



Autochthonous Farm Animal Breeds of Greece



MINISTRY OF
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Autochthonous Farm Animal Breeds of Greece



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The first edition of the list of indigenous farm animal breeds of Greece, with the occasion of the 7th International Exhibition for Livestock & Poultry - Zootechnia 2011 in Thessaloniki, aims to raise the awareness of the public on the importance of livestock diversity of Greece.

Farm animal genetic resources are of strategic importance for primary production, as they include the existing breeds, while they provide the basis to develop new types suitable for the different production systems, including the sustainable and environmental friendly livestock production. Conservation of livestock diversity, apart from its importance as a component of our cultural heritage, allows the selection of appropriate breeds or the development of new types that respond to the changing conditions, including climate change, the new knowledge about nutritional requirements of humans, the changes in market conditions and needs of society.

Co-ordinated actions for the conservation and utilization of farm animal breeds are of high importance in the EU agricultural policy, in combination with the changes of livestock production towards the production of quality products, as the local breeds are the basis for the production of traditional products with environmental friendly methods. Therefore, there is a high need for all stakeholders involved in the management of animal genetic resources, to work together in order to define the priorities for action for their conservation and utilization.


In the frame of our activities for the management of animal genetic resources during 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity, we translated the Global Plan for Action and Interlaken Declaration into Greek. The Global Plan of Action is an international framework that includes the strategic priorities for the sustainable use, development and conservation of farm animal genetic resources for food and agriculture and the conditions for its implementation.

The Ministry of Rural Development and Food, which has the responsibility for the conservation of farm animal genetic resources, the National Agricultural Research Foundation and the Universities that contribute to the conservation of genetic resources with research, scientific documentation and diffusion of results, and the farmers organizations, which as the owners of animal genetic resources, maintain and develop this unique and valuable genetic material, should cooperate to develop and implement the National Action Plan according to the specific needs of our country.


The editorial team


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	Breed name	Brachykeratiki
	Origin	Indigenous breed with the characteristics of Bos Taurus Brachycerus
	Location within country	Mountains and highlands of Etoloakarnania, Epirus, Kefalonia
	Breeding females	3471
	Risk Status	Endangered
	Breed description	Small size, (210 kg males, 190 kg females / Wither height 115 cm males, 106 cm females), thin and short horns
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds

Autochthonous Farm Animal Breeds


	Breed name	Katerini
	Origin	Indigenous breed with the characteristics of Primigenius Steppe breed
	Location within country	Thessaly
	Breeding females	200
	Risk Status	Critical
	Breed description	Medium size, (375 kg males, 280 kg females / Wither height 123 cm males, 113 cm females), lyriform horns
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds


	Breed name	Sykia
	Origin	Indigenous breed with the characteristics of Primigenius Steppe breed
	Location within country	Sithonia (Chalkidiki)
	Breeding females	-
	Risk Status	Almost extinct
	Breed description	Medium size, (375 kg males, 280 kg females / Wither height 123 cm males, 113 cm females)
	Conservation and breeding activities	-

	Breed name	Greek Buffalo
	Origin	The breed belongs to the Murrah type of River buffalo, originating from the Asian buffalo
	Location within country	Central and Eastern Macedonia and Thrace
	Breeding females	2700
	Risk Status	Endangered
	Breed description	(575 kg males, 475 kg females / Wither height 140 cm males, 130 cm females), Avg milk production 1020 kg
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds-Action 3.4 Conservation of genetic resources - Performance recording


	Breed name	Agriniou
	Origin	Indigenous breed
	Location within country	Lowlands of Etoloakarnania
	Breeding females	653
	Risk Status	Critical
	Breed description	Large size, (72 kg males, 58 kg females / Wither height 76 cm males, 67 cm females), Avg milk production 120- 150 kg, litter size 1,2, coarse wooled
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds-Action 3.4 Conservation of genetic resources - Performance recording


Autochthonous Farm Animal Breeds


	Breed name	Argos
	Origin	Originated from crosses with Chios or/and Lesvos breed
	Location within country	Lowlands of Argos, Messinia
	Breeding females	<100
	Risk Status	Almost extinct
	Breed description	Large size, (70 kg males, 59 kg females / Wither height 85 cm males, 70 cm females), Avg milk production 100-200 kg, litter size 1,5-1,8, coarse wooled
	Conservation and breeding activities	-


