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1905

**#fighting bull**

**#sustainable**



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PICTURES:

Por las Rutas del Toro

TEXT:

Comunicación Unión de Criadores de Toros de Lidia

DESIGN AND LAYOUT:

[www.estudiomatamala.com](http://www.estudiomatamala.com)

A close-up photograph of several large, vibrant green leaves, likely from a banana plant, showing detailed vein patterns. The leaves are layered, with some in the foreground and others receding into the background, creating a sense of depth. The lighting is bright and even, highlighting the natural texture and color of the foliage.

*Sustainable* 

BREEDING | CULTURE | MEAT | TOURISM







## **The fighting bull is a distinctive element of Marca España abroad.**

The fighting bull is the most iconic animal of our country and it establishes the greatest Spanish contribution to animal breeding and world livestock genetics.





**#Sustainablebreeding**

## Internationally localized production in high value natural systems

Production of the fighting bull breed spreads across Spain, Portugal, South of France, Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Venezuela.



There are more than 976 livestock farms breeding fighting bulls in Spain that account for a total census of 213,457 animals included in the family tree of the Fighting Bull bovine breed

Breeding of the fighting bull spreads across more than 250,000 ha of pasture lands defined by the European Union as High Value Natural Systems. (HVNS)

These systems are distinguished for the scarce use of supplies, the presence of semi-natural vegetation and the variety of uses of the soil. They encompass a wide array of farms. From pasture lands inhabited by extensive livestock breeding to dry lands with spots of vegetation. Furthermore, Endangered and unique species rely on the conservation of these lands, like the Iberian Lynx, the imperial eagle and indigenous crops and livestock.



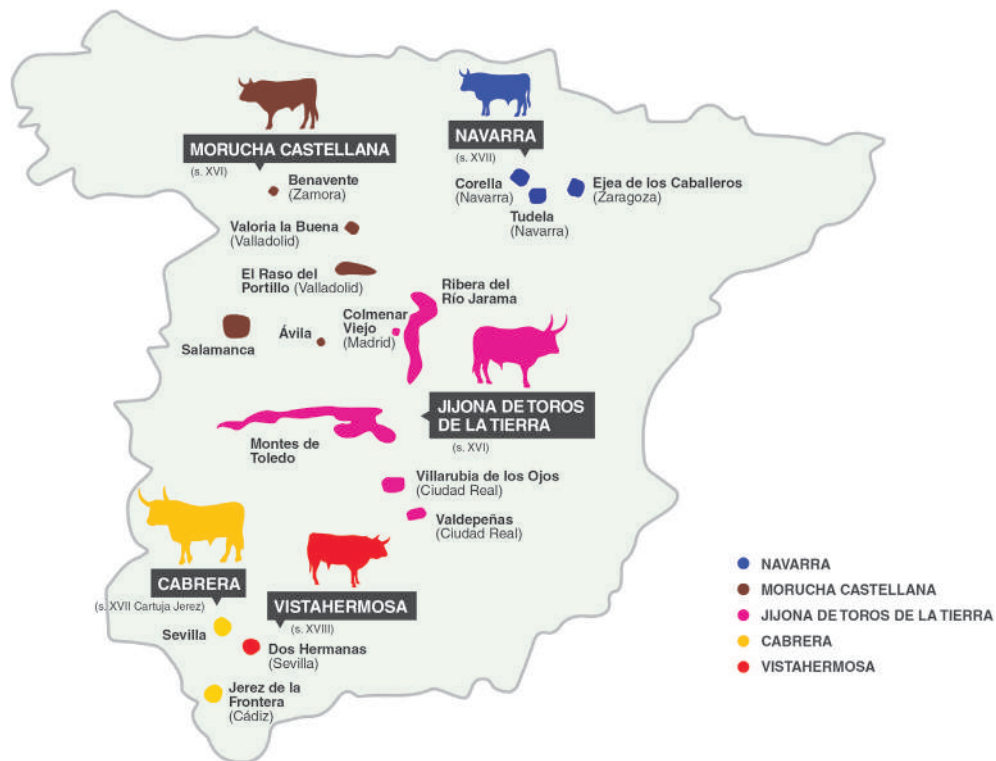


## The fighting bovine breeding can be considered as one of the oldest

Spanish breeders started selection of the fighting bull breed for bullfighting venues before Robert Bakewell (Dishley, England (1725-1795) started the specialization of bovine in the production of meat followed shortly after by dairy production. The abundance of historical documents about the origins of different livestock species allows for tracking the birth of the fighting bull livestock from the 16th-17th centuries to this day.

