

ALENTEJANO breed

A photograph of two black piglets in a grassy field. The piglets are facing forward, and their ears are tagged with yellow and green markers. The background is a soft-focus green field.

Unique quality

ANCPA – Associação Nacional de Criadores do Porco Alentejano



- 30 years old (founded in 07-06-1991)
- 164 associates
 - 73 breeding sows producers
- 2725* breeding sows
- 10.013* new Portuguese Herd Book of Swine - Alentejo Breed Section piglets registration

* Year 2020

ANCPA – Associação Nacional de Criadores do Porco Alentejano



Activities

- Portuguese Herd Book of Swine - Alentejo Breed Section management
- Production support
- Technical services
 - Office
 - In Field
- Feed formulation
- Projects/Partnerships
 - FPAS; FESERPAE; AECERIBER; DGAV; Public entities; Universities...



ALENTEJANO Breed

Introduction

- Portuguese autochthonous breed mainly produced in the Alentejo region in lands with holm oak and cork oak forests
- The Alentejano pig is an animal of high rusticity, which allows a high adaptation to the natural environment and great resistance to diseases



ALENTEJANO Breed

Introduction

- Alentejano pig production is an extensive system, with a close link between the animal and the environment
- Its food is based on natural resources, taking advantage of its spring and autumn pastures, summer stubble and other farm by-products during its growth phase. In its finishing phase, the pig feeds exclusively on acorns, herbs, roots, slugs and other products made available by the agri-forestry-husbandry system known as “Montado” or “Dehesa” (in Spain). In times of scarcity of natural resources, compound feeds might be used



ALENTEJANO Breed

Introduction



- Pure animals are registered in the Portuguese Herd Book of Swine – Alentejo Breed Section (LGPA) after birth, by placing an earing with a unique number for each piglet and this identification can allow the animal to be registered as a breeder or accompany the animal until slaughter



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“Montado” – cork oak and holm oak forest

- Agri-Forestry-Husbandry system based on the exploitation of oaks, normally the cork oak (*Quercus suber*) and/or the holm oak (*Quercus rotundifolia*), in conjunction with an extensive use of the soil under the trees, with agricultural, livestock or hunting purposes.
- It extends over a large part of the Alentejo and Ribatejo regions, part of the interior of Beira Baixa and the Algarve mountains, occupying more than 1 million hectares of the national area.



ALENTEJANO Breed

“Montado” – cork oak and holm oak forest



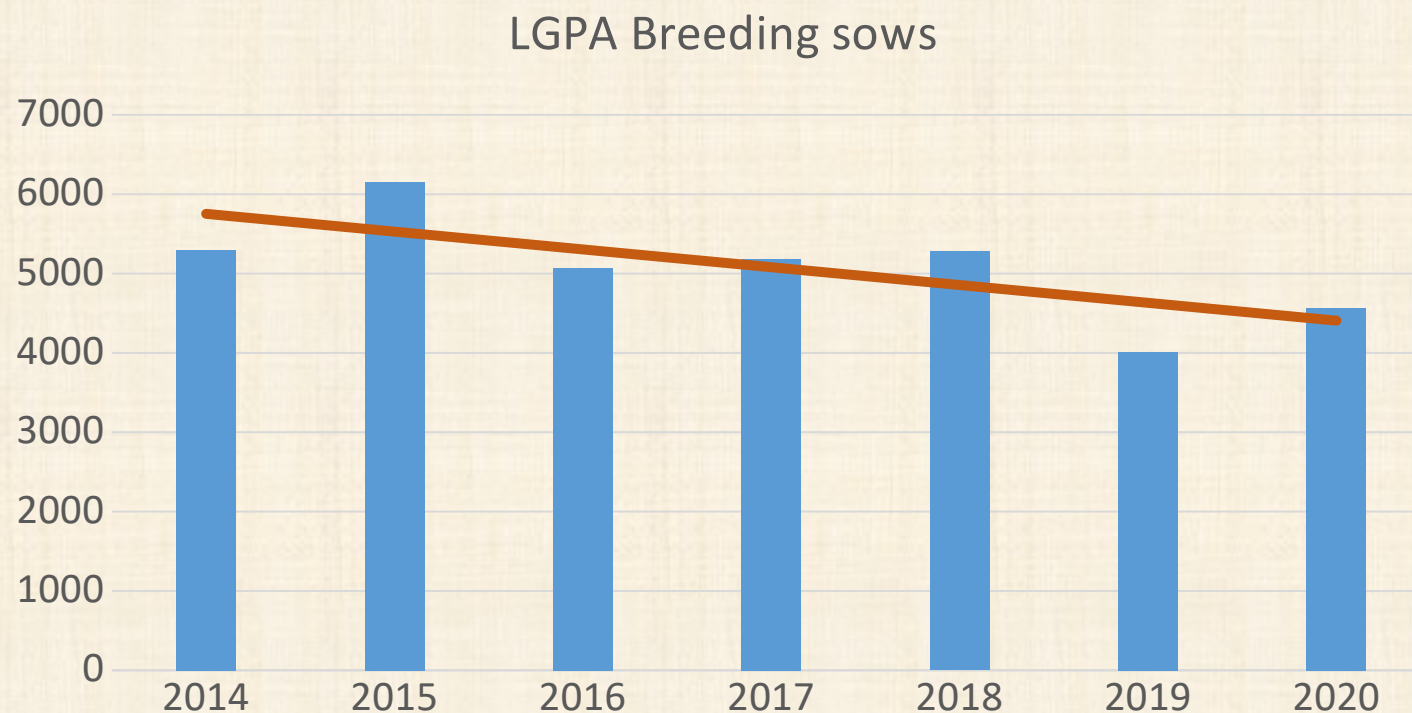
- The fruit of these trees is the acorn, which is made up of more than 80% carbohydrates.
- “Montanheira” stage has an average duration of 3 to 4 months starting in October/November and ending in mid-March.
- The main products are cork and extensive livestock species, with particular emphasis on Porco Alentejano.

