

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

- Luige Country Fair – 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of May
- Jäneda Farm Days – the last weekend of July
- Tartu Autumn Fair. Agricultural exposition “Pure-Bred Breeding Animal” (“Tõuloom”) in the Estonian Agricultural Museum in Ülenurme – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of September.



**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.	Aberdin-angus	15,874	6,311
3.	Limousin	11995	4,847
4.	Simmental	7,469	2,448
5.	Charolais	5,105	1,768
6.	Highland cattle	4,971	1,685

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

**Estonian Beef Breeders Association was established on 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2000.** While the number of beef cattle at that time was 1,000 today, the beef cattle total more than 66,000. More than half of the beef cattle farmers are members of the Estonian Beef Breeders Association.

**Estonian Beef Breeders Association unites breeders and represents their interests of all breeds of beef cattle in Estonia.** For those interested in one specific breed the association has departments or so called breed clubs.

**Contacts:**

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**Estonian Beef Breeders Association**

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**Cooperation partners in Estonia:**

Animal Breeders’ Association of Estonia Website: [www.etky.ee](http://www.etky.ee)

Estonian Livestock Performance Recording Ltd.  
 Website: [www.jkkeskus.ee](http://www.jkkeskus.ee)



**Estonian Charolais Club**  
*Estonian Beef Breeders Association*



## Beef Breeding in Estonia

The area of Estonia is about 45,000 km<sup>2</sup> and the population slightly more than 1.3 million.

Traditionally, dairy cattle and pigs were reared in Estonian rural areas. 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 In the last years, many smaller and medium dairy cattle have been replaced by beef cattle; the support from the start-up fund for young farmers has helped several farmers to start breeding beef cattle.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; there are many beef cattle that grow in grasslands and there are many organic farmers. At the same time, about half of the beef cattle are under performance testing.



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

## Estonian Charolais club was established on 3<sup>th</sup> of April 2013.

The main purpose of the club is uniting the breeders of Charolais in Estonia and popularisation of rearing and breeding of Charolais cattle.



## Charolais club, in cooperation with the Estonian Beef Breeders Association and the Animal Breeders' Association of Estonia:

- Organises different events (study trips, lectures, seminars, etc.)
- Organises marketing of Charolais beef cattle and beef
- Helps organising participation of Charolais cattle at agricultural exhibitions and beef shows.
- Represents Estonian Charolais breeders at the conferences of the International Charolais Association.

**In the last 3 years, the number of Charolais cattle in Estonia has doubled.** Pure-bred Charolais animals have been imported from Sweden, Finland, France, etc., and today, about half of the Charolais suckler cows under performance testing are of pure-bred. Charolais bulls are increasingly used in commercial herds for obtaining offspring with a higher growth rate.

In Estonia there are Canadian and Swedish as well as French and Swiss bloodlines. There are breeders of both horned and polled animals. There are businesses with more than 200 suckler cows and farms with 10 Charolais suckler cows.



Charolais breeders from other countries have visited Estonia to find out how the pedigree animals bought from them have established here.

Traders from different countries have been interested in both fattening animals and pedigree animals.



**You are welcome to visit the breeders and farms of Charolais in Estonia!**