The birth of the fighting bull breed is coincident with the first bullfights (celebrated as early as 1728 according to Ortega and Gasset). The first fighting bull breeders used bovine species that inhabited all across the Iberian peninsula mostly on wet lands or rough, not easily accessible areas that served as refuge for the last specimens of wild bulls in the Peninsula. The first cattle breeders settled alongside the banks of the main riverine basins.





The animals who belonged to these breeds live in a sort of semi-liberty and they roam in herds that feature a hi-erached social structure. From the very moment of birth, they watch their environment on constant alert and they can charge and ram if they feel threatened.

For some researchers this characteristic behaviour has its origin in the primal ferocity of the Uro, a wild forebear of the current bovine specimens of today. The uro was pretty common in the Iberian peninsula where it is still present in the most abundant cave art collection of the world. They still keep wildlife instincts that have been long lost in the majority of the cattle breeds due to domestication.

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## The jewel of the Spanish livestock genetic heritage with more than three centuries of history

Breeding of the fighting bull spreads across more than 250,000 ha of pastures, declared by the European Union as High-value Natural Systems (HVNS)

The fighting bull is the jewel of the Spanish livestock genetic heritage. It features a particular genetic structure which is impossible to replicate from other livestock breeds and it's the result of a work of selection carried out by livestock breeders all over three centuries.

The fighting bull breed is structured in varieties called "encastes" or "belonging to a chaste" and there is a wide genetic array between some encastes, as a result of the breeder's activities, who have left their mark on the livestock production and they keep a high degree of reproductive isolation. Thus, a lot of morphologic differences can be appreciated between different groups of livestock population.

The degree of genetic differentiation observed in the fighting bull breed is far superior to what can be found in other European bovine breeds. So it should be considered as a "meta-breed" or "breed of breeds"



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 BREED	ENCASTE	LINE
CABRERA	MIURA	
GALLARDO	PABLO - ROMERO	
NAVARRA		
VAZQUEÑA		COCHA Y SIERRA
		VERAGUA
VISTAHERMOSA	MURUBE - URQUIJO	
	CONTRERAS	
	SALTILLO	
	SANTA COLOMA	BUENDÍA
		GRACILIANO PÉREZ-TABERNEO
		COQUILLA
	ALBASERRADA	
	URCOLA	
	DERIVATIVES OF PARLADÉ	GAMERO - CÍVICO
		PEDRAJAS
		CONDE DE LA CORTE
		ATANASIO FERNÁNDEZ
		JUAN PEDRO DOMEQ
		NÚÑEZ
		TORRESTRELLA
MIXTURES WITH VISTAHERMOSA	HIDALGO - BARQUERO	
	VEGA - VILLAR	
	VILLAMARTA	



## **The bullfighting breed contains the genetic strain of ancestral bovine species domesticated on the Near East**

From the study of mytocondrial of more than 700 animals belonging to 50 different livestock brands of the Union of Fighting Bull Breeders carried out by the Genetics laboratory of the Faculty of Veterinary of the Universidad Complutense of Madrid it can be concluded that the diversity obtained from that type of ADN is very similar to that observed in the indigenous livestock coming from the Near East, where the domestication of these species began more than 10,000 years ago.

## **Vestiges of prehistoric bovines and italian uros re found in Atapuerca**

This breed has a simliar genetic structure to that of the primitive bovine breed located in the Iberian peninsula more than 3,000 years ago in Atapuerca, so the exsistence of the first African coloners of the Peninsula (From Carthago in the IV-III centuries before Christ) Some of the specimens of fighting bull analyzed have identical genetic of mythochondrial DNA found in Italian as well as Spanish remnants of prehistoric bovines between 9,000 and 19,000 years old.



