HOLSTEIN

The first ancestors of the Friesian or 'Holstein-Friesian' breed appeared over 2,000 years ago. Showing excellent dairying quality even back then, the breed has now been tailored and bred for optimum milk production.

Holstein cows come from a region in northern Germany, while Friesians originally came from the Netherlands. The two breeds have been so commonly crossbred that the majority of Friesians today are between ¼ to ¾ Holstein, hence the regularly hyphenated name.

Friesian cattle are horned and originally came in black-and-white or red-and-white, but nowadays the red variety is only seen in small numbers in the Netherlands. Modern Friesians have a white coat with distinctive, sharply-defined black patches.

The average weight of a Friesian cow is around 580kg at full maturity, reaching the same frame-size and weight as pure Holsteins. Historical records show that some Friesian beef cattle actually reached over 1.3 tonne in finishing weight!
Friesians are suited to the variable any climate, with the ability to adapt to continental seasonal changes as well as thrive in hotter Euroasian regions. Winters and the odd heatwave in summer are not known to be problematic for these cattle.

Northern European countries generally breed Friesians for milk, whereas most southern European nations focus on Friesian beef production.

The cattle have great longevity, making them good for farmers who worry about the cost of herd replacements.
They have excellent conception rates, with a higher number of calves per lifetime born to Friesians than other cattle of their kind. Heifers should be only impregnated after they have reached 13 months of age, however. Calves are born at a weight of about 45kg on average.

Male calves from Friesians are considered very valuable, as at full maturity they produce excellent beef yields despite the breed's primarily dairy background. They thrive in quick, intense beef production processes, making them ideal for farmers aiming for a short finishing period. However, if farmers are dealing with bulls of any breed it is important to take caution!

These cows are often praised for their frequent lactations! Average Friesian cows have around 3.2 lactations in their lifetime, but some are claimed to have had a staggering 12 to 15 lactations from grazing on both upland and lowland pastures. Throughout the average Friesian cow's lifetime, cow can yield about starting 9,000 kg of milk per lactation up to 12,000 kg ; however, it may be worth noting that the butterfat content of this milk is usually quite low.
Herd proteins levels of around 3.4% are often reported, making them an attractive breed for many dairy farmers .

Lactation : 305 days total milk production of cow

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SIMMENTAL

The Simmental breed comes from Switzerland, and is considered to be one of the oldest cattle types in the world! There are 41 million of these animals around the world, and they're popular for their excellent reputation in both milk and beef production.

The 'Fleckvieh' breed, common in Germany, is actually a strain of Simmental. The word Fleckvieh translates roughly into 'spotted cattle'. Pie Rouge is also a breed commonly used in France which is also a strain of Simmental!

Their coats come in a variety of shades, but are usually red-and-white, or gold-and-white. The face of this breed is almost always white, even in calves that are only partially-Simmental.

Average weight of matured cattle is about 900kg for cows and up to 1,300kg for bulls, making them quite a large-framed, muscled animal.

Simmental cattle might be horned or polled, depending on the genetic breeding history. This is an important thing to decide on, especially as some farmers may not wish to go through the distressing process of dehorning their herd.

They are suited to the Irish weather, considering they survive well in Alpine conditions where winters can be tough. The temperate oceanic climate of Ireland, where no extreme temperature changes are experienced, should prove to be no problem for this breed.

Physical characteristics are generally praised. They usually have pigment around the eye area, which is good for preventing problems in heavily sunny regions. Their udders also remain in good health, with few problems.

Many farmers claim that the breed is docile and easy to handle, but can be aggressive when protecting calves. However, this is considered quite a positive trait! A dam that will go out of her way to guard her own calves, as well as offspring belonging to the rest of the herd, is an advantage in areas where farmers worry about the safety of their young cattle. Bulls can be aggressive in any breed, however. If farmers are dealing with them, it's important to take caution!

Simmental cattle live for a long time compared to some other continental breeds, which reduces herd replacement costs. They're also fertile for a large part of this long lifetime and don't need lengthy intervals between calving.

Speaking of calving, the birthing process for Simmental cows is generally considered easy and without too many complications. This is ideal for one-person farms where the pressure is all on one farmer!

