

Beef cattle of different breeds can be seen in larger yearly agricultural events held in Estonia



- Luige Country Fair – 2nd weekend of May
- Jänedä Farm Days – the last weekend of July
- Tartu Autumn Fair. Agricultural exposition “Purebred Breeding Animal” (“Tõuloom”) in the Estonian Agricultural Museum in Ülenurme – 1st Saturday of September.

Estonian beef breeders are acknowledged by the Estonian Rural Development Foundation, which has awarded the title of “The Best Beef Animal Breeder” since 2006.



Contacts

Estonian Beef Breeders Association
Aretuse 2, Märja 61406, Tartumaa
eesti.lihaveis@gmail.com
www.lihaveis.ee

Estonian Hereford Club
marguskeldo@gmail.com

Estonian Charolais Club
chklubi@gmail.com
www.facebook.com – Charolais Estonia

Estonian Limousin Club
lahemaamees@hotmail.com
www.limusiiniklubi.ee/

Estonian Aberdeen Angus Club
aberdiinangus@gmail.com
www.anguseklubi.org/

Cooperation partners in Estonia

Animal Breeders' Association of Estonia
www.etky.ee

Estonian Livestock Performance Recording Ltd.
www.jkkeskus.ee

Baltic Vianco Ltd.
www.eav.ee

Alltech Estonia
global.alltech.com/Eesti



Estonian Beef Breeders Association



*Ab Au Ba Bb Ch De Ga Gr
Hc Hf Li Pi Sa Sh Si Wa*

Turuarendustoetuse abiga rahastatud tegevus.
This booklet is co-financed by the Market Development Support.



Beef Breeding in Estonia

The area of Estonia is about 45 000 km² and the population slightly more than 1.3 million.

Traditionally, dairy cattle and pigs were reared in Estonian rural areas, and beef breeding is a comparatively young area of activity. There are many fields in Estonia that are not suitable for cereal growing but that could well be managed as grasslands suitable for rearing beef cattle.

Beef breeding is one of the opportunities to engage in business in rural areas.

In the last years, many smaller and medium dairy cattle have been replaced by beef cattle; the support from the start-up fund for young farmers has helped several farmers to start breeding beef cattle. In the recent years, the number of beef cattle has increased by 15% a year.

The population of Estonian beef cattle is low, but the animals and the beef are of high quality.

Intensive fattening of beef cattle is not a general practice in Estonia. Many beef cattle are reared by organic farmers. At the same time, about half of the beef cattle are under performance testing.

There are 16 beef breeds and their crosses reared in Estonia.

The most popular breeds of beef cattle as of 1 January 2016 are as follows:

No	Breed	Beef animals	Incl. suckler cows
1.	Hereford	16,374	6,422
2.	Aberdeen Angus	15,874	6,311
3.	Limousin	11,995	4,847
4.	Simmental	7,469	2,448
5.	Charolais	5,105	1,768
6.	Highland Cattle	4,971	1,685
7.	Blonde d'Aquitaine	2,345	895
8.	Belgian Blue	986	357
9.	Galloway	586	161
10.	Piemontese	262	118

As of 1 January 2016, the total number of beef in Estonia is 66,222 incl. 25,099 suckler cows.



Welcome to visit the beef farms and breeders in Estonia!

Estonian Beef Breeders Association was established on 21st of June 2000.

While the number of beef cattle at that time was 1000, today the beef cattle total more than 66 000. Half of the beef cattle breeders in Estonia are members of the Estonian Beef Breeders Association.

The objectives of the association include:

- Promotion of rearing and breeding of beef cattle
- Marketing of pedigree beef cattle and beef
- Contributing to the organisation of beef cattle breeding, keeping herd books and conducting performance testing in cooperation with the Animal Breeders' Association of Estonia and Estonian Livestock Performance Recording Ltd.
- Protecting the interests of beef cattle breeders when it comes to agricultural subsidies, environmental regulations or other topics.
- Organisation of different events, including information days, study trips, shows, sales days, etc. (study trips have been taken to Scotland, Switzerland, France, Canada, Italy, Finland, Sweden, Czech, Latvia, Lithuania, etc.);
- Participation in various international cooperation projects.

Estonian Beef Breeders Association unites breeders of all breeds of beef cattle in Estonia.

In addition to this, in 2013 inside the association four breed clubs were established - Hereford, Charolaise, Aberdeen Angus and Limousin clubs.

The main purpose of these breed clubs is uniting the farmers and breeders of one particular breed and helping the Association in its tasks.