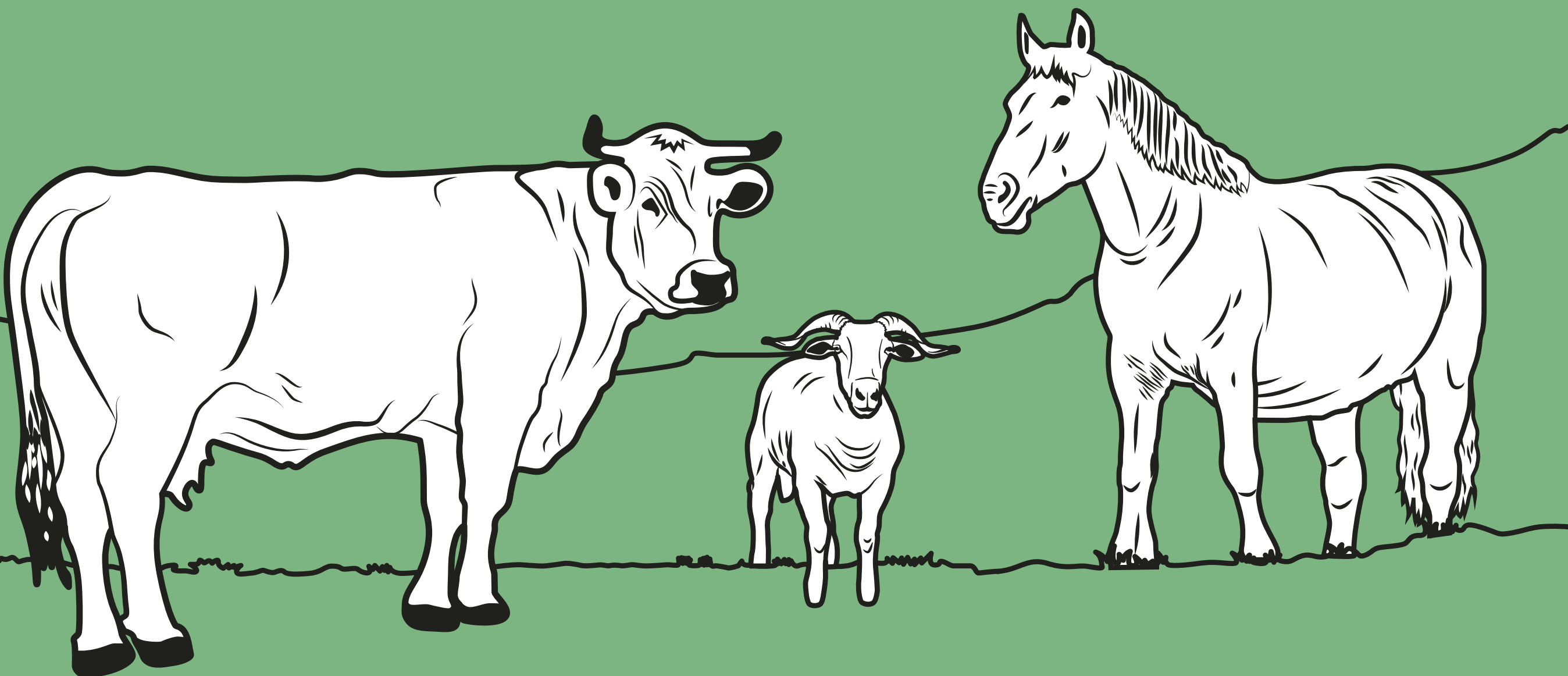


CHEMIN DE LA

TRANS  
HUMANANCE

ESTI  ES

# WELCOME TO AN AREA WHERE TRANSHUMANANCE TAKES PLACE



COMÚ DE CANILLO




Govern d'Andorra

**Ariège**  
PYRENEES  
*le Département* **09**

CHEMIN DE LA

# TRANS HUMANCE

ESTI  ES



# **TRANSHUMANCE, THE SEASONAL MOVEMENT OF LIVESTOCK IN THE PYRENEES**

**Crop and livestock farming were the main economic activities in the Pyrenean mountains for centuries, up until the middle of the last century.**