These cattle mature early, and convert food to weight in a very efficient manner regardless of the kind of pasture they are in, according to most owners. Reports say that Simmental cattle are actually the number one breed in the world when it comes to milk yield and combined weaning gain!

Carcass weight is about 57.2%, according to European research, and the daily gain for the average Simmental is 1.44kg.

The beef yield from this breed is high, with a good ratio between meat and waste products such as fat and bone. The beef is also well-marbled, giving it good tenderness and adding to its marketability. Cattle that are only half-Simmental still inherit the genes that make their finished carcasses an excellent source of high-quality beef.

The cows' dairying qualities are held in very high esteem. They are easy and quick to milk, according to many farmers. Since their milk yield is also high, it improves the condition of calves in suckler herds!

The first lactation for a Simmental cow can yield about 7,000 kg of milk, whereas their subsequent lactations can yield about 9,000kg! The milk from these cows is about 3.7% protein and 4.2% fat.

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LIMOUSIN

Limousin cattle are a French breed, supposedly originating from the Marche and Limousin regions. They haven't remained trapped on French soil however, as over 70 different countries are now home to the breed.
As a continental type of cattle, they're well suited to a variety of climates and are well-adapted for Ireland's temperate weather, with the ability to thrive through damp winters and the odd hot spell in summer.

Some people believed that Limousin were amongst the oldest cattle breeds in existence! Ancient French cave-paintings depicted an animal similar to the Limousin, and for years there were claims that this was in fact proof that our cave-dwelling ancestors used Limousin. After some research however, it was found that the paintings depicted a much older species of bovine, but Limousins share many of the same genetic features!
They are golden in colour, with paler sections of hair around their eyes and muzzle. The French herd book, which officially ensures the purity of the breed, insists that no other coat pigmentation such as black or white is ever seen on a gold Limousin animal. Their frame-size compares as average amongst their European counterparts, be it continental or British. Bulls weigh an average of 1,100kg, while cows reach about 700kg.
French Limousins are almost always horned, but there are records of some international breeders managing to produce polled cattle. This may be something to think carefully on if the effort and animal-distress of polling is something you want to avoid.
Limousins calve very easily, without major complications as birthing weight is quite low. This is especially attractive for farmers who worry about the tricky business of calving, particularly if there's only one person on hand to assist the cow on small farms.
Perhaps the strongest quality of the Limousin breed is its high immune system. The usual bovine illnesses are rarely found in these cattle. However, it's still always important to properly vaccinate and tend to these animals. If any unusual behaviour or symptoms are spotted, be sure to contact your local vet.
Many farmers praise the Limousin breed for its efficiency in converting feed to weight at a slightly thriftier rate than some other breeds. However, they mature quite late, meaning that weight gain isn't as quick as some continental breeds.
Although primarily used in beef production, Limousins are popular sires for dairy farms. Since their calves are quite small, breeding with Friesians for example is quite popular. Limousin-Friesian crosses are considered excellent suckers of high value.
Beef from Limousins are held in quite high esteem. Their carcasses have up to 80% meat yields in some cases! The ratio of good beef to waste products like bone and fat is excellent. They also have good marbling quality, making for great tenderness.
Dressing percentages are, on average, about 58-63% in Limousin crosses; a good 5% higher than the average in other breeds!
Like the Belted Galloway's beef, it's also very low in saturated fats! This adds to its marketability in the health-conscious society of today's world.

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CHAROLAISE

The Charolais originated in west-central to southeastern France, in the old French provinces of Charolles and neighboring Nievre. The exact origins of the Charolais are not known but it must have been developed from cattle found in the area. Legend has it that white cattle were first noticed in the region as early as 878 A.D., and by the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were popular in French markets, especially at Lyon and Villefranche. Selection developed a white breed of cattle which, like other cattle of continental Europe, were used for draft, milk and meat.

The cattle were generally confined to the area in which they originated until the French Revolution. But, in 1773, Claude Mathieu, a farmer and cattle producers from the Charolles region, moved to the Nievre province, taking his herd of white cattle with him. The breed flourished there, so much so that the improved cattle were known more widely as Nivemais cattle for a time than by their original name of Charolais.

One of the early influential herds in the region was started in 1840 by the Count Charles de Bouille. His selective breeding led him to set up a herd book in 1864 for the breed at Villars near the village of Magny-Cours. Breeders in the Charolles vicinity established a herd book in 1882.

The two societies merged in 1919, with the older organisation holding the records of the later group into their headquarters at Nevers, the capital of the Nievre province.

The French have long selected their cattle for size and muscling. They selected for bone and power to a greater extent than was true in the British Isles. The French breeders stressed rapid growth in addition to cattle that would ultimately reach a large size. These were men that wanted cattle that not only grew out well but could be depended upon for draft power. Little attention was paid to refinement, but great stress was laid on utility.

It was only after the second world war that Charolais made its appearance in other parts of the world. At first small exports, such as four bulls and six females to Brazil in 1950; five bulls and eleven females to Argentina in 1955; one bull and three cows to South Africa in 1955 followed by three bulls and 15 females in 1956, took place. This small trickle developed into a big stream. In 1964 for instance 259 bulls and 1,605 cows were exported from France and this trend is still increasing.

Characteristics

The typical Charolais is white in colour with a pink muzzle and pale hooves, horned, long bodied, and good milkers with a general coarseness to the animal not being uncommon. There are now Charolais cattle being bred black and red in colour. Charolais are medium to large framed beef cattle with a very deep and broad body. They have a short, broad head and heavily muscled loins and haunches. Charolais have demonstrated growth ability, efficient feedlot gains and in carcass cut-out values. With excellent meat conformation, especially of the valuable parts and relative late maturity they are well suited to fattening for high finished weight. They are well suited to all purpose cross breeding.

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BROWN SWISS

Strong – Brown Swiss cattle are also very resilient and have strong, sturdy feet, hooves and legs. They have less issues with lameness as other dairy breeds. Brown Swiss cows can continue producing up until the age of 15!
Adaptable – The Brown Swiss breed, due to their Alpine heritage, are capable of thriving in most climates. They can more than cope with low temperatures and have excellent foraging instincts, meaning they thrive on most pasture types. In fact, they can survive on rough forage.

Temperament – Brown Swiss cows are very docile in nature and are often described as gentle giants. This makes them more than suitable for use in an intensive dairy system. Many farmers swear by the temperament of the Brown Swiss breed and they are also known to be very clever.Early Maturing – Brown Swiss cows can mature at just 332days old, while bulls are ready for mating at 12-14months.
Valuable beef – Brown Swiss cattle also hold their value in the beef markets. Brown Swiss cows average 600kgs at full maturity, with bulls reaching an average of 900kgs. Beef from Brown Swiss cattle is highly regarded due to the muscly frame and fast growth rate of bulls. Brown Swiss cattle also thrive in feedlot situations and can reach their optimum live-weight in fewer days than other continental breeds.Crossbreeding benefits – When Brown Swiss cattle are crossed with other breeds, the offspring are up to 15% more fertile! Also, Brown Swiss-cross calves are usually 5-10% heavier than other cross-continental breeds at weaning.
Excellent health – A breed famed for their excellent health, Brown Swiss cattle are highly disease resistant. They also have a low SCC and rarely succumb to mastitis infections. This is due to their excellent udders.

Although they do have quite long gestation periods, Brown Swiss cows are by far the champion of Purebred milk producers in the world. Hardy, long lasting, healthy and producers of an abundance of milk which is of excellent quality, you could do a lot worse than adding Brown Swiss cattle to your herd .

The Brown Swiss dairy breed is one of the world's most productive dairy breeds, coming only second to Holstein Friesians.
The breed hails from the Alps in Switzerland and according to reports, they date as far back as 4,000BC! As is obvious by the name, the breed is usually found in a brown-grey colour, though tan and white variations are also accepted.

But would it be a worthwhile venture adding some Brown Swiss cows to your milking herd? What benefits can you expect to witness? Keep reading below and find out!
There are many benefits to adding Brown Swiss genetics to your milking herd, no more so than the improved yields.
Milking Performance – As mentioned, the Brown Swiss dairy breed is among the worlds most productive, coming second to only Holstein/Friesians. Brown Swiss cows can actually produce up to 9,000 kgs of milk per lactation!

Milk Quality – Milk from Brown Swiss cattle is also of excellent quality and primarily used for cheese production. It contains a high butterfat content (4.17%) and is high in protein (3.5%). Their milk is also unique from other breeds in that is has longer fatty acid chains. It also has smaller fat globules in its cream, meaning Brown Swiss cream rises slower than others. Milk from the Brown Swiss cow has the closest fat/protein ratio compared to other breeds and Brown Swiss cows usually reach peak milk production on their fifth lactation.

Less care + Feed- Brown Swiss, due to their background, are very hardy in nature. This means they require less care than other breeds and they require much less feed. Brown Swiss cattle are also very resilient.

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HEREFORD

The breed supposedly descended from Roman Briton's small red cattle from centuries passed. They're usually red with white patches. Calves sired by Hereford bulls almost always have the distinctive white head, and many farmers find this kind of easy identification to be an advantage in the selling market.

Many Hereford cattle are naturally polled after deliberate breeding techniques in the past. This can be beneficial to farmers who worry about the effort and distress of dehorning their herd. It's an important factor to consider, especially if horned livestock will be living in close proximity to other animals.

Bulls weigh an average of 1,200kg, with cows weighing around 800kg.

Hereford cattle are bred to thrive in temperate climates such as in Britain and Ireland. Considering our weather is temperate, damp and without extreme temperature changes, Hereford won't have many problems.

The mothering instincts of the dam are described as excellent, and they provide plenty of protection for calves in areas where predators may be lurking. This can be an advantage for farmers who are weary of the safety of new calves, but this can sometimes be considered dangerous if dams are particularly aggressive towards visitors in the pasture.

The Traditional Hereford, as the original strain is called, is considered a 'minority' breed of genetic importance, whereby the genes of this breed are to be preserved for the future.

The cattle live quite a long time, and this reduces the cost of herd replacements for farmers.

Herefords have well-sought after qualities such as early maturity and a high libido. The gestation period for calves is shorter than the average for a cow of its size, making it an easier process for some Irish farmers as it reduces the costs involved in tending to a pregnant cow. The mortality rate of calves is also low, which is good news for farmers who worry about the complicated calving process. However, the breed is susceptible to vaginal prolapse, which can cause serious difficulties in calving. Improved nutrition in the diets of some cows has been linked to reduced cases of prolapse; however, always seek the advice of a trusted vet when in doubt.

Hereford cattle have great fertility, and dams reliably wean one calf per year. Even if low-quality or decreased volumes of forage are available to them, they still wean very successfully. Conception usually occurs from around 2 years of age.

The temperament of Hereford cattle is described as docile and pleasant, allowing for easy management of herds. This is a desirable concept for farmers who may have only themselves working on the farm. Dams are also easy to milk and are compliant with the process.

The average finishing age for Hereford is approximately 18-20 months. According to Teagasc's recommendations regarding carcass weight, the same amount of feed can provide excellent beef quantities for approximately 75 Hereford cattle against only 50 animals from other typical cross-breeds. The cattle convert their forage-based diets into muscle in an ideal time period, gaining weight with ease and providing a high-quality carcass.

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MONTBELIARDE

Like many popular breeds, Montbéliarde cattle originate from France. They are primarily used in dairy production, and their milk is often turned into cheese!
Their ancestors were Bernoise cattle, but nowadays they are their own distinct breed! Their name used to be Alsatian cattle, but changed to Montbéliarde after the Montbéliard region of France around the 1800s.

They are a red-and-white pied breed, usually, with mostly white colouring around their heads. Their feet are tough, as is their skin around sensitive areas such as the udders.
Although not as impressive in milking as Holstein Friesians, they rival them in some respects, since their beef qualities surpass that of Holsteins. There are actually traces of Red Holstein in modern Montbéliardes, after some crossbreeding during the 1970s.

They are a relatively large continental breed, with cows weighing nearly 700kg while bulls can weigh up to 1,200kg!
Montbéliarde cattle naturally horned, and this can sometimes be a trait farmers don't wish to deal with. The effort and animal-distress of dehorning a herd can be avoided by breeding polled cattle, which is something to consider before choosing Montbéliarde.

Their temperament has been described as difficult by some farmers. They may be flightier and quite difficult to milk in some cases; however, isolated incidents don't speak for an entire breed, so it's important to make a fair decision on these cattle! In the case of bulls, extra care should always be taken, regardless of breed. Read our article on Bull Safety for more information on steering clear of danger.
Montbéliarde cattle are bred from quite changeable conditions in their native French region, so the Irish climate of no extreme temperatures changes isn't a problem for the breed.

They live long and fertile lives, which reduces herd replacement costs and means more calves for the farmer! Even through artificial insemination, Montbéliarde cattle succeed with high conception rates.
Their long life also means that there are around 24% more lactations in Montbéliarde cows compared to other similar breeds! This can sometimes average out at around 5 more lactations per cow.

Their strong udders also mean that they have high resistance to mastitis. This is an attractive trait for farmers who wish to keep their herd healthy and productive!
The calving process is quite decent in this breed, especially when bred with Charolais. However, birth weights of Montbéliarde/Holstein calves are heavier, which could increase the risk of complications in some cases.

Their milk is widely celebrated, often used in the popular Emmental and Gruyère cheese types. Its high protein content of 3.45% makes it ideal for cheesemaking, as does the high frequency of kappa casein BB variants present in the milk. This causes higher cheese yields to be gained from Montbéliarde milk. The average Montbéliarde cow produces over 6,000kg of milk per lactation.

Their success in crossbreeding programmes is widely-celebrated. When crossed with Montbéliarde, Holsteins live longer and are more fertile. Montbéliarde/Holstein crosses also produce higher milk yields than pure Montbéliardes. Their beef is considered quite good, especially since their excess body fat is low. Bulls are usually slaughtered at up to 570kg, dressing out at about 57%. Bull calves and cull cows from the Montbéliarde breed are also worth more than their counterparts, including Holsteins for example.

ABERDEEN ANGUS

The Aberdeen Angus breed (or Angus as it is known internationally) was developed in the early part of the 19th Century from the polled and predominantly black cattle of North east Scotland known locally as “doddies” and “hummlies”. As with other breeds of cattle and sheep in Britain, establishment followed improvements in husbandry and transport. The earliest families trace back to the middle of the eighteenth century but it was much later that the Herd Book (1862) and the Society (1879) were founded. The early history of the breed is the history of its breeders, progressive lairds and farmers, of whom three were outstanding.

Characteristics

Aberdeen Angus cattle are naturally polled and can be black or red in colour although black is the dominant colour, white may occasionally appear on the udder.
They are resistant to harsh weather, undemanding, adaptable, good natured, mature extremely early and have a high carcass yield with nicely marbled meat. Angus are renowned as a carcass breed. They are used widely in crossbreeding to improve carcass quality and milking ability. Angus females calve easily and have good calf rearing ability. They are also used as a genetic dehorner as the polled gene is passed on as a dominant characteristic.

Statistics

Calving ease and vigourous, live calves – the Angus cow consistently delivers a calf that hits the ground running, with little assistance required. The Angus mothering instinct is very strong, as is the calf’s instinct to get up and suck within the first few moments after birth.
•Superb mothers with superior milking ability – The Angus cow is renowned for her maternal traits, calving ease and ability to milk producing a calf each year that more than exceeds half her body weight. An Angus mother puts her all into her calf, producing an abundance of milk right up to weaning.

Early maturity, fertility and stayability – The Angus cow does her job well, whether it’s her first or her fourteenth calf. Stayability (a cow’s continuing ability to bear calves) is more than just a word with Angus – it’s not unusual for 12- and 13-year-old Angus cows to be productive.

Naturally polled – No dehorning is required with Angus cattle as they carry a highly heritable, natural polled gene. Horns can cause bruising and tearing and good animal care is another reason to choose Angus.
No cancer eye or sunburned udders – The dark skin and udders of red and black Angus cattle mean that sunburned udders are rarely a problem. Similarly, cancer eye is not prevalent in Angus cattle.
Adaptable to all weather conditions – Angus thrive under all conditions with a minimum of maintenance.
Superior feed conversion – A recent study of crossbred cow types demonstrated that Angus-cross were among the most efficient, providing higher net returns on investment.

Natural marbling for tasty, tender beef – The market is calling for carcasses with more marbling in order to satisfy consumer demand. The heritability of marbling is moderately high. The correlation between marbling and tenderness is also moderately high so when cattle producers select for marbling, tenderness improves. Using Angus cattle with their superior marbling ability opens the door to improved beef tenderness and increased consumer acceptance of beef

Preferred carcass size and quality – Research demonstrates that Angus sires can be selected to produce progeny that have an increased ability to grade AAA without compromising feed efficiency or animal growth – and without increasing yield grade at the expense of carcass quality.

