

DEVELOPMENT OF A GRASS-FED BEEF PRODUCTION SYSTEM IN SARDINIA

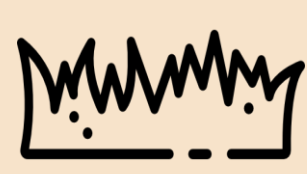
Frongia A., Carboni M.R., Acciaro M., Decandia M., Salis L., Congiu M., Sitzia M.



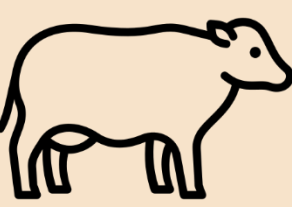
Mountain Grassland and Livestock Joint Conference

Plantahof, Landquart (Switzerland), 15 – 17 June 2026

WHY GRASS-FED?



To enhance the value of grasslands and pastures



To promote traditional pasture-based beef production systems



To highlight the nutritional and sensory meat quality



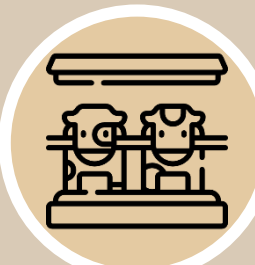
To protect the environment and preserve the landscape and animal welfare

GOALS

Development of a structured grass fed beef production supply chain through:

- Improving grazing management, animal nutrition and livestock performance
- Characterizing meat quality and sensorial properties
- Introducing grass-fed meat to the market to complete the value chain

PROJECT APPROACH



Experimental trials at Agris Sardegna research station, compliance with the guidelines of the «Carne al pascolo iGRAL» production protocol.

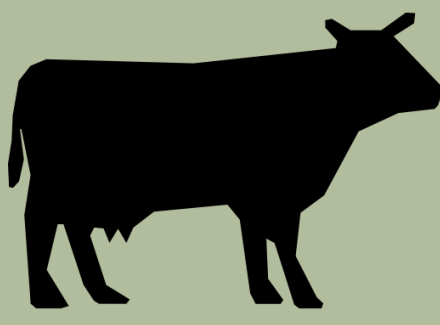


Driving tech adoption and providing hands-on support for grass-fed farmers (A.Sa.Bo.Na. Associazione).



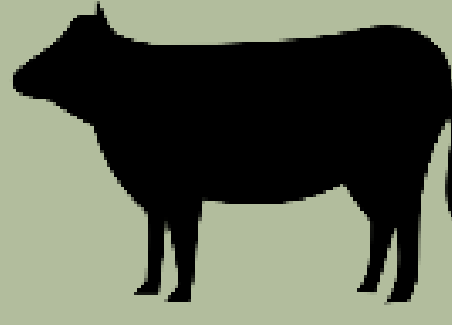
Collaboration with Slow Food for market system development.

AGRIS SARDEGNA EXPERIMENTAL TRIAL



Females

VS



Castrated males



Control
Dry Aging
Wet Aging

What we are monitoring

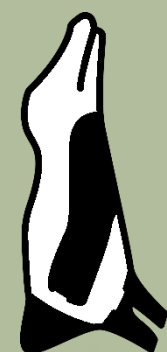
Feed intake



Productive performance



Carcass yield



Meat quality



«Carne al pascolo iGRAL» protocol

Grass-fed beef from 12–24-month-old calves fed $\geq 70\%$ forage, with at least 50% of the farm surface under grazing for a minimum of 6 h/day on pasture. Appliance of sustainable pasture management practices.

A.Sa.Bo.Na. ASSOCIATION

Farmers have formed an association to enhance the value of their livestock production system and promote pasture-raised meat.

EXPECTED IMPACT



Improved technical guidelines for grass-fed beef production



More structured pasture-based systems



A more organized Sardinian grass-fed beef supply chain



Recognition and market differentiation of Sardinian grass-fed beef



Contribution to a Slow Food Presidio for grass-fed beef