**These activities are closely linked to the natural cycles of the mountain environment.**

**Every year, in summer and autumn, farmers and shepherds (men and women) organise the movements of their livestock, following traditional pastoral rituals. Whenever possible, the animals are still moved on foot, tracing the paths or tracks of ancestral herds.**

**Transhumance has left both a tangible cultural heritage of architecture (traditional buildings, remote barns, shepherds' huts, orris, drystone walls, etc.) and landscapes (alpine pastures and heathlands, intermediate zones of hayfields and terraces, etc.), which still survive today, and an intangible heritage relating to crop and livestock farming which is still handed down from generation to generation. A socioeconomic system has developed around transhumance, from gastronomy to local handicrafts, and the fairs and festivals that mark the beginning and end of each season.**

**Transhumance has been incorporated into UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, offering recognition to a traditional practice that favours sustainable development, promotes animal welfare and the production of local products, and helps to protect natural resources and preserve the biodiversity of mountain ecosystems.**

Today, the movement of livestock faces a new challenge, with the return of protected predator species, notably bears and wolves. These two species often attack herds for food, causing great damage to the livestock sector and leading to the gradual, insidious decline of pastoral lands.

The survival of transhumance therefore requires new legal mechanisms that acknowledge its overriding public interest, in order to support a lasting, dynamic livestock sector; perpetuate life in the valleys; develop sustainable, responsible tourism, and preserve the very rich biodiversity.

Friend, hiker, citizen, consumer - you can easily help to preserve this common good, this ancient and wise blend of tradition, cultural heritage and fragile nature by:

- Respecting the rights and customs of the land you cross.
- Enjoying the gastronomy produced by the transhumant community.
- Supporting the local farmers who employ their skills on a daily basis to preserve this invaluable environment.