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JERSEY

Jersey cows are among the most recognisable cattle in the world! The little dairy breed originates from the Channel Island of Jersey of course, with the first official records dating back to around 1700. They are the second most popular dairy breed in the world!
They are small-framed, with bulls weighing no more than 820kg on average, while cows weigh about 500kg at most. Their frames are quite dainty, making them an attractive little breed; not to mention their striking long eyelashes! Their coat is usually fawn, but they can range from nearly black to a pale tan colour. This darker colour in Jerseys is often called Mulberry! Switches and mouths are usually black, with white hair around the muzzle and in other patches. Their hooves are black and tough.
Jerseys can adapt very well to extreme temperatures! They can thrive in the hottest parts of South America, but their coat can thicken during cold winters. Irish weather is no problem for this breed, since our temperate oceanic climate doesn't range as far as scorching or arctic temperatures! Jersey cows are known for being extremely docile.

However, it's worth noting that Jersey bulls are actually among the most aggressive of the entire bovine species! It's vital to take caution around these animals. The breed has great longevity, cutting down the need for replacement costs for herds! This also allows for more lactations during the lifetime of cows.
Jersey cattle have excellent resistance against disease. Cases of mastitis and dystocia (difficult calving) are very low, with some studies showing that Jerseys are half as likely to suffer from udder problems compared to Holstein Friesians. This is handy for farmers who want to keep their herds healthy and productive.
Their black, sturdy hooves also make lameness a rare problem in the breed.

However, it's important to remember that Jersey dams and calves are more likely to suffer from 'milk fever' than their continental counterparts. This is more accurately explained as a post-parturient hypocalcaemia. Symptoms such as weakness, unsteadiness and excessive attempts to keep lying down after calving should be noted with caution! Many researchers say that changing the dam's diet before calving can help prevent milk fever, but since this illness can be fatal, please be sure to contact your vet if you have any concerns!
Apart from common cases of milk fever, the calving process is generally unproblematic. Jersey cattle are small at birth, weighing only around 25kg, which makes it easier on the dam. A study has shown that around 96% of births in first-lactation Jerseys needed no assistance, while second-or-more lactation cows had 99% unassisted births.
They have high fertility rates, and mature early! Many cows give birth for the first time after they reach 19 months. The calving interval also remains short.

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ESTONIAN RED

Estonian Red cattle have evolved from continuous crossbreeding of the the native Estonian cattle with the Angler and Danish Red cattle. This crossbreeding started in the middle 1800's with the aim to create a breed which produced milk with a high fat content and an increased yield. Later on more attention was focused on weight and body size. The first Estonian Red animals were entered in the herdbook in 1885. The Estonian Red started to spread throughout Estonia towards the end of the 19th Century although a great number of herds perished during World War 1 and 2. In 1916 there were 269,000 cows which was reduced to 225,000 by 1920. A strong advocate of the breed Jaan Mägi set up the Estonian Angler Breeders' Society in 1919 to help the breed, and in 1928 he renamed the breed to what it is known today, the Estonian Red, it has been gaining popularity ever since.

In 1993 the European Red Dairy Breed Association was set up in Denmark which aims to improve Red breeds to make them more economical, provide opportunities for breeders and increase communication between European Red cattle breeders with the Estonian Red being one of the five breeds. This breed is also part of the International Red Cow Club. In the last 10 years seven different breeds have been used to inprove this breed, these are, Angler, Danish Red, Swiss, Red Holstein, Norwegian Red, Ayshire and Swedish Red and White. The Estonian Red is now fully restored to its popular position and is fully competitive with the Estonian Holstein, as now it accounts for 63.3% of all cattle in Estonia.

