



## Providing the Need of Red Meat in Turkey

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### ABSTRACT

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Turkey is known as an agricultural country. However, the country is now in the position that produces insufficient and imported red meat. If red meat imports continue, milk imports will also be inevitable. With the migration of people gathering livestock to the cities, the production has reached the end of production. Consideration of the production of meat and milk together, the increase of meat production in each region of the country, especially the increase in the number of small ruminants, and accordingly, the weight of carcasses per animal should be raised. For cattle production; the import of butchery animal must be abandoned. For breeding material, cross breeds of domestic breeds and combined breeds should be used. The organization should urgently be made for the production and the marketing in the sector. Also, employees should be under social security. In small and medium sized enterprises, state economic institutions and state support are essential for input, production and marketing. Red meat consumption habits should be determined on a regional basis. This will also lead to the creation of new organizations in the region through meat production. It is important that all relevant breeders and organizations take active part in the establishment of agricultural policies.

## Türkiye’de Kırmızı Et İhtiyacının Karşlanması

### MAKALE BİLGİSİ

### ÖZET

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Tarım ülkesi olan, kendi kendine yeten ve geçmiş yıllarda et ihraç eden Türkiye kırmızı et üretiminde yetersiz kalmakta, bunun sonucunda da kırmızı et fiyatlarında artış meydana gelmektedir. Kırmızı et ithalinin devam etmesi durumunda, süt ithali de kaçınılmaz olacaktır. Hayvancılıkla uğraşan nüfus, