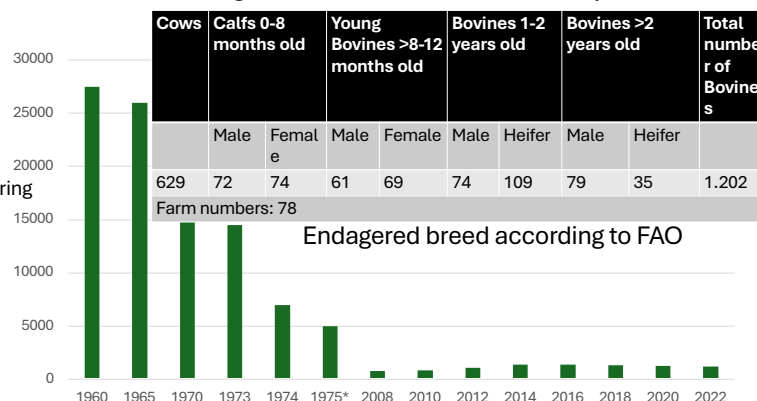
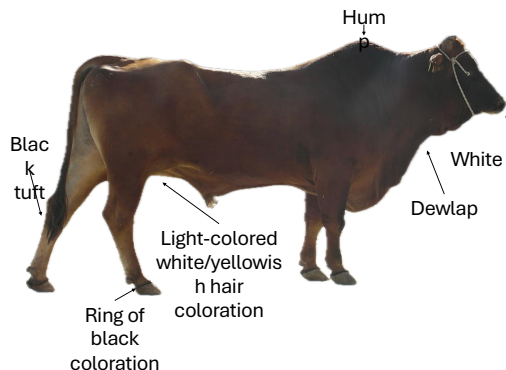
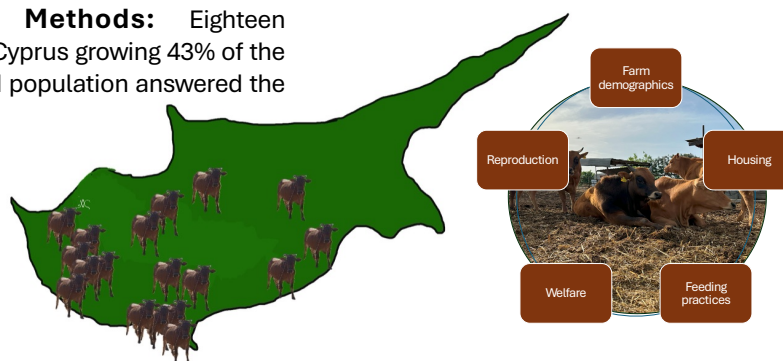


Introduction: The indigenous Cyprus Bovine Breed, *Bos zebu* (*Bos taurus indicus*), represents a critical component of the Cyprus agricultural heritage and biodiversity, threatened to become extinct. The study aimed to characterize the farming system and practices used for the indigenous Cyprus Bovine Breed through detailed data collection and analysis.



Materials and Methods: Eighteen farmers throughout Cyprus growing 43% of the Cyprus Bovine Breed population answered the questionnaires.

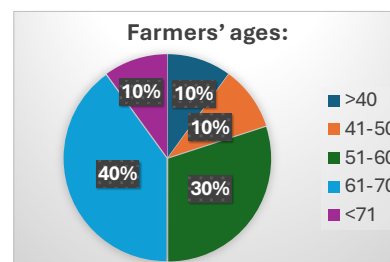
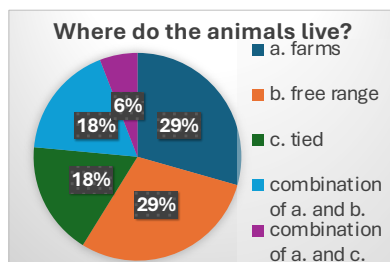
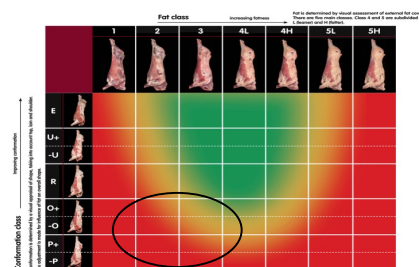
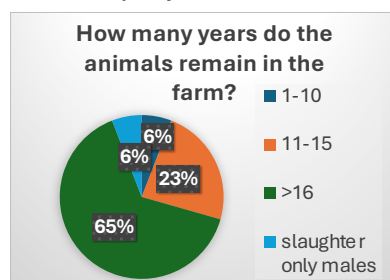


| Province | Village |
|----------|---------------------|
| Larnaca | Kalo Chorio |
| | Kofinou |
| Paphos | Marathounta |
| | Pentalia |
| | Kannaviou |
| | Phaleia |
| | Peristerona & Steni |
| | Houlou |
| Limassol | Akrotiri |
| | Episkopi |
| | Erimi |
| | Apsiou |
| | Paramali |
| | Doros |
| Nicosia | Yeri |
| | Kalopanayiotis |
| | Flasou |

Results

| Cows | Cyprus Bovine Breed | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| Age at first calving (months) | 29 | |
| Weight at first calving (kilograms) | 437 | |
| Adult cow weight (kilograms) | 517 | 400-550 |
| Calving interval (months) | 13.2 | 11-13 |
| Gestation length (days) | 289 | ≈300 |
| Constantinou et. al 1983 Questionnaire | | |
| Calves | Cyprus Bovine Breed | |
| Male & Female Birth weight (kilograms) | 31 & 30 | 20-40 |
| Male & Female Weight at six months (kilograms) | 162 & 149 | 80-150 |
| Male & Female Weight at twelve months (kilograms) | 342 & 307 | |
| Average daily gain of calves from 6 to 12 months of age (kilograms) | 0.99 | - |
| Constantinou et. al 1983 Questionnaire | | |

- Most farms have less than 60 animals.
- The animals are weaned at 5-6 months.
- Most animals are slaughtered between 10-18 months.
- The majority first mate between 12-18 months.



Conclusions: The Cyprus Bovine Cattle is a mature and slow growing breed adapted to the harsh Cypriot hot climate and exhibits resilience to local diseases and parasites. This cattle is capable of thriving in low quality forages making them essential for sustainable, low-input agricultural systems. However, most farms do not have prospects for continuation, while producers consider it as a part-time employment.