	Breed name	Zakynthos
	Origin	Probably originates from crosses of local breeds with the Italian breed Bergamasca
	Location within country	Zakynthos
	Breeding females	845
	Risk Status	Critical
	Breed description	Large size, (76-82 kg males, 65-75 kg females / Wither height 76–82 cm males, 65-75 cm females), Avg milk production 225kg, litter size 1,9, coarse woolled
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds-Action 3.4 Conservation of genetic resources

Autochthonous Farm Animal Breeds


	Breed name	Thraki
	Origin	Indigenous breed with influence of Tsigai breeds of South-East Europe
	Location within country	Thraki
	Breeding females	225
	Risk Status	Critical
	Breed description	Small size, (45-55 kg males, 35-45 kg females / Wither height 62-65 cm males, 45-55 cm females), Avg milk production 60-100 kg, litter size 1,1, coarse woolled
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds


	Breed name	Kalarrytiko
	Origin	Indigenous breed with influence from the Comisana breed (South Italy), which was imported in the region 250 - 300 years ago
	Location within country	Epirus, Thessaly
	Breeding females	5960
	Risk Status	Endangered
	Breed description	Medium size, (64 kg males 45 kg females / Wither height 67 cm males, 58 cm females), Avg milk production 90 kg, litter size 1,2, coarse woolled
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds-Action 3.4 Conservation of genetic resources - Performance recording


	Breed name	Karagouniko
	Origin	Indigenous breed Zackel type
	Location within country	Thessaly
	Breeding females	190000
	Risk Status	Not at risk
	Breed description	Large size, (65-80 kg males, 58-68 kg females / Wither height 67-77 cm males, 58-68 cm females), Avg milk production 190 kg, litter size 1.3, coarse woolled
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures Action 3.4 Conservation of genetic resources - Performance recording


	Breed name	Karystou
	Origin	Indigenous breed Zackel type
	Location within country	Euvoia
	Breeding females	60000
	Risk Status	Not at risk
	Breed description	Small size, (60 kg males, 40 kg females / Wither height 64 cm males, 59 cm females), Avg milk production 80-100 kg, litter size 1,1, coarse woolled
	Conservation and breeding activities	Performance recording until 2006 – No ongoing activities


Autochthonous Farm Animal Breeds


	Breed name	Katsika
	Origin	Derived from crosses of the mountain sheep of Epirus with the plain sheep breed Karamaniko
	Location within country	Epirus
	Breeding females	1880
	Risk Status	Endangered
	Breed description	Medium size, (65-72 kg males, 47-55 kg females / Wither height 68-72 cm males, 58-62 cm females), Avg milk production 120-150 kg, litter size 1,3, coarse woolled
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds-Action 3.4 Conservation of genetic resources - Performance recording – Conservation of semen


	Breed name	Kefallinias
	Origin	Originates from a local breed of Ithaki island
	Location within country	Kefalonia
	Breeding females	35000
	Risk Status	Not at risk
	Breed description	Medium size, (58 kg males, 44 kg females / Wither height 65 cm males, 60 cm females), Avg milk production 150-180 kg, litter size 1,3, coarse wooled
	Conservation and breeding activities	Performance recording until 2006 –No ongoing activities


	Breed name	Kymi
	Origin	Originates from the Skopelos breed
	Location within country	Euvoia
	Breeding females	703
	Risk Status	Critical
	Breed description	Medium size, (60-75 kg males, 55-65 kg females / Wither height 62-72 cm males, 65-68 cm females), Avg milk production 150-170 kg, litter size 1,7, fine wooled
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds-Action 3.4 Conservation of genetic resources


	Breed name	Lesvos
	Origin	Originates from crosses of local thin-tailed breeds (Zackel) with fat-tailed sheep of Eastern origin
	Location within country	Lesvos, Limnos
	Breeding females	254000
	Risk Status	Not at risk
	Breed description	Medium size, (60-70 kg males, 40-50 kg females / Wither height 60-70 cm males, 55-63 cm females), Avg milk production 100-160 kg, litter size 1,1-1,2 coarse woolled, length of tail 36-39 cm
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.4 Conservation of genetic resources - Performance recording


	Breed name	Boutsiko (Orino)
	Origin	Originates from the indigenous Greek breeds Vlachiko, Sarakachaniko and Grammoustiano
	Location within country	Epirus
	Breeding females	9000
	Risk Status	Endangered
	Breed description	Small size, (45-50 kg males, 35-45 kg females / Wither height 55-60 cm males, 52-55 cm females), Avg milk production 108 kg, litter size 1,1, coarse woolled
	Conservation and breeding activities	No ongoing activities – Conservation of semen


