor landscape management**

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Suitable domestic breeds

Murnau-Werdenfelser Rind (cattle)

- Domestic cattle breed with high risk of extinction
- Dual purpose (milk/meat)/ suckler cows



Photo credits: Christel Simantke, GEH

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Suitable domestic breeds

Murnau-Werdenfelser Rind (cattle)

- Adapted to rough mountain climate as well as to humid habitats
- Strong and resistant claws

→ **highly adapted to different environmental conditions and very suitable for all-year outdoor landscape management in humid habitats**

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Problems/Obstacles

But...

- Landscape management with domestic livestock breeds is still not the norm
- Many landscape management projects are done with the use of exotic breeds/species



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Problems/Obstacles

Why?

- Exotic breeds/species may be more attractive for some people (Highland Cattle, Water Buffalo)
- Farmers that are responsible for landscape management keep “their own” breeds for long time and do not see any reason to change
- Use of domestic breeds is sometimes not profitable without further financial support
- Lack of awareness for the importance of conservation und sustainable use of AnGR for food and agriculture within nature conservation associations

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National Advisory Board on Animal Genetic Resources

- Working committee of the German Society for Breeding Science (DGfZ)
- Representatives of the federal and state governments, of science and animal breeding, NGOs
- Initiate, partially coordinate and technically assess the implementation of the objectives described in the National Programme for the conservation of AnGR
- Responsible for endangerment classification of domestic livestock breeds in cooperation with the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE)
- BLE-IBV acts as Secretariat

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Idea to..

- write a statement to strengthen the use of domestic livestock breeds in landscape management
- address it to the responsible associations and municipalities
- raise awareness for the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR
- show possible synergies between nature protection and agriculture

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Arguments

- We have domestic livestock breeds that are adapted to our environmental conditions over centuries and that have contributed to their creation
- Germany has committed to international (**CBD**, GPA, SDGs) and national (National Programme for AnGR, Agrobiodiversity strategy, National animal breeding law) agreements
- Domestic livestock breeds as cultural heritage (e.g. for tourism)
“Real regionality only with regional breeds”

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National Advisory Board on Animal Genetic Resources

Arguments

- Use of endangered domestic livestock breeds could be a useful symbiosis of agriculture and nature protection
- **Cooperation between the agricultural sector and nature conservation as guideline for future developments**