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

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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)

3. To create and to help to conserve a common pool of bulls available for breeding in both countries

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)

5. To improve the profitability of farms through advice on management and on improvement of livestock

6. To characterize the milk quality in both breeds

7. To valorize these breeds through the development of new and specific products

8. To promote both breeds in the cross-border region

Partners

✓ Walloon Breeding Association, Lead Partner (B)
✓ Maison de l’Elevage du Nord / Union Bleue du Nord (F)
✓ Centre Régional de Ressources Génétiques du Nord-Pas-de-Calais (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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