



BreedExpo

Breeding animals from Estonia, Finland and Latvia



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



Finland

Estonia

Latvia

« Introduction »

Estonia, Latvia and Finland are highly skilled in cattle breeding. Farmers are actively working on improving livestock quality. Entering to new export markets has positive impact to the development of the dairy and beef cattle breeding sector, as an increasing number of exported heifers would give an additional income for dairy and beef farmers and it promotes genetic diversity in livestock.

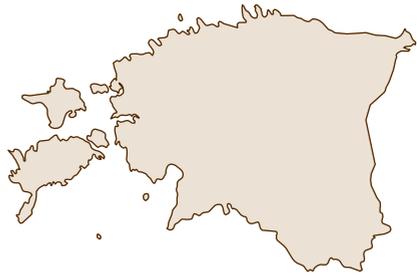
The cross-border cooperation project “Meta cluster for exporting breeding animals to new markets - BreedExpo” aims at supporting agricultural producers from Estonia, Finland, and Latvia to export breeding animals to Kazakhstan, Georgia and Ukraine. A cluster-based approach is used in establishing cooperation between existing networks of farmer organizations, project partners and national/sectoral breeding associations. In total ca 40 agricultural producers from 3 countries will be actively involved to the project activities.

The partners of “BreedExpo” project are:

- **The Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce**
- **The Union “Farmers Parliament” from Latvia**
- **The Union of Agricultural Producers of South-West Finland**

Project “BreedExpo” is part-financed by the Interreg Central Baltic Programme 2014-2020.

« Estonia »



- Area: 45,339 km²
- Capital city: Tallinn
- Population: 1 324 820 (Statistics Estonia, January 1, 2019)
- Language: Estonian
- Currency: Euro
- Member state of EU since 2004



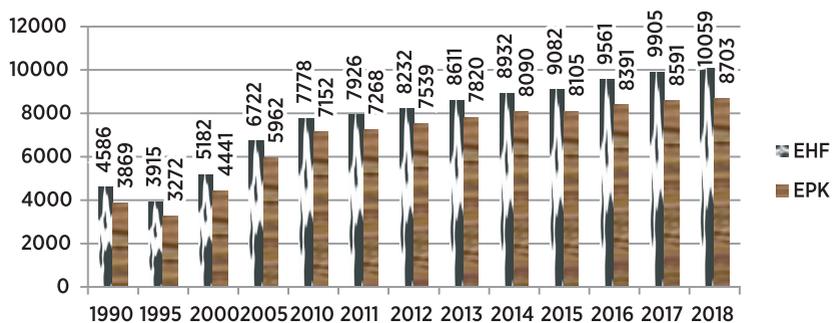
Agriculture, fisheries, food production, and culture are all important parts of the Estonian identity. Approximately 150,000 people work in rural areas, comprising about 20% of total employment. Agricultural area in Estonia forms 1,002,234 hectares, of which 679,000 hectares is arable land.

Cattle breeding has a long tradition in Estonia. In Estonia, dairy cattle breeding is one of the main branches of animal husbandry.

Improvement of feeding and farm conditions has increased breeding success. Half of Estonian dairy cattle are housed in modern farms reconstructed or built after 2002. Number of farms has decreased and the herd structure has changed. 17% are large farms (300-2200 cows). The largest farm in 2018 was Väätsa Agro AS with 2269 cows (average milk production 11954 kg of milk per cow).

The main dairy breeds in Estonia are Holstein (82,5%) and Estonian Red (16,6%).

The milk production of Estonian Holstein (EHF) and Estonian Red (EPK) cows:



Estonia ranks 2nd among the EU member states in average milk production per cow. In 2018, the average milk production per Holstein cow was 10059 kg. Estonian average of all dairy breeds was 9785 kg.



Aberdeen-Angus is one of the most popular beef breeds in Estonia

Beef breeding develops rapidly and it has a great potential as we have a lot of grassland. Beef breeders are using worldwide top genetics. January 1, 2019, there were recorded 77,721 beef animals in Estonia. 48,693 beef animals are in animal recording. The most popular beef breeds are Aberdeen-Angus (23%), Limousin (22%), Hereford (16%), Simmental (14%) and Charolais (12%).



Collection centre of Animal Breeders' Association of Estonia

Increased milk production and free status from infectious diseases (leucosis, brucellosis, tuberculosis, spongiform encephalopathy, foot and mouth disease, bluetongue, anthrax, rinderpest etc.) have made Estonian cattle attractive for foreign farmers. Since 1991, Spain, The Netherlands, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Georgia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Russia have bought cattle.



President of Estonia visiting the AI station of Animal Breeders' Association of Estonia

In 2018, Estonia exported live cattle (52117 animals) for 20.6 million €. Animal Breeders' Association of Estonia exported 2893 breeding animals; 2184 fattening bulls; 65 fattening females; 488 slaughtering bulls.

The Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce has united agricultural producers and their unions, processors of agricultural products and their unions and companies providing services to the agricultural sector since 1996.

Today there are about 100 members in the Chamber. Different member organizations of the chamber unite ca 2000 farms in Estonia.

Our activities are aimed at ensuring balanced development within the agricultural production sector, the processing industry, the sector providing services to rural life and the forest owners cooperatives. In order to achieve this, support is given to cooperation between local producers and processors and to trade in agricultural products in internal and external markets, and members are represented within a range of structures both national and international.

Different working groups operate within the chamber whose roles are to regulate the internal activities within their sectors and to influence their development.

Since 2002, the Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce has been coordinating the activities of the National Delegation of Estonian producers organisations within the European Union's agricultural producers organisation COPA/COGECA and has been responsible for the work of the representation of Estonian agricultural producers in Brussels. The Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce is also a member of European Dairy Association (EDA) and European Association of Dairy Trade (Eucolait).