# PYRENEAN GASCON

**Numbers:** 23 000 cows

**Category:** bovines



**Weight:**

- cows 650 – 700 kg
- bulls 900 – 1,150 kg

**Height:**

- cows 1.35 m
- bulls 1.45 m

**Origin:** Saint-Gaudens (France)

## CHARACTERISTICS

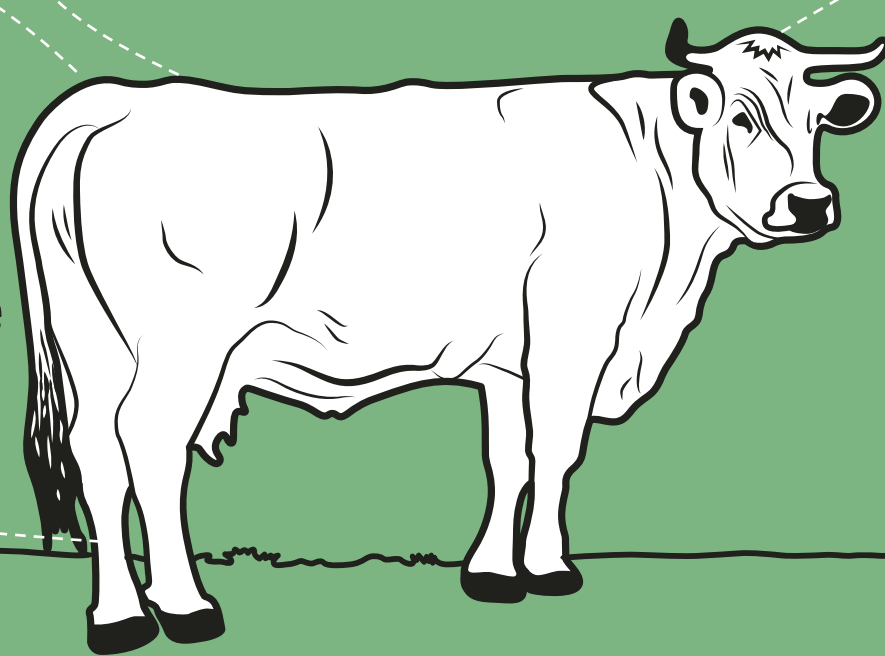
**Hardy breed**

**Body** black nostrils and hooves

**Hair** short and dense

**Coat** grey, lightening in summer

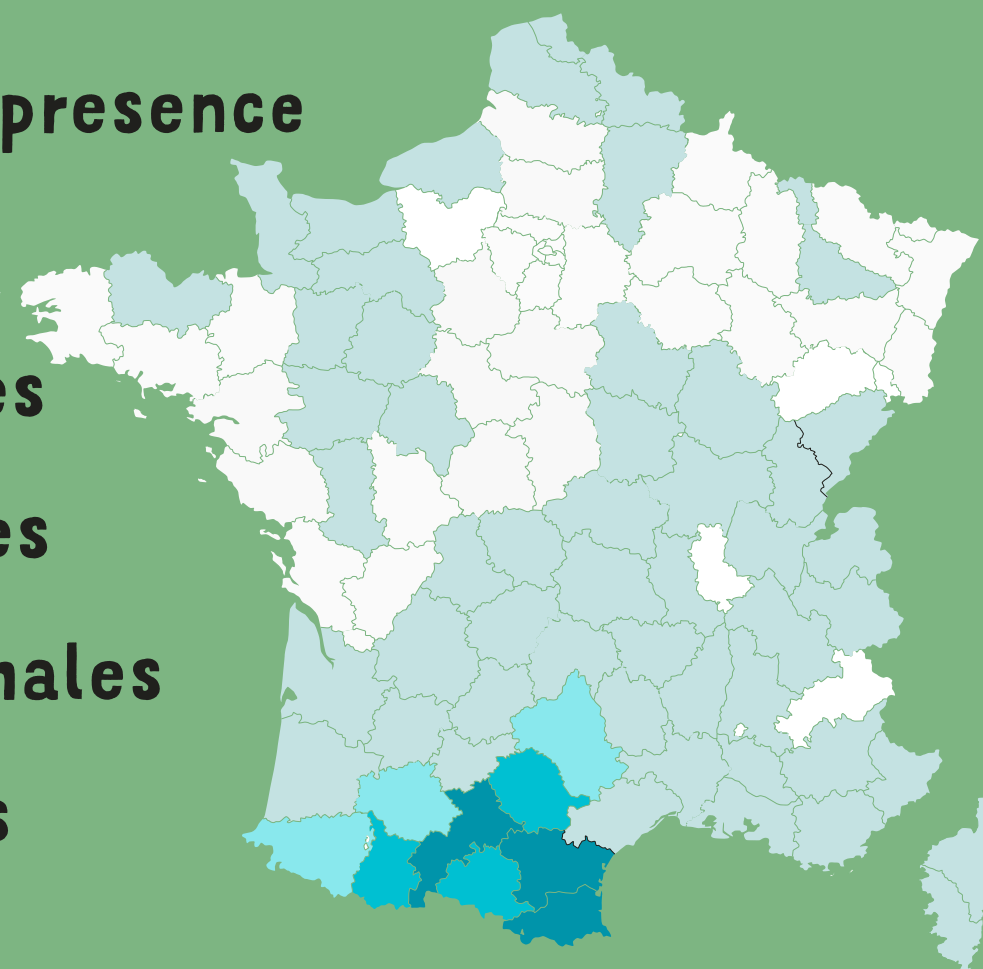
**Head** black-tipped lyre-shaped horns, black ear tips, eyes and eye contours



**Production:** purebred or crossbred quality meat

**Distribution map of Pyrenean Gascon females in France (2020)**

- No documented presence
- < 100 females
- 100 - 499 females
- 500 - 999 females
- 1 000 - 1 999 females
- >= 3 000 females



**Sellos de calidad:**



# TARASCONNAISE

**Numbers:** 152,100 ewes

**Category:** ovines



**Weight:**

- ewes 60 kg
- rams 80 kg

**Height:**

- ewes 65 cm
- rams 80 cm

**Origin:** Tarascon-sur-Ariège in the Pyrenees

## CHARACTERISTICS

**Wool** fine, white, dense with no guard hairs, 5-10 cm, curly

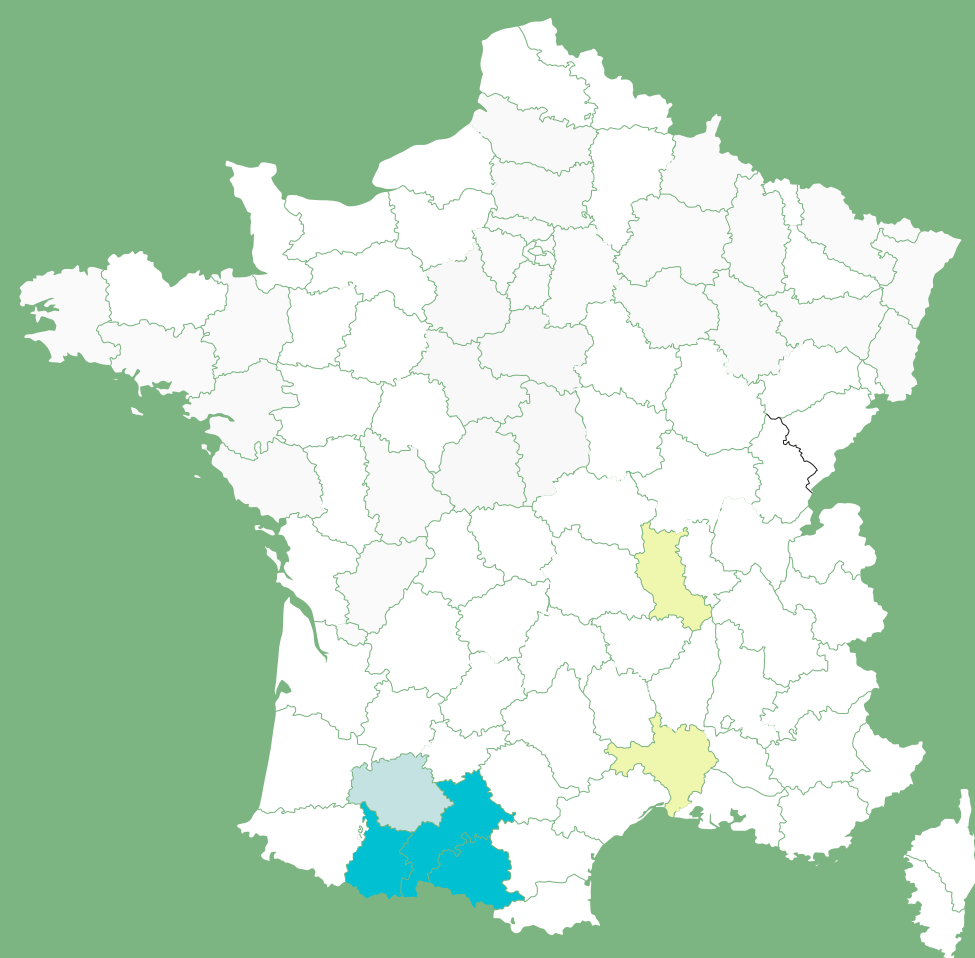
**Body** strong legs



**Head** large, white, horned. The ram's horns are thick and spiralled, the ewes' horns are slender. Slight Roman nose and medium-sized horizontal ears

**Production:** Meat breed. Production of grass-fed lambs aged 6-10 months, live weight 35 kg. Lambs for slaughter.

-  No. ewes in CPO
-  < 100 ewes
-  100 - 500 ewes
-  500 - 1 000 ewes
-  1 000 - 5 000 ewes
-  5 000 - 10 000 ewes
-  10 000 - 30 000 ewes



## Quality Seals:



Label Rouge:  
"Free-range  
lamb. Shepherds'  
Selection"



Indication Géographique  
Protégée (IGP):  
"Pyrenean Lamb"

# MÉRENS

**Numbers:** 493 breeding mares in 2019

**Category:** equines



**Weight:**

• 400-600 kg

**Height:**

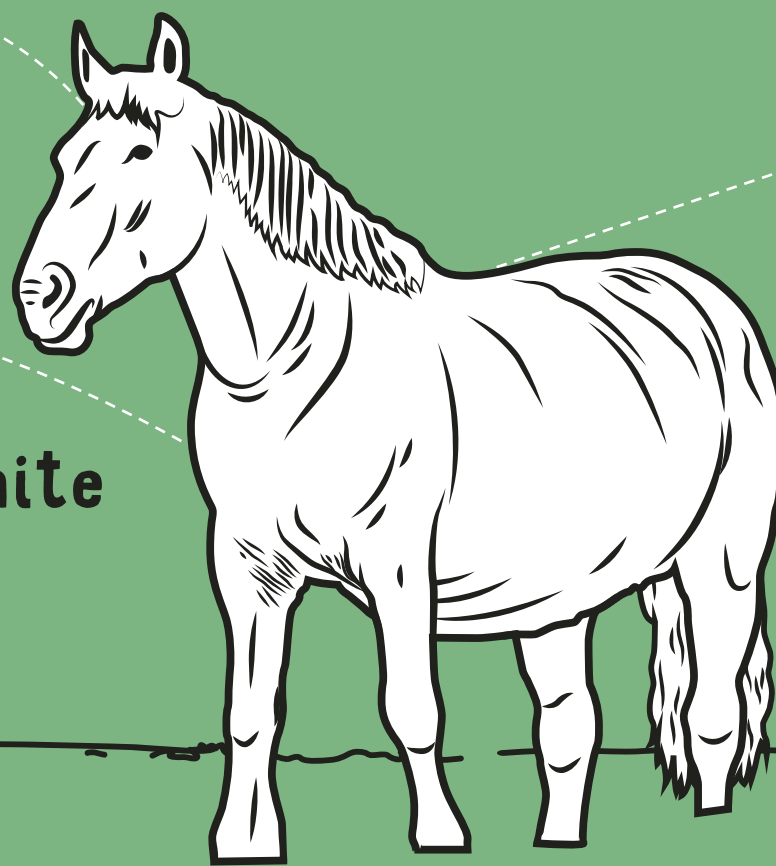
• 1,35-1,55 m

**Origin:** upper Ariège valley, in the Pyrenees

## CHARACTERISTICS

**Head** straight nose, broad flat forehead, short ears

**Coat** pure black (no white patches or white hairs)

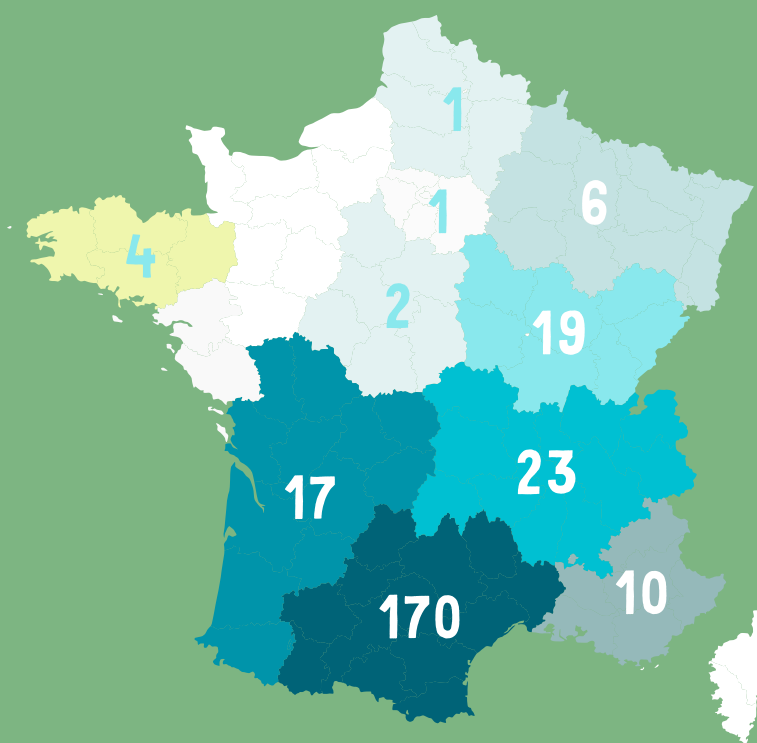


**Body** strong legs; developed muscles; hard, dark hooves

**Production:** Mérens are very versatile. Their hardiness and sure-footedness make them excellent for riding and eco-grazing. They are often used to pull carriages.

## Mérens foals

born and registered in France (2017)



## Association:



# BRUNA DE ANDORRA

**Numbers:** 1400 cows

**Category:** bovines



**Weight:**

- females 550 - 600 kg
- males (bulls) 900 – 1,000 kg



**Height:**

average shoulder height 1.35 m

**Location:** throughout the Principality of Andorra

## CHARACTERISTICS

Hardy, suitable for meat production.

- Adapted to the mountain geography
- Dark brown coat with black-tipped, white horns
- Good maternal qualities, easy calving
- Strong, well-formed legs of an average length and width
- Broad muzzle
- Good muscle development
- Calm, docile nature

**Production:**

quality-controlled meat from purebreds or crossbreeds

**Quality Seals:**



Quality-controlled meat  
from Andorra

IGP Carn d'Andorra



# SHEEP IN ANDORRA

**Numbers:** 2 100 ewes

**Category:** ovines



**Weight:**

• females 55 - 65 kg

• males 75 - 100 kg



**Height:**

• females 75 cm

• males 90 cm

**Location:** throughout the Principality of Andorra

## CHARACTERISTICS

### Rouge du Roussillon or Berberina

- White or reddish, thick, fine wool
- Red face and legs
- One lamb per birth
- Adapted to mountain conditions in extensive farming
- Can stand high temperatures above 40°C

### Xisqueta

- Small, very hardy breed
- Highly-valued, quality white fleece
- One lamb per ewe each year
- Adults hornless
- White coat with black nostrils, eyes and ears
- Adapted to high mountain conditions and transhumance

### Lacaune

- Large breed, good meat production
- Twin births
- Poorly adapted to mountain conditions
- Early ewe breeding age
- White face, legs and fleece
- Suitable for meat and milk

**Production:** mostly farmed for the production of lamb meat which is marketed under the “Quality-controlled meat from Andorra” seal

**Sellos de calidad:**



Quality-controlled  
meat from  
Andorra

**Contribution:** sheep production helps to conserve biodiversity and maintain the production and quality of forage in the pastures and communal woodlands. Pasturing helps to minimise and prevent natural risks (wildfires and avalanches), which is beneficial to the development of activities for tourism, such as discovering the landscape and nature (hiking, etc.) or local cuisine.

# HORSES IN ANDORRA

**Numbers:** 356 females

**Category:** equines



**Weight:**

- heavy mares >650 kg
- heavy male adults (stallions) >700 kg



**Height:**

1,45 – 1,60 m

**Location:** throughout the Principality of Andorra

## CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

The production of equines helps to conserve biodiversity and maintain the production and quality of forage in the pastures and communal woodlands. Pasturing helps to minimise and prevent natural risks (wildfires and avalanches), which is beneficial to the development of activities for tourism, such as discovering the landscape and nature (hiking, etc.) and the local cuisine.

**Production:** quality-controlled horsemeat.

## Quality Seals:



Quality-controlled  
meat from Andorra

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