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Livestock genetic and pedigree development in Georgia

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Georgia is rich in agricultural tradition, which is an integral part of its history, mentality and cultural heritage. Agriculture played an important role in the formation of the Georgian statehood and contributed much to its economic development.

43.4% (more than 3 million hectares) of the whole territory of Georgia is designated as agricultural land, which also includes pastures and meadows. 43% of the remaining area is covered with forest. Georgia has a wide variety of Agro-ecological and climatic zones conducive to the growth of for temperate climate and subtropical crops. Those crops include cereals, early and late vegetables, melons and gourds, potato, technical crops, grapes, subtropical crops, fruit varieties etc. One of the main functions of the Association for Farmers Rights Defense, AFRD provides extension services to Dairy and Beef Livestock Farmers and since its establishment 1999 AFRD undertakes scientific researches and develops information/ extension packages in collaboration with local Farmers and International Livestock Genetic Organizations like World Wide Sires Ltd (US), Charole (France), GeneticAUSTRIA GmbH, Federal Association of Austrian Cattle Breeders in order to develop Genetic and Pedigree activities in Georgia. The demonstration plots were created and demonstration days were organized. For encouraging to use modern technologies and innovative methods in practice an agricultural extension strategy will be developed in collaboration through Seminars, training, and webinars. Elaboration of Genetic evaluation models will continue to develop, likely to match demands of implemented technology for small- and large-scale Farmers. Beef breeding programmes have developed significantly and breeding programs as defined here include the definition of breeding objectives, recording and genetic evaluation programs to develop selection criteria and developments in selection and mating technology to optimize genetic progress for the objective. Available today are tools for the implementation of breeding programs, which were at one point only a concept. The objectives of this paper are to review the current state of applied beef cattle breeding programs and related technologies and speculate on prospects. The emphasis will be on specialized beef breeding programs in the developed world with reference to specific experience in Georgia, where Livestock is presented by three Local Populations as Biodiversity acknowledging that this is not relevant to beef production in all areas of the Lower Part of Georgia. However, for much of the developed world where specialized beef production is common, the following developments and prospects could be valid.

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