## **Versatility of the breed regarding its adaptation capability throughout more than three centuries of history**

The livestock breeds of this race have adapted to the evolution of the bullfighting venues over the last three centuries, marked by the public's tastes and the main bullfighting figures' preferences.

The strategy used in the bullfighting breed has resulted in a high level of conservation of its genetic wealth thanks to its division in "encastes" or unique breeds.



## Consideration of species of fighting breeds in danger of extinction

Precisely a lot of the fighting bull breeds encompass the conditions demanded by the FAO (The organization of the United Nations for Agriculture and Nourishment) to be considered endangered species.

One of the most singular features of the breed is its **“exchangeability” or reduced ecological and genetical** interchangeability. In layman’s terms, it means the fighting bull breed is very difficult to replace with another different breed, and hence it’s a high priority breed to be included in preservation programs.

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There are fighting bull breeds that encompass the conditions demanded by the FAO (The organization of the United Nations for Agriculture and Nourishment) to be considered endangered species.

## An extensive and environment-friendly breeding system

Extensive and environment-friendly breeding system, it features a lot more intensification than other bovine breeds (nearly 2/ha per head of livestock in the case of UCTL breeds) and has less impact over their environment than other species such as hog or sheep.

In Europe, the fighting bull can be found mainly in the distribution zones of the Iberian pasture lands. These lands spread over wide areas of poor soil in the center, western and south-western Spain and in the Alentejo region of Portugal. It can also be found in inferior quantities in moor areas, on the Regional Natural Park of Cammarge in France and in Southern Andalucia.

In the case of the UCTL breeds, a lot of them are located in areas marked as natural or national parks and they inhabit two different types of Mediterranean ecosystems of great ecological importance: the Iberian pasture lands and to a lesser extent in marsh lands. Both are ecological heritage that stands Spain out as a very important reservation of bio-diversity compared to other European countries.



The Fighting Bull breeding has less impact over their environment than other species such as hog or sheep.

## The bull, keeper of the Iberian pasture lands

The breeding of the fighting bull takes about a seventh part of total pasture lands and it produces a beneficial effect over its preservation. Furthermore, it regenerates the lowlands by avoiding the spread of the weeds and bushes, thus preventing the erosion of soil and desertization thanks to balanced shepherding that allows for the optimal exploitation of natural resources.

The fighting bull lives alongside and protects endangered species such as the lynx, imperial eagle, black stork...In fact, endangered species protection programs are developed in fighting bull breeding grounds. They are also safe havens for migratory birds when watersheds and pools are present.





## The fighting bull breeders are true environmental managers

They are heir to a management model based on tradition, in a modern knowledge of land exploitation, and a deep respect for the environment. The fighting bull breeders are true environmental managers.

Furthermore they take care of the rural environment, shying away from indiscriminate wood cutting for crop growing in pasture lands in favour of the cereal crops, thus favoring biodiversity of indigenous flora and fauna .



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## Positive effects of fighting bull livestock regarding enviromental preservation

- **They contribute to the fight against climate change** because pasture lands act as buffers for Co2 and sources of oxygen.
- **They form a barrier against wildfires**, because of the lack of bushes, for the constant watch on livestock areas and because of the features of their borders, which impede the formation and spreediong of such fires.
- **Helps fighting furtivism** and limit access to the biggest predator: Mankind.





## The fighting bull stock breeding help dynamize the economy of the rural enviroment

The stock breedings of the UCTL are located mainly in the least populated areas of the EU, which feature a population density of under 50 inhabitants per square kilometer., marginal areas featured for the lack of industrial fabric. The fighting bull pastures are located mostly on ranges or mountains; Less favoured lands of the Iberian peninsula more desolate and poor, unsuited for growing crops and threatened by depopulation.

The fighting bull stocks contribute to rise the rural populaton on such zones throught the improvement of salaries, by the necessity of a permanent,numerous workforce (Double the ones needed for the breeding of bovine meat wholesale). The know-how and positions are passed from parents to their children. Those

are even reinforced by non-permanent, temporary workers who are hired to cover an array of specific tasks.

Besides, the breeding of fighting bulls needs to have other specialized animals for their daily handling,(Horses and bullocks) and so it benefits other sectors(Cattle feeding, pharmaceutical industries, veterinaries,, machinery and tools, building, insurance, oil, etc.



The fighting bull livestock contributes to balance the population in rural areas and less fortunate areas.



## Breeding of the fighting bull is the most expensive animal production ever

Because of its long production cycle, more than 5 years long and by its handling characteristics the fighting bull production is the most expensive, the most uncertain and riskiest. It takes important investments in terrain, facilities and has very high costs, because the fighting bull takes feeding, attention, watch and special healthcare in order to be fit for bullfighting events.



The cost of a fighting bull for bullfighting events in which the minimum age is 4 years old and less than 6, is worth about €4,500 although it may be subject to variations.

Only the 6.5% of all UCTL stock census is destined to the bullring. For each animal that goes to a bullfight it takes 15 heads of livestock.





**#Sustainable** culture

## Fighting bull breeding is acknowledged as Cultural Heritage as per Law 18/2013

**The Law 18/2013 of November 12th for the regulation of Bullfighting as Cultural Heritage**, establishes that Bullfighting comprises “A series of knowledge and artistic activities, creative and productive, including the breeding and selection of the fighting bull, that come together in the modern bullfighting and the art of bullfight, a relevant expression of the traditional culture of the Spanish people. By extension, we call bullfighting to every activity linked to it.

Hence, in the terms established by the definition the breeding of fighting bulls is a part of the cultural heritage worthy of protection in all national territory, as per applicable laws and international treaties on the subject.



**The breeding of fighting bull stock is a form of artistic activity deeply rooted in traditional culture.**

## ► **Creators of bravery**

Stock breeders are **creators of bravery** because they have been creating and reshaping a breed more adapted to the tastes of the viewers. Every stock breeder imprints his own personal touch or personality in the bulls he breeds.

The fighting bull breeding, is the only livestock production the selection of which is based on behaviour parameters instead of mass production.





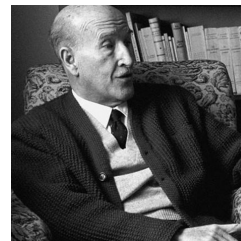


## The fighting bull as a source of inspiration for artistic manifestation.

The fighting bull's culture impregnates a great deal of the most representative works of Spanish art. The majesty and mystery of the fighting bull has served as a source of inspiration to many artists and it appears portrayed in the manifestations of the most ancient cultures of mankind shrouded in a complex symbolism as the origin of life a sign of fertility.

They have been represented in paintings in the Altamira caves since the Neolithic period, mostly old Uros, the forebear of the modern bull.

In the Classic period, paintings in the Palace of Knossos in Crete and paintings of the Minotaur, the Bulls of Geryon and the Works of Hercules mark the origin of bull's mythology.



In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, **Francisco de Goya** pictures the progress of the modern bull-fight. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, painters **Fortuny** and **Manet** state the beauty of the fighting bull, as well as **Sorolla**, **Delacroix** and **Van Gogh**.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, several artists go to the fighting bull for inspiration. **Pablo Picasso's** *Guernica* stands out but also other authors like **Ignacio Zuloaga**, **Gutiérrez Solano**. Even foreigners like the British **Francis Bacon** or the French **André Masson** or the Colombian **Botero**. In sculpting art, **Benilure's bronzes** have to be mentioned, but also Picasso and Botero.

Numerous works of literature are based in the fighting bull or bullfighting to express their art. Poets like **Rafael Alberti**, **Gerardo Diego**, **Manuel Machado** or **Federico García Lorca** used the bull as a source of inspiration.

Authors like **Vicente Aleixandre** (Bull. The mystery of the Death of The Bull) **Rafael Duitos** (The Five-year-old bull) or **Fernando Villalón** among others left a print of the importance of the bull in their work.

## Abundance of the fighting bull breeding in the Spanish lexicon.

The breeding can be considered as a generation of a lexicon of its own. Hundreds of specific terms add their feedback to the language. More than 200 trade's own terms can be used to define an animal, to set selection parameters or describing behaviours, etc....





