



## REASSESSMENT OF LOCAL PIG BREED BAZNA

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### Impact of breed conservation

From economical, social and environmental point of view, local breed conservation leads to a real and substantial impact. Reassessment of Bazna breed reveals new economic possibilities. Due to the increased importance given to pork quality, customers' interest on some markets of European Community countries is bigger and bigger. Along with Mangalitza, Bazna breed has high intramuscular fat content and its dispersion is favorable concerning palatability (flavour, juiciness, tenderness). Maintaining Bazna breed nucleus also contributes to the genetic stock enrichment of the species and gives the opportunity to use it in crossbreeding in order to obtain resistant new hybrids.

### Breed history

Bazna is one of the most important Romanian local pig breed, kept in Transylvania area from more than 100 years. Bazna pig breed was developed in the second half of the nineteenth century, by cross-breeding Mangalitza with Berkshires. This population has been improved and its characteristics have been consolidated with Sattelschwein and Wessex pig breeds (in 1959 and 1969-1970).

### Morphological characteristics

The most important body measurements of the last years (2010-2012) were compared to those made in 1990-1998. Back then, body measurements were taken at the weight of 195.5 kg, while now at 120-137 kg, because this is the weight for the best meat and fat production and animals should be slaughtered upon reaching it. The average values are shown in table 1.

Table 1. Comparative results of body measurement of Bazna breed

Specification	1990-1998* (M/F)	2010-2012** (M/F)
Body length (cm)	156.3 / 142.7	120.0 / 93.2
Height at withers (cm)	77.2 / 76.3	109.4 / 86.7
Rump height (cm)	85.2 / 78.6	104.4 / 84.4
Body circumference (cm)	145.8 / 138.7	102.4 / 88.9
Cannon bone circumference (cm)	20.8 / 19.3	18.6 / 16.7

M/F – male/female; \* Nagy and Spădaru, 1999; \*\* Nagy et. al., 2012

### Reproductive characteristics

Regarding the most important reproductive performances, Bazna breed is a maternal breed. Average values of the most important sow reproductive characteristics are shown in table 2.



Table 2. Comparative results of sow reproductive performance of Bazna breed

Specification	1990-1998*	2010-2012**
Litter size (total piglets / live piglets)	10.6 / 9.2	7.9 / 6.4
Average piglets weight at born (kg)	1.35	1.14
Litter size at 21 days (kg)	8.4	6.1
Average piglets weight at 21 days (kg)	4.3	5.1
Lactating ability of sows (kg)	35.7	30.8
Weaned piglets (no.)	8.1	5.6
Average piglets weight at weaning (kg)	9.1	12.0

\* Nagy and Spădaru, 1999; \*\* Nagy et. al., 2012

**In conclusion**, comparing the average values of the main morphological and reproductive characteristics from the last 20 years, we can observe some variations of them. In the case of morphological characteristics, their variation might be the result of the differences regarding the average weight of the analyzed populations. In spite of this, we have to be concerned about prolificacy because even though it is within breed standards, it seems to be decreased in the last years.

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### References

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