The Estonian Red is medium in size with a strong frame. The coat colour is red and can range from light to dark, the bulls tend to be dark.
Some body measurements are as follows; withers height 127.5cm, chest depth 70cm, chest width 45.5cm, oblique body length 157.9cm, heart girth 195.6cm, cannon bone girth 18.3cm.
The mature cows weigh 450 to 550 kg with a maximum of 780 kg and mature bulls weigh 800 to 900 kg again an approximate maximum of 1000 kg. Calves at birth weigh 31 to 33 kg.
The milk yield of 164,900 evaluated cows was 3456 kg with 3.92% fat. The production of Estonian Red cattle at 77 breeding farms is as follows; average milk yield per cow 3784 kg, fat content 3.98%, protein content 3.30%. In 12 high producing herds the average milk yield per cow during a 305 day lactation amounts to 4127-5029 kg, and fat content is 3.90-4.18%. There are 25 record holders in these herds: including cow 5338 – 5th lactation, 9610 kg milk, 4.14% fat; cow 4519 – 7th lactation, 8554 kg of milk, 4.47% fat; cow 2431 – 2nd lactation, 7806 kg milk, 4.65% fat.

Improvement of the Estonian Red is being carried out by pure breeding and by crossbreeding with the Danish Red and the Angler. The new type with Angler blood should have the following performance; milk yield not less than 9000 kg with 4.0% fat, milking rate 1.9 kg per minute, live weight of cows over 600 kg and wither height of at least 140cm.

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DANISH RED

Hailing from Denmark of course, there are currently over 40,000 Danish Reds being reared in their native country, and sometimes they're called the 'Red Danish Dairy Breed'.

They were bred from a combination of Angeln cattle and other breeds of the region, such as Ballum and North Schleswig Red.
The crossbreeding of Danish Red with other cattle has resulted in several other popular breeds such as Estonian Red, Lithuanian Red, Latvian Red, Polish Red, Belarus Red, Bulgarian Red, and Tambov Red.
They used to be the majority breed of Denmark, but in recent years they've been outshone by popular Dutch Friesian cattle.
You guessed it: this breed is of course red in colour! Their coats are usually one solid colour with little variation. However, bulls often have a much darker red tinge!

Danish Red cows weigh about 660kg on average, while bulls can reach 1 tonne!
Cows are quite fertile, live long and fertile lives, and have excellent udders for optimum calf-nourishment. Their calving-interval is usually just under 13 months.

The calving process is known to be relatively problem free, and Danish Reds usually weigh about 36-40kg at birth. They often continue to gain weight at about 1.4kg per day!

Danish Red cattle have great immune systems and rarely suffer from health problems! Cases of mastitis are rare, and they've been bred to be quite disease-resistant.
The cattle are also very adaptable to varying climates. They have great heat-tolerance but can also thrive in colder weather.
Their milk actually has a higher butterfat and protein content than Holstein Friesians! Butterfat levels are usually around 4.17%, while protein content is often about 3.5%. The average Danish Red cow can produce about 9,000kg of milk per lactation.

Danish Red can actually be used for beef production! Their slaughter yield is usually about 56%. Although mainly bred as a dairy breed, their beef is still regarded highly .

