Gasconne cattle breed in Spain: a model of introduction and establishment of a foreign cattle breed

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Implementation of a “breed-territory-product” trans-border organization (from the genetics to the meat quality) for an economical and sustainable development, in the Pyrenees Area [OTRAC].

- WP 2. : Genetics, welfare assessment and sanitary breed management
- WP 3. : Products quality, consumers acceptability and market segmentation.
- WP 4.: Communication/Dissemination

See list of selected publications
Partners

SPAIN

Universidad Zaragoza

Zaragoza (Aragon)

cita

Zaragoza (Aragon)

IRTA

Monells (Cataluña)

FRANCE

Villeneuve de Paréage (Ariège)

Foix (Ariège)

Toulouse (Haute-Garonne)

Toulouse (Haute-Garonne)
Gasconne breed in France

- Rusticity
- Easy calving
- Efficient feed conversion
- Commercial cross breeding

43,615 Gasconne heads
21,560 Gasconne cows
1,427 farms

Map showing distribution of Gasconne breed in France for 2010.
# Main objectives of the programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Needs/Actions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Official recognition of the breed in Spain</td>
<td>History of the breed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Characterization of the main production systems</td>
</tr>
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<td>Carcass and meat quality assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creation of a Spanish Herd Book (compatible with French one)</td>
<td>Official system to register individual performance data</td>
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<td>Data exchange procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development of bilateral trade</td>
<td>Harmonization of sanitary status</td>
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<td>Meat acceptability by consumers of both countries</td>
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<td>Market segmentation</td>
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Main steps towards an official recognition (1)

- **1980’s**: First introduction
- **1990-2000’s**: Breeding animals
- **1992**: Catalan breeders ask for a recognition of the breed
- **1998**: Creation of the first breeder association (AGGE)
- **2000**: Official code for the breed (9999 → 56)

**Year** | **2004** | **2006** | **2007** | **2008** | **2009** | **2012** | **2013**
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Gasconne heads | 4915 | 5099 | 5845 | 5329 | 5615 | 5666 | 5501

Source: SITRAN

Gasconne heads: 5,642 heads, 2,280 cows, 552 farms
Main steps towards an official recognition (2)

Programme results:

- **2011**: “Reactivation” of the breeder association (AGGE)

- **2011**: AGGE requests to include the Gasconne breed in CORGE as UE breed

- **2013**: ... still awaiting the decision.

- Consequences
Building a national registration system for individual data

- To assess morphological and functional characteristics
- To record individual performances:
  - Birth conditions (calving ease score)
  - Birth declaration
  - Pedigree certification
  - Weight at birth, 120 and 210 days

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Actions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Farms located in different regions</td>
<td>Need to collaborate with several regional institutions working with other breeds</td>
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<td>Absence of a national technical body (and trained technicians)</td>
<td>Design of a single evaluation protocol Training programme</td>
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<td>Lack of technical and economic ressources</td>
<td>Purchase of scales (farm and regional level)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of collect and management of the data</td>
<td>AGGE as an interface between Spanish breeders and Groupe Gascon</td>
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To promote the bilateral trade

• Breeding animals → sanitary status assessment (4 Spanish regions)
  ✓ Animal health regulation
  ✓ Design and implementation of a sanitary protocol to allow SP → FR exchanges

• Non breeding animals → marketing categories and meat acceptability

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Spain</th>
<th>France</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>« Ternera »</td>
<td>8-12 months&lt;br&gt;Intensively fed&lt;br&gt;Slaughtered in Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>« Añojo »</td>
<td>12-24 months&lt;br&gt;Intensively fed&lt;br&gt;Slaughtered in Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Culled cows)</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tbody>
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✓ Sensorial analysis (4 regions) and Willingness to Pay for each category
Conclusion

• Join program based on:
  ✓ Participative approach (scientific/stakeholders)
  ✓ Close link between breed, products and territory

• Key lessons:
  ✓ Official registration of a foreign breed is a long process
  ✓ Lack of national schedule can make it more difficult (especially for rare breed)
  ✓ A strong involvement of farmers is a key success factors
  ✓ External economic support may be needed to initiate the process.

• Perspectives
Selected publications (1)

• WP1: History – Development and current situation of Gasconne breed in Spain (and France)


• WP2.: Genetics, welfare assessment and sanitary breed management


Selected publications (2)

- WP3: Products quality, consumers acceptability and market segmentation.


GRACIAS POR SU ATENCIÓN

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

ANY QUESTION?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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