



# Belgium Blue

By:

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# Table Of Contents

A white bull with a yellow ear tag and a halter is standing in a green field. The bull is facing right and is the central focus of the image. The background shows a clear sky and some trees in the distance.

- History
- Male Description
- Female Description
- Desirable Traits
- Performance
- Genetic Problem



# History

- Central and Upper Belgium
- Cross of Durham Shorthorns and Friesian cattle in 1850-1890
- Initially dual purpose breed
- Chaolais in 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- Bred for meat qualities after WW11
- Product of Professor Hanset

# Description

- Double Muscling
- Large sized animal with rounded outline
- Fine but strong legs and can walk easy
- Docile
- Males 1700 lbs, 53” tall
- Females 1100 lbs, 48” tall



A close-up photograph of a roasted turkey on a silver platter. The turkey is the central focus, with its skin appearing golden-brown and slightly charred. It is surrounded by fresh green herbs and clusters of red cranberries. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the turkey and its garnishes. The text 'Desirable Traits' is overlaid in white serif font at the top center. Below it, a bulleted list of four traits is presented in the same white serif font.

# Desirable Traits

- Meat Quantity
- Meat Quality comparable with Hereford-Angus
- Lower in fat and cholesterol than chicken
- Early Maturation

# Performance

- Belgian Blue is becoming more important as the male breed in various countries in Europe, Africa, America and Asia.
- Use of Belgian Blue bulls on female milk breeds show the qualities of breed, at their best.
- Production of more highly muscled calves

# Genetic Problems

- Traditionally hard calving
- High calving interval and calf mortality
- Belgian Blue performed lower in calving ease and calving rate.
- Delivery by caesarean.





# Top Bull

- Mahogany a black, tall
- He has sired well grown, correct, smart saleable progeny.
- On pedigree cows, 85% have been naturally born,
- Easy calving on crossbred cows with good dark color passing through to his progeny.
- Mahogany's stock are just starting to filter through the sale rings with prices well above the breed average.



A large, muscular, light brown bull stands in a grassy field. The bull is facing left and has a thick, shaggy coat. The background shows a line of trees under a clear sky. The text "The End" is overlaid in the center of the image.

The End

# References

- <http://www.belgianblue.org/>
- <http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/cattle/belgianblue/index.htm>