

The mountain cow - the champion of the lean lands

The mountain cow used to be the most common land breed in northern Sweden, Finland and Norway. It has developed together with humans for a long time and adapted to nature and climate. In Dalarna and south, another cow race developed, *Rödkullan*. Both lack horns but have a hairy crest on the top of their heads. Today they are called Swedish Kullig Boskap. SKB.

Birch and starling became milk

The mountain cow was a master at surviving on lean food. In the summer, it grazed leaves in the forest, and in the winter, it ate sedge hay cut on the moors. Thanks to its efficient metabolism, it produced rich milk on lean and often scarce feed. At that time, it rarely produced more than three liters at one milking. Today, a Swedish red-speckled cow gives twenty liters per milking if it is given plenty of concentrate and well-fertilized pasture hay. Today's mountain cows are not far behind.

Such is the mountain cow

It grows a little slower than red-speckled cattle but gives very good meat. It is light and moves smoothly. It has stronger legs than other cows, which is needed when it roams freely in the forest. Mountain cows have stronger heat than other cows, get pregnant more easily, and have calves more often. Mountain cows are hardy and do not get sick as easily as hard-driven milking cows. Fjällkon is lively and very affectionate. It likes to seek out humans, even when it is walking in the forest.

Hope for mountain cow

At the end of World War II, there were 170,000 mountain cows in Sweden. There are now fewer than a thousand purebred mountain cows. With good feed and proper breeding, mountain cows can produce almost as much milk as other cows. Today, many farmers are interested in preserving old landraces. Certainly, the mountain cow deserves to stay around. It has helped man survive on barren lands in a harsh climate.