**#Sustainablemeat**

## Fighting bull meat a most excellent and little known product

The fighting bull meat is an excellent product because we are talking about an animal who's been nurtured in the freedom of the countryside, feeding upon naturally-grown food and very little known in this country due to the existing taboos about its consumption.



*"There's no excellent course, there's excellent production. And in the case of the fighting bull's meat we are looking at the big unknown luxury of this country. The fighting bull's meat is a very healthy one because it's been bred in the pasture lands, the meat of an animal that roams freely in the countryside and feeds upon natural food only"*

**Mario Sandoval**

**Mario Sandoval**

Chef of the Coque Restaurant in Madrid. Two Michelin stars.  
Chairman of the Federation of associations of cooks and pastry makers of Spain.





## Warranty of use of the logo “100% indigenous fighting bull breed of MAPAMA

The fighting bull's meat is guaranteed by the 100% indigenous fighting bull logo as conceded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing, Food and Environment. This fact means this breed, destined not just for the bullring, it features a lot of aptitudes for meat production in the same fashion as other indigenous breeds.

The “100% indigenous fighting bull meat” logo guarantees the origin of the meat, the quality of the product and it recognizes it as a natural product that favors sustainability of the rural environment.



LIDIA



Through the “100% indigenous fighting bull breed” logo, its capability for meat production and bullfighting is set in the market.

## **A sure bet for the fighting bull meat by one of the most representative chefs in Spain, Mario Sandoval:**

### **Signing of the agreement with FACYRE\* and CSIC\***

In 2015, The Union of Fighting Bull Breeders signed an agreement of collaboration with the Federation of associations of cooks and pastry makers of Spain and the Superior Council for Scientific Research with the goal of developing a project that allows the appraisal of the qualities of the fighting bull meat.

It was presented in Madrid through the project “Fighting bull meat, the value of sustainability” during a presentation by Mario Sandoval.

Besides, an agreement was reached for the development of the brand “Bravo Gourmet”.

## **The Fighting bull meat is healthy and natural**

The fighting bull meat product are very healthy because of its low content of fat. The products analyzed from fighting bull meat show an elevated content of oleic acid besides an enhancement of polysaturated fat acids, especially in chorizo and sliced sausage.

The distinct elements that link the breeding of the fighting bull with the natural pastures it feeds upon, shows in the elevated levels of polysaturated acids and vitamin E.

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\***FACYRE:** Federación de Asociaciones Española de Cocineros y Reposteros.

\***CSIC:** Centro Superior de Investigaciones Científicas.

## Creation of the federation FEDELIDIA to enhance the value of the fighting bull meat

The five stock breeding associations merged in 2015 in a federation under the name of “Federation of Associations of Indigenous fighting bull breeds” or FEDELIDIA according to its initials in Spanish, the goal of which is to promote the importance of the fighting bull meat and to channel its intrinsic value through an association that encompasses all livestock breeders.

This way, the initiatives under the UCTL were redirected through this new framework.



## Impulse and support to divulgative actions for the promotion of fighting bull meat

- Presentations of fighting bull meat in different spots of Spain and related events.
- Participation on specialized fairs.
- Setup of a food truck “Fighting bull meat, the value of sustainability.”







**#Sustainabletourism**

Livestock Tourism, also called “taurism” is a visit to a livestock farm where visitors are shown how the fighting bull lives, the required facilities for its handling and the ecosystem where its breeding develops.

### **An interesting and attractive touristic offer**

Livestock tourism is placing itself as a more interesting tourist offer more complete and interesting each passing day that offers routes around the fighting bull.

Livestock farms are promoting a complete offer that includes free time, culture, gastronomy, and experience in one package.

### **Source of income for livestock farms and dynamization of the economies of rural environments**

Adding “Taurism” as a tourist attraction means a source of income for the livestock farms at the same time allowing a dynamization of the poorer rural areas’ economy.





**UCTL, the house of the bull**

## UCTL, the house of the bull

More than a hundred years of history support the existence of this entity, founded on April 15th 1905.

It represents 347 livestock farms spread across three European countries (Spain, France and Portugal) a census of 109,100 animals was reached in 2017.



