

BLUESEL – an INTERREG France-Wallonie-Vlaanderen project aiming at the conservation and the use of the genetic heritage of the dual-purpose Blue breeds in **Belgium and Northern France**

F.G. Colinet



案 Animal Science Unit, Gembloux Agricultural University, Passage des Déportés, 2, B-5030 Gembloux, Belgium colinet.f@fsagx.ac.be

Context

Dual-Purpose Belgian Blue and Bleue du Nord cattle are mainly located on both sides of the border between France and Walloon Region of Belgium. Even if these Belgian and French Blue breeds are related because of their common ancestors in the former Mid and High Belgium cattle and the exchange of sires, differentiated selection objectives (more beef in Walloon Region, more milk in France) let them diverge.

Mid and High Belgium breed

Bleue du Nord Endangered status







Dual-Purpose Belgian Blue Vulnerable status



Conservation and use of Dual-Purpose Belgian Blue and Bleue du Nord animals naturally adapted to this cross-border region between France and the Walloon Region (Belgium)

> 1. To create a cross-border working group which will develop common guidelines for selection of bull dams and elite-mating

- 2. To harmonize the collection of phenotypic data (milk production and morphology)
- 4. To develop a joint genetic evaluation for production traits adapted to the specificities of these breeds and integrating data recorded in France and the Walloon Region (Belgium)
 - 6. To characterize the milk quality in both breeds
- - 8. To promote both breeds in the cross-border region

- 3. To create and to help to conserve a common pool of bulls available for breeding in both countries
- 5. To improve the profitability of farms through advice on management and on improvement of livestock
- 7. To valorize these breeds through the development of new and specific products

Partners

- √ Walloon Breeding Association, Lead Partner (B)
- ✓ Centre Régional de Ressources Génétiques du
 - Nord-Pas-de Calais (F)

- √ Maison de l'Elevage du Nord / Union Bleue du Nord (F)
- ✓ Animal Science Unit, Gembloux Agricultural University (B)
- ✓ Institut de l'Elevage (F)

Associate Partners

- / Herd-Book Blanc Bleu Belge (B)
- √ Parc naturel régional de l'Avesnois (F)

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