Animal Breeders' Association of Estonia (ABAE) is a private organization joining dairy and beef breeders. ABAE has 450 members who are active farmers and use services offered by association.

The main activities are herdbook keeping; collection, storage and marketing of semen and embryos; AI activities; issuing pedigree certificates; organization of cattle shows; cattle and semen import-export; evaluation of AI bulls and training for farmers.

There are 132 bulls in AI station of ABAE and more than 500,000 doses of high quality semen is produced per year.

AI station is approved according to EEC88/407 regulation which allows selling semen all over EU. We have exported semen to Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Germany, Turkey and The Netherlands. Semen is collected from bulls of 3 dairy and 10 beef breeds.

In 2016, ABAE opened the collection centre in Kaunis-
saare village, Harju county. Approval number EE29746.

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« Finland and South-West Finland »

- Area: 333,424 km²
- Capital city: Helsinki
- Population: 5.53 million
- Languages: Finnish and Swedish
- Currency: Euro
- Member state of EU since 1995



2.27 million hectares is agricultural land and it is used for producing crops, grass, potatoes and oilseed plants. 26% of agricultural area is located in southwest of Finland (273 000 hectares), mostly used for growing crops. Total crop area is over 1 million ha, grassland (pastures and meadows included) varies between 780-800 thousand ha. In southwest Finland the crops are grown on nearly 200 000 ha while the land under grass production is only 30 000 ha (plus meadows).

The number of livestock farms has decreased during last years in Finland. Total number of cows is 857 700 (May 2019), and they are located on 9 900 farms. The population of dairy cows is 262 300 (decreasing has been 3% from the last year), but the number of beef animals has been rising a bit, being now 60 300.

In May 2019, there were altogether 36 596 bovines on 368 farms in Southwest of Finland. These numbers include:

No. of animals	No. of farms
7966 dairy cows	170
4550 beef animals	136
5326 heifers	300
5934 bulls (including young bulls)	211
12820 calves under 1 year	331

**NB! Most of the mentioned animal groups are kept on same farms.*

In 2018, the average milk yield per cow was 9675 kg (2018, ProAgria). The main breeds are Hostein and Ayshire, the 3 native breeds are called “Suomenkarja” and make only 2 % of the total population of dairy breeds.



Holstein heifers

The most popular beef breeds are Hereford, Charolais, Limousin, Aberdeen Angus, Highland cattle, Simmental and small amount other breeds (irrelevant numbers).



Hereford is one of the most popular beef breeds in Finland

Finland is officially free from brucellosis, tuberculosis, bluetongue (BT8) and IBR (respiratory infection disease).

The Union of Agricultural Producers of South-West Finland as one of the 14 regional farmers unions is a member of the Finnish Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK), which was founded in 1917. All together MTK has nearly 325 000 members, from which 117 000 are membered by farmers associations. The occupations and businesses of members are based on renewable natural resources and their utilization in a sustainable and economical way. The Union of Agricultural Producers of South-West Finland unites 48 local farmer's associations all over the county. All together these local associations have 13 500 members, who own nearly 5000 farms. All 12 members of the board are local farmers. The chairman at the board is Ari-Pekka Kirjonen and the manager of the organization is Paavo Myllymäki.

Contacts:

The Union of Agricultural Producers of South-West Finland

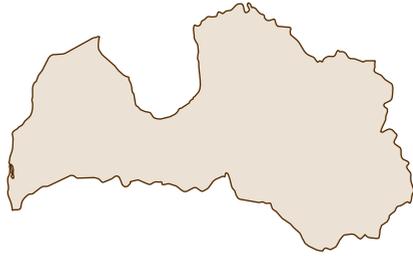
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« Latvia »



- **Area: 64,573 km²**
- **Capital city: Riga**
- **Population: 1 950 000**
- **Language: Latvian**
- **Currency: Euro**
- **Member state of EU since 2004**

36% of Latvian territory is agricultural land. Total area of agricultural land is 1 932 000 hectares with following structure: pastures and meadows 32,9%; arable land 66,7%; permanent crops 0,4%.

Since 2004, in livestock production has increased 2,1 times.

A number of dairy farms is 6 000 with overall amount of 142 000 dairy cows. The total number of dairy cows in Latvia is decreasing, except for the farms in a sector with 300 dairy cows and above. About 20% of all dairy cows are located in farms with overall animal number of 300 and more. 80% from all dairy cows is under recording with average milk yield 7,500 kg a year per cow. The most productive herds have a milk output of over 14,000 kg a year. The large farms are actively working on improving livestock quality. Most popular dairy breeds are “*Holstein*”; “*Latvian brown*” and “*Holstein red and white*”.



Holstein calves

A number of beef farms is 5 000. A number of beef cows is 55 000. The total amount of beef cattle constantly increasing. Most popular beef breeds are “*Charolais*”; “*Limousin*” and “*Hereford*”.



Charolais is one of the most popular beef breeds in Latvia

In 2018, Latvia exported 25 909 cattle (1 025 dairy and 24 884 beef). Export experience of breeding dairy cattle (mostly pregnant heifers) is more than 5 years. Main countries are Turkey, Georgia, Uzbekistan.

Latvia started to export breeding beef cattle since 2016. Main countries are Turkey and Kazakhstan.

Latvia is officially free from brucellosis, tuberculosis and leucosis.

The Union “Farmers Parliament” is a non-governmental organization which joins together almost 900 members. Our members are mainly family farms and agricultural companies, which cover all agricultural sectors. 33% of our members are involved in animal husbandry sector. Our main activities include keeping track on agri-political issues both in Latvia and Europe, elaboration and submission of recommendations for legal acts, implementation of international and national projects, as well as educational activities for rural entrepreneurs and society in general.

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