Cattle are the main sources of milk and meat production in Kosovo, including various breeds, crosses and categories. This industry consists of two sectors: small-scale (about 95%), mainly producing for home consumption and commercial farmers (about 5%) producing solely for the market. Busha is the only one of the autochthonous Kosova cattle breeds which provides genetic bases for majority of crosses existing in two cattle management sectors. It has been bred for centuries in this area (Illyrian cattle) and belongs to a group of primitive short horned cattle (Bos brachyceros europaeus). Nowadays, pure Busha is very rare breed generally found in mountainous and hilly areas and in the last few years has started to rise up the attention of the professional, farmer and other stake holder.

It is characterized with compact body conformation, very resistant to disease, internal and external parasites. Main strength of this breed is that survives well under minimum levels of management and low feed requirements and thrives on natural grazing.

Characteristically it is of intensive red skin color (sometimes with a nuance of dark – red). Heifers get first insemination at approximately 16.14 months, mature cow’s average height at shoulder about 110.65 cm and live weight about 343.89 kg/head. Milk production per lactation averages 1.400 kg/head which makes this breed very efficiency in milk production in comparison to its body mass. The lactation period is short and ranges between 240 - 280 days.

Body weight of calves at birth ranges from 15 - 22 kg and daily growth rate about 500 g/day. For reason of non-existing any breeding program and semen collection from AI centers in the country or elsewhere, there where Pure Busha cattle are found a natural mating is the only insemination used. In order to initiate the development of the Herdbook for cattle in Kosova, INTERTRACE software has been purchased, this year.
Since that did not exist any improved breeding and management program carried on among Busha cattle the expected success and real performances of this cattle are not explored, yet. This had been largely determined due to lack of consolidation of the breed, non-existence of breeding programs and low concern of the general and professional public in Kosova.

The study of Busha cattle not only for its morphological traits but also for molecular basis in different strains of this breed in countries where Busha still lives is a huge contribution to the overall diversification of genetic cattle potential, economic growth of farmers living in remote areas, development of national and regional truism, etc. Establishing a breed association(s) specific to this breed, determining breed or strain standards, design a preservation breeding and management programs right now, supported by governments and other organizations specialized in this field is an emergency step in order to keep constant the number of this breed and developing it in future.

**Literature:**


**Shamolli, L. 1997.** Hulumtimi I Permasae Trupore dhe Prodhimtaria e Qumeshtit te Busha. Punim Diplome ne Blegtori. Fakulteti i Bujqesise ne Prishtine.
Figure 1. Busha cattle in pastures

Figure 2. Just calved Busha cow (triples)

Figure 3. Potential pastures where Busha cattle are sent for grazing

Figure 4. Busha and its crosses in the same herd

Figure 5. Long winter period makes cattle in Kosovo about six months inside the stables