## Our goals:

1. **We represent** the professional, economic, social and cultural interests of the associates against those conflicting of the society.
2. **We defend** encouraging, support, research, vigilance, preservation. Promotion and improvement or the **Fighting bull breed**.
3. **We work** for the creation, management and conservation of the **Breed's Family tree** as a partner entity of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing, Food and Environment (MAPAMA).
4. **We develop** research projects in **reproduction and genetics**.
5. **We enforce** the values of **sustainability and biodiversity** in the fighting bull breeding.
6. **We bet** for **training** of our associates in applied techniques for profitability of their businesses.
7. **We Support** the promotion of **Fighting bull meat** as an agroalimentary product which features the MAPAMA logo "100% indigenous fightingn bull breed".
8. **We encourage** promotion projects for **sustainable livestock farm tourism**.
9. **We contribute** to the **promotion of social relations** between professional associations for the development of sector projects.
10. **We cooperate** in projects of **commitment and respect for the environment**.

## Livestock farm map





## ORGANIZATION:

### ► BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**Chairman:**

Mr. Carlos Núñez Dujat Des Allymes

**Vice Chairman:**

Mr. Julio Pérez- Tabernero Población

**Treasurer:**

Mr. José Luis Iniesta Vázquez

**DIRECTORS**

Mr. Fernando Sampetro Abascal

Mr. Iñigo Sánchez- Urbina Chamorro

Mr. Antonio Bañuelos García

Mr. Juan Pedro Domecq Morenés

Mr. Joaquim Vasconcellos e Sa Grave

Mr. Fermín Bohórquez Domecq

### ► Offices

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### ► TEAM

**Family Tree and Improvement Program:**

Mr. Juan Villalón González- Camino

**Communication and Institutional Liaison:**

Mrs. Lucía Martín García

**Accounting and Administration:**

Mrs. Soledad Pérez Amores

**Legal Counseling:**

Dña. Francisca Vázquez

**Legal Counseling:**

Mr. Baltasar Bellón

**Veterinary technicians  
Family tree and  
Improvement Program**

UCLT VETERINARIES 2017			
Nº	SURNAME	NAME	PROVINCES
1	Albarrán Fernández de Soria	Antonio	BADAJOS, CACERES, HUELVA, PORTUGAL
2	Algora Cabello	José Luis	MADRID
3	Blanco Murcia	Javier	ÁVILA, MADRID, GUADALAJARA Y SEGOVIA
4	Caballo Garrido	Eva María	SALAMANCA, ZAMORA, VALLADOLID
5	Carceller Sales	Honorio	CASTELLÓN
6	Fuente Ruiz	Lorena de la	BURGOS, LA RIOJA Y ZARAGOZA
7	Gallego Vázquez	Macarena	MADRID Y FRANCIA
8	García García	Alberto	JAÉN
9	García García	Roman	JAÉN
10	Gómez Peinado	Antonio	TOLEDO
11	González-Almansa Hidalgo	Carlos	CIUDAD REAL
12	Martos Moreno	Inmaculada	HUELVA
13	Marzal Reynolds	Alejandra	BADAJOS, CACERES, HUELVA, PORTUGAL
14	Mateos de Vera	Juan Antonio	JAÉN
15	Montero Alvarez	Fernando	ÁVILA, CACERES Y TOLEDO
16	Osborne Esquivias	Pablo	SEVILLA Y MÁLAGA
17	Ruiz Soria	Rafael	CÓRDOBA
18	Segura Guerrero	Enrique	ALBACETE, CIUDAD REAL Y MURCIA
19	Valdés Merello	Jesús	CÁDIZ
20	Villalón González-Camino	Juan	ÁVILA, SEGOVIA, TOLEDO Y FRANCIA
21	Zúñiga Montero	José Antonio	SALAMANCA, ZAMORA, VALLADOLID



1905

## THE UCTL IS THE HOUSE OF THE BULL

We work to service our associates and to promote and spread the culture of the fighting bull breed.

We are always committed with a sustainable breeding and the environment.

[www.toroslidia.com](http://www.toroslidia.com)