	Breed name	Pilioritiko
	Origin	Originates from Kefallinias and Karystos breeds
	Location within country	Thessaly (Magnisia)
	Breeding females (2009)	2906
	Risk Status	Endangered
	Breed description	Medium size, (60 kg males, 43 kg females / Wither height 63 cm males, 58 cm females), Avg milk production 110 kg, litter size 1,1, coarse wooled
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds-Action 3.4 Conservation of genetic resources


	Breed name	Sarakatsaniko
	Origin	Indigenous breed (main representative of nomadic sheep)
	Location within country	Thessaly and Epirus
	Breeding females	1496
	Risk Status	Endangered
	Breed description	Small size, (69 kg males, 41 kg females / Wither height 65 cm males, 56 cm females), Avg milk production 60 kg, litter size 1,1, coarse woolled
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds-Action 3.4 Conservation of genetic resources - Performance recording


	Breed name	Serres
	Origin	Indigenous plain breed of Ruda type
	Location within country	Thrace
	Breeding females	6862
	Risk Status	Endangered
	Breed description	Large size, (78 kg males, 60 kg females / Wither height 73 cm males, 68 cm females), Avg milk production 138 kg, litter size 1,54, fine woolled
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.4 Conservation of genetic resources - Performance recording


	Breed name	Skopelos (Glossas)
	Origin	Probably originates from the sheep of Chalkidiki
	Location within country	Skopelos, Magnisia
	Breeding females	2815
	Risk Status	Endangered
	Breed description	Medium size, (60-65 kg males, 40-50 kg females / Wither height 65-75 cm males, 60-65 cm females), Avg milk production 168 kg, litter size 1,6, fine woolled
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds


	Breed name	Sfakia
	Origin	Indigenous breed type of Zackel, influenced by Italian breeds
	Location within country	Crete, (Sfakia)
	Breeding females	58000
	Risk Status	Not at risk
	Breed description	Medium size, (60 kg males, 40 kg females / Wither height 57-66 cm males, 53 - 60 females), Avg milk production 130-150 kg, litter size 1,5, coarse woolled
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.4 Conservation of genetic resources - Performance recording


	Breed name	Florina (Pelagonias)
	Origin	Originates from indigenous breeds, probably of the local mountain type with the lowland type of Zackel
	Location within country	Western Macedonia
	Breeding females	366
	Risk Status	Critical
	Breed description	Medium size, (75 kg males, 60 kg females / Wither height 72 cm males, 67 cm females), Avg milk production 100 kg, litter size 1,3, fine woolled
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds. The only purebred flock is at the Animal Production Institute of Giannitsa, NAGRF

	Breed name	Frizarta
	Origin	Result of crosses of the local sheep population and Friesian rams
	Location within country	Epirus, Arta and Etoloakarnania
	Breeding females	47000
	Risk Status	Not at risk
	Breed description	Large size, (70-120 kg males, 65-80 kg females / Wither height 73-87 cm males, 68-85 cm females), Avg milk production 250 kg, litter size 1,8, fine woolled
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.4 Conservation of genetic resources - Performance recording - Cryoconservation


	Breed name	Chios
	Origin	Result of crosses between the local sheep of the island of Chios and breeds from Anatolia. Possible origin from the Kivircik and Daglic breeds
	Location within country	Central, Western and East Macedonia and others regions of continental and island Greece.
	Breeding females	22658
	Risk Status	Not at risk
	Breed description	Large size, (80 kg males, 60 kg females / Wither height 82 cm males, 73 cm females), Avg milk production 308 kg, litter size 1,9, fine woolled
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.4 Conservation of genetic resources - Performance recording – Conservation of semen


	Breed name	Skopelos
	Origin	Originates from small uninhabited islands of Sporades
	Location within country	Skopelos, Skiathos, Alonnisos, Magnisia
	Breeding females	7250
	Risk Status	Endangered
	Breed description	Tall, (87 kg males, 56 kg females / Wither height 81 cm males, 68 cm females), Avg milk production 328 kg, litter size 1,57
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds-Action 3.4 Conservation of genetic resources - Performance recording


	Breed name	Greek Goat
	Origin	Refers to all indigenous types of goat raised in Greece
	Location within country	The whole country
	Breeding females	
	Risk Status	Not at risk
	Breed description	Medium size, (40-65 kg males, 30-50 kg females / Wither height 73-74 cm males, 65-66 cm females), Avg milk production 100 kg, litter size 1,1
	Conservation and breeding activities	No ongoing activities