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LGPA numbers

Breeders

- Number of breeding sows enrolled in the LGPA at the end of 2020 – **4.564**



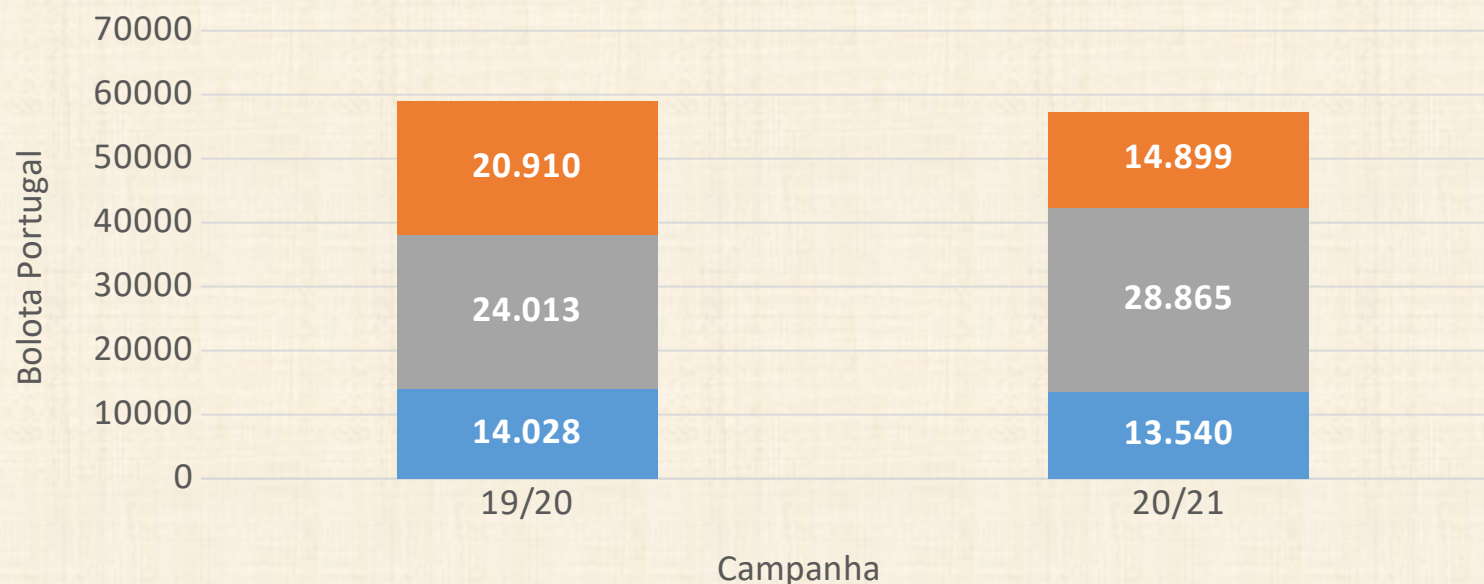
ALENTEJANO Breed

LGPA numbers

For fattening

- Number of Alentejano pigs fattened with Acorn in Portugal in the 20/21 Campaign – 13.540

Pigs fattened with Acorn in Portugal



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Breed characteristics

- **General appearance:** Animals of medium size, light skeleton, great rusticity, lively temperament, with pigmented skin varying in colour from intense slate black with few hairs to fine or red or deep red colour and with little abundant hair
- **Head:** Long and thin with thin, triangular-shaped ears, pointing forward and tipping slightly outward
- **Neck:** Medium length, muscled and well attached to the head and torso, may have an underdeveloped chin

ALENTEJANO Breed

Breed characteristics

- **Body:** Lumbar dorsal region slightly arched, long and oblique croup, drooping belly, thin medium-set tail with tuft of hair at the tip
- **Limbs:** Medium in length, slender and well upright, with small feet and a stiff toenail
- **Gaits:** Agile, elastic, with no signs of faltering progress



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Breed characteristics

- **Prolificity:**

- 5 to 8 piglets/sow twice a year

- **Mounting:**

- Females from 8 to 10 months old - Males from 12 months onwards

- **Gestation:**

- Approximately 112 days

- **Births:**

- Between March and April
- Between September and October



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Production Mode – Production Cycle



Piglets

- From birth to weaning
- Duration about 2 months
- Weaning weight: 10-14kg
- Feeding based on breast milk

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Production Mode – Production Cycle



Raising

- Growth stage
- Duration about 8 to 10 months
- From 14 kg to 100-110kg live weight (LW)
- Food based on spring pastures, summer stubble, and when necessary, supplemented with selected cereals and compound feeds



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Production Mode – Production Cycle

Fattening

- Fattening stage
- Duration about 3 to 4 months starting October/November to March
- Minimum weight deposition/gain: 46kg LW
- Carried out, for most animals in “Montado”, feeding on acorn, grass, roots and other natural products – fattening in “Montanheira”



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Prophylaxis

- **Plans accompanied by the veterinarian responsible for the health of the farm**
- **Aujezsky's disease** – mandatory reporting illness
 - Serologies performed every 6 months in breeders and whenever it is necessary to move live animals
 - Vaccination performed every 4 months
- **Evil Red and Parvovirus**
 - Vaccination carried out every 6 months in males and one week after weaning in females
- **Deworming**
 - Performed at the same time as the vaccination



ALENTEJANO Breed

Strong points

- **Perfect adaptation to extensive production**
 - Rusticity, food based on natural products such as acorns, herbs and cereals
- **Production inserted in the concept of High Natural Value**
 - Existence of high biodiversity with a large proportion of natural vegetation, low intensification agriculture and the land possessing or producing rare or threatened wild and domestic species
- **Compatibility with other livestock species**
 - The Alentejano pig is monogastric and its food needs are different from those of ruminants, such as cattle, so the herb-based diet is a supplement in pigs but it is the main food for ruminants, and in the Montanha, the use of the acorn makes mostly with the Alentejano breed



ALENTEJANO Breed

Strong points

- **High Preservation of Genetic Heritage**
 - Portugal has managed to preserve the Alentejano breed in its purity and the richness of the existing genetic base allows access to the export market and the genetic selection of different lines developed and to be developed
- **High cork oak and holm oak area available for production**
 - Very large growth potential due to the total national area of cork oak and holm oak forests still available



ALENTEJANO Breed

Strong points

- **Unique Quality of Fresh and Processed Products**

- Two differentiating factors:

Breed – the animal's ability to accumulate and infiltrate fat within and between muscle mass and the high rusticity that allows for extensive feeding management

Management – Feeding based on cereals, protein crops and pastures, or controlled compound feeds, and in the fattening phase in Montanheira, it is based on acorn and grass. On the other hand, the animal performs exercise and the movement allows better oxygenation of the muscles, which gives a more vivid color and also favors fat infiltration

ALENTEJANO Breed

Strong points



- **Unique Quality of Fresh and Processed Products**
 - Fat - more balanced, characterized by a high content of monounsaturated fatty acids that help prevent the onset of cardiovascular diseases and control and favour good cholesterol levels
 - Infiltration capacity – Responsible for the high flavour and juiciness, which produces unique products, such as ham (“Presunto de bolota”) and Cure pork loin (“paio do lombo”)

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Strong points

- **Organized and Associated Production**

There are currently two associations, ANCPA and ACPA, which represent about 97% of the sector in Portugal, and form the ACEPA which is responsible for managing the LGPA - Herd Book of the Alentejano Pig.



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Weaknesses



- Absence of specific legislation
- Lack of a national sector
- Difficulty in exploration licensing
- Differences in performance of Regional Directorates and Food and Veterinary Divisions
- Absence of a national strategy for the Breed
- High bureaucracy of records and obligations

ALENTEJANO Breed

Threats



- Death of the cork oak and holm oak forests (due to Climate Changes)
- Increased costs of production factors
- Health risk - extensive production, Aujeszky, Swine Fever...
- Health barriers – policies
- Community legislation not framed to breed specificity
- Increase in substitute processed products
- Weakness of the world economy reflecting on lower consumption



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Opportunities



- Creation of new national industries
- Creation of new derivative products
- Creation of new markets
- Greater use of national Cork Oak and Holm Oak forests
- Viable alternative to ruminant production
- Development and selection of new genetic lines



ALENTEJANO Breed

Product Valuation – Characterization

- Specific quality products - Unique
- Niche segment
- Expensive products
- Industrial fabric small in size and quantity
- Aggressive commercialization by small industries
- Biggest market in large distribution



ALENTEJANO Breed

Product Valuation – Strong points

- Raw material production concept inserted in new consumption trends (extensive, high natural value, traditional product...)
- Unique quality of processed products
- High “Know How”
- High differentiation at the product level
- Good fat quality due to high monoinsaturation



ALENTEJANO Breed

Product Valuation – Strong points

- High number of protected products and regulatory standards:

➤ PDO – Meat of Alentejano Pig



➤ PDO - Alentejo Hams and shoulders



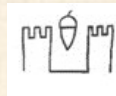
➤ PDO - Barrancos Hams and shoulders



ALENTEJANO Breed

Product Valuation – Strong points

- PGI - Santana da Serra Hams and shoulders
- PGI - Campo Maior Elvas Hams and shoulders
- PGI – Estremoz and Borba sausage products
- PGI – Portalegre sausage products



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Product Valuation – Weaknesses

- Small size and capacity of the national market
- Short list of countries with the possibility of exporting
- Small industrial size (number and production capacity)
- Inflexible industrial business models (optimization in parts)
- High investments with a very long-term return



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Product Valuation – Weaknesses

- High penetration costs in international markets
- High delays and bureaucracy in industrial licensing
- Lack of national support for the creation and maintenance of the industry
- High concentration of sales in large distribution

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Product Valuation – Opportunities

- Creation of new industrial processes
- True product differentiation
- Definition of the product and company "message"
- Taking advantage of the increase in consumer culture in this segment
- Creation of services associated with the products (pre and post sales)

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Product Valuation – Opportunities



- Conquest of “gourmet” markets
- Product innovation adapted to reality and new trends
- Optimization of the potential of by-products
- Creation of partnerships, consortia and commercial platforms
- Taking advantage of protections in markets that value them

ALENTEJANO Breed

Conclusions

- Great Potential for Growth in the Sector
- Essential to Create New Markets and Industries
- Sector Standardization (Pure/Cross) is necessary
- Consumer Education is a must
- National and E.U. Policy support is needed
- Production must be more associated and/or grouped





THANK YOU!