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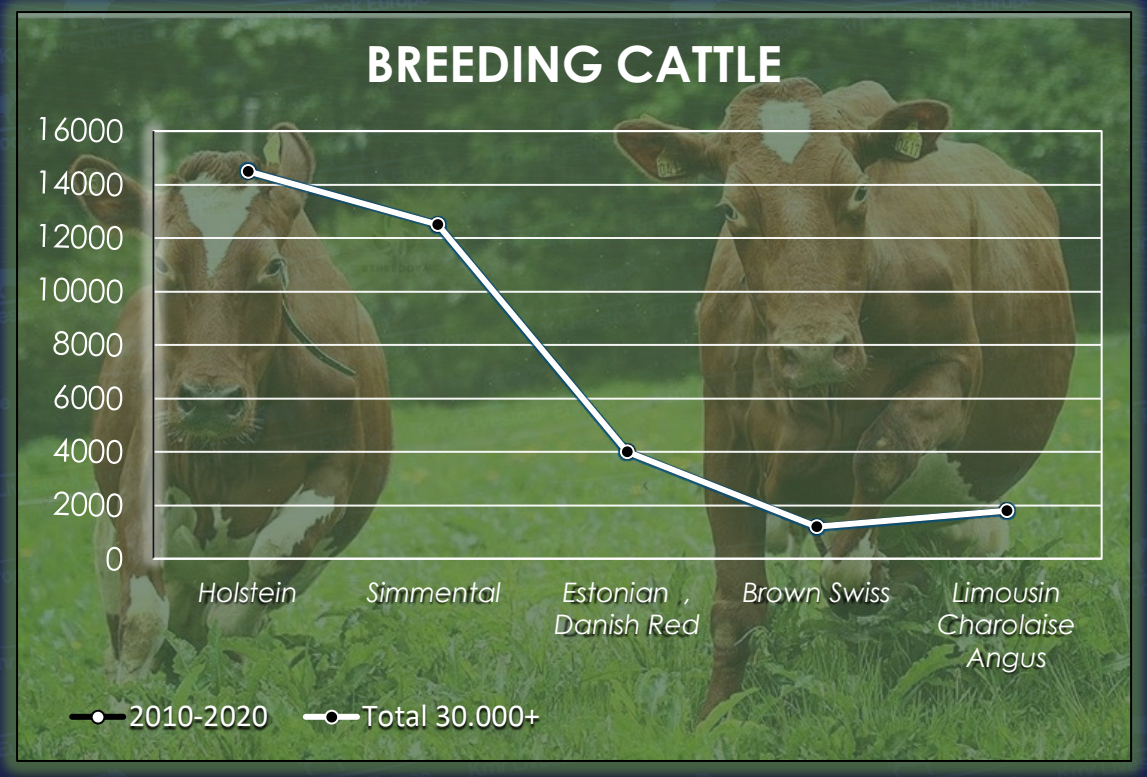
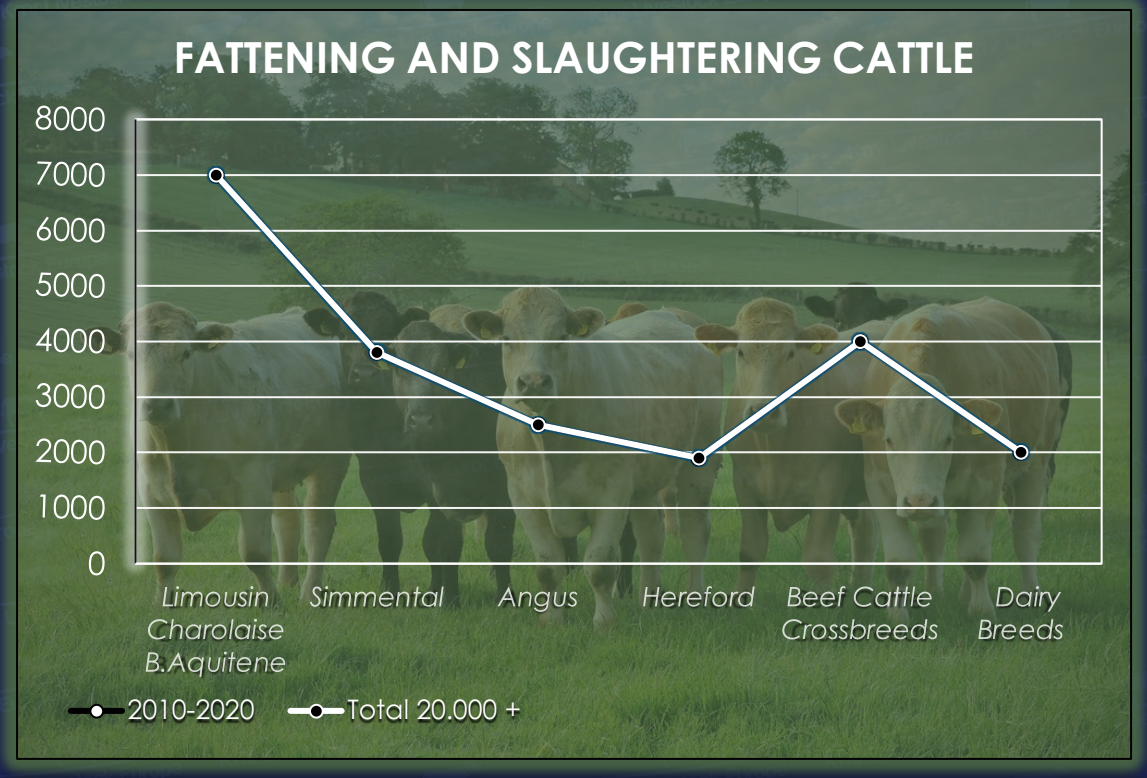
EXPORT STATISTICS





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