	Breed name	Greek Pig
	Origin	Indigenous breed
	Location within country	Xanthi, Etoloakarnania, Ileia
	Breeding females	369
	Risk Status	Critical
	Breed description	2 types, large size of black colour with small ears and small size of black colour with white spots or white lines and bigger ears. Live weight: 80-130 kg – Litter 8 piglets
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds


Local breeds of farm animals

	Breed name	Thessalia
	Origin	Indigenous breed
	Location within country	Thessaly
	Breeding females	440
	Risk Status	Critical
	Breed description	Large size (Wither height 137-147 cm stallion, 132-138 cm mare). Main colours: grey, brown, chestnut, bay. Compact body with strong skeletal system, strong worker
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds


	Breed name	Messara Crete
	Origin	Indigenous breed
	Location within country	Crete, Peloponnisos
	Breeding females	133
	Risk Status	Critical
	Breed description	Medium size (Wither height 138-142 cm stallion, 132-136 cm mare). Characteristic of the breed: single-foot. Main colours: brown and all the tones of grey. Compact, well-rounded body with muscled quarters.
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds

	Breed name	Pineia
	Origin	A composition of Arab stallions and indigenous mares of the Greek Mountain Horse breed
	Location within country	Zakynthos, Ileia, EtoIoakarnania, Attiki
	Breeding females	100
	Risk Status	Critical
	Breed description	Small size (Wither height 130-148 cm stallion, 125-142 cm mare) Characteristic of the breed: single-foot. Main colours: bay, chestnut, brown. Exceptionally hardy and willing, frugal, strong worker
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds

	Breed name	Pindos
	Origin	Indigenous breed, representative of the mountain type
	Location within country	Macedonia, Epirus, Thessaly, Sterea Ellada
	Breeding females	1738
	Risk Status	Endangered
	Breed description	Small size (Wither height 120-135 cm stallion, 125-135 cm mare). Main colours: grey and dark colours. Strong growth of the front part of the body, hard front legs, hard hooves, special for climbing
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds-Action 3.4 Conservation of genetic resources

	Breed name	Skyros
	Origin	Indigenous, local breed
	Location within country	Skyros, Thessaly, Euvoia, Sterea Ellada
	Breeding females	125
	Risk Status	Critical
	Breed description	Small size, (Wither height 102-122 cm stallion, 119 cm mare). Main colours: bay, brown, grey, chestnut. Compact and muscular body, exceptional power of traction for its size.
	Conservation and breeding activities	RDP 2007-2013 - Agro-environmental measures: Action 3.1 Conservation of autochthonous endangered animal breeds-Action 3.4 Conservation of genetic resources

Local breeds of farm animals

	Breed name	Local Greek
	Origin	Indigenous breed
	Location within country	The whole country
	Breeding females	According to the National Statistical Service of Greece: 22134 females, (in the total of the population)
	Risk Status	No data – Research is needed
	Breed description	Great variation, small size, (Wither height 95-114 cm), grey colour
	Conservation and breeding activities	No ongoing activities

The photos are provided by the following sources:

- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, School of Agriculture, Department of Animal Science, Lab of Animal Husbandry – Animal Genetics and Breeding
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, School of Agriculture, Department of Animal Production, Lab of Physiology of Reproduction of Farm Animals
- Agricultural University of Athens, Department of Animal Science and Aquaculture, Lab of Animal Husbandry
- Ministry of Rural Development and Food – Animal Genetic Improvement Centres of Athens, Drama, Ioannina, Karditsa and Nea Mesimvria
- National Agricultural Research Foundation - Agricultural Research Centre of Northern Greece, Animal Production Institute of Giannitsa, Veterinary Research Institute of Thessaloniki (ARCHIMED T-cheese.Med)
- Association of Sheep Breeders of Chios breed "Macedonia"
- Association of Goat Breeders of Skopelos breed
- Association of Pastoral Farmers of Epirus
- Skyrian Horse Society
- Greek Society for the Protection and Preservation of Indigenous Breeds of Domestic Animals - AMALTHEIA

The data are provided by the EFABIS Database, www.efabis-greece.gr. The European Farm Animal Biodiversity Information System (EFABIS) is an information source on farm animal breeds and a tool for managing and monitoring the populations.

Responsible body for the Greek Database is the Ministry of Rural Development and Food - Directorate of Inputs in Livestock Production, while the management and update of the Database is carried out in collaboration with the National Agricultural Research Foundation where the national node is installed.

