

# **Monitoring traditionally cattle breeds livestock in Transylvania and Banat**

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The Transilvanian Rare Breeds is a non-profit association founded with the help of Professor Bodo Imre. The slide briefly presents the goals of this association.

The photos were taken on June 2010 in Caineni. In the area there are about 700 Mountain Cattle and Grey Cattle almost isolated reproductively.

Identifying breeds is a very tricky thing, since there is practically no official record of the breeds. There is no a catalogue of Romanian breeds.

On the left – Mountain Breeds or Mocanitzza (probably a pure breed) from Caineni 2010.

On the right – mixed breed of Mountain Cattle from Pasul Oituz.

Transylvanian Spotted – there has been no reproduction bovine from Transylvanian Spotted, Transylvanian Pinzgauer and Brown of Maramures in the seminal material harvesting and research stations in Romania. These breeds were developed in Transylvania and Banat by crossing Grey Cattle and Mountain Cattle with breeds imported from Germany, Switzerland, and Austria in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Mountain Cattle included four types Mocanitzza, Risca, Moldavian and N Oltenia.

Transylvanian Spotted the official name Romanian Spotted (declared a breed in 1960) is improper because it was developed exclusively in Transylvania and Banat though the effort of the German population. It was only after Second World War that they reached Moldavia and Wallachia. Nowadays they use for reproduction only seminal material from imported breeds, and there is practically no selection in these breeds. Only small animal breeders have bulls from these breeds. The number of animals from these breeds is difficult to assess because official census differs from reality.

Pustertaler Breed arrival in Transylvania and Bucovina in the same time with Pinzgauer in 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 2010 exist a small population named unofficial Transylvanian Pustertaler because the most experts do not know this breed. In Romania is often confused with Pinzgauer breed.

Institutions seem to wish to remove these breeds, which is to something new. For instance, the breed P has not been included in areal plans of the breed by the Ministry of Agriculture since the '70s, despite the fact that this breed best adapts to poor and high latitude grasslands in the mountain area. Removing reproduction bulls from the breeds results in a disappearance of these breeds that will only survive in small numbers or as cryo-preserved material.

In Banat, where there were Transylvanian Spotted animals comparable to Fleckvieh animals in German villages, high quality reproduction bovines were slaughtered by people from other areas of Romania after the dissolution of agricultural units after 1989, after the German exodus.

In Maramureş where forestry workers coming from Austria in the 19th century developed the Brown of Maramures breed – an endangered breed now that the Germans have left Romania. Within the Brown of Maramures breed there was an akeratos type population with better milk production at the Sein ex-Research Station. In 1991, these bovines were starved, which was mentioned by the media murat the time.

The National Reproduction and Selection Agency presents different protection plans for the traditional breeds. These plans are only on paper.

Saving these breeds bred mainly by modest-income paysant can be done only by the breeders who love these breeds. They consider that these breeds represent an inheritance from their ancestors and that destroying them means disrespecting the work of the forerunners. At the same time, these farmers feel that loosing traditional breeds means loosing their traditional way of life.

Taking into account the fact that there is a pilot-farm for the promotion of traditional breeds we need to find the necessary funds to make it work in Banat. This could be of great help for the large number of young people that have no professional skill and who could, thus, make their own living.

# Transylvanian Rare Breeds

- preserving biogenetical diversity
- protection of the traditional breeds from Transylvania and Banat
- the identification and preserving of the breeds which are on the verge of extinction
- keeping the traditional way of live in the rural communities of Transylvania and Banat
- the developing of the local specific resources
- protecting the environment through protecting the local resources
- the development of the rural communities from Transylvania and Banat
- the conservation of the biological material for the future
- having access to the genetic resources of other breeders
- exporting the genetic material from the traditional breeds
- the identification and protection of the cross border animals
- the organization of a selection for small numbers of animals

# Metiso Grey Cattle x Mocanitza



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# Mocanitza and Metiso Mocanitza



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# Transylvanian Spotted



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# Brown of Maramures



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# Transylvanian Pinzgauer



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# Transylvanian Pustertaler

- Photo Laurent Avon



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# Thank you for your attention



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