

Product protection of indigenous breeds in Hungary

Central Agricultural Office, Dr. László Radnóczy

Steps were taken in the field of development and protection of products especially in Hungarian Grey Cattle and Mangalica breed (e.g. Spanish-Hungarian cooperation in „Serrano” ham program). „HU-BA” program is a new initiatives for protection of indigenous poultry breeds’ products.

Unfortunately product-forgery and inefficient or illegal use of the name of protected indigenous breeds are very wide-spread. Sometimes the quality of products which has been made from protected indigenous breeds is unacceptable. This process must be hindered.

Indigenous breeds (supposed optimal keeping and feeding conditions) are suitable for producing high quality food.

In case of some breeds the propaganda of excellent products has created demand. On the other hand falsifiers have appeared for taking up full advantage of high prices, so the protection of these products is remarkably important.

In the interest of product-protection the specifications of the use of breeds’ name are included among the rules of food labelling. The specification is the next:

„If the name of a food which has been made and put into circulation in Hungary corresponds or refers to the name of an indigenous breed which has been defined in different regulation, the producer or distributor of that food has to possess a certification about given animal’s identity. The certification is issued by an officially recognized breeding organization. Certification has to contain the identification number of the given animal, the identification number of farm of origin and breed composition in case of cross-bred animals.”

The recognized breeding organization of a breed gives certification about that the sold animal belongs to the breed on the evidence of the herd book.

The certification contains:

- a) identification number of given animal (or group of animals e.g. in case of poultry breeds)
- b) identification number of farm of origin
- c) name of the breed or breed composition in case of a cross-bred animal

The certification is qualified as an authenticated document. The form of the certification with signature samples is an enclosure of the breeding program.

Beside certification system the other opportunities for checking are the quality control of the product and examination of genetic sample of the product.

Experimental examinations has begun for quality control of products and determination the breed by genetic examinations.

In Hungary there is a special I&R service in cattle for helping the protection of indigenous breeds and their products.

A consumer who has got a WAP-service on his own mobile phone he can dial:

<http://wap.enar.hu> address, and he can access the central I&R data base.

If he dials the I&R number of a cattle, for example from a meat label in the butcher or meat shop he can read the following information about the cattle on his phone display:

- date of birth,
- sex,
- colour of cattle,
- breed,
- country of origin,
- the serial number of last cattle-passport,
- the issuing date of last cattle-passport,
- name and address of the slaughter house,
- date of slaughtering,
- weight of warm carcass,
- class of conformation,
- sub-class of conformation,
- class of fat cover.
- sub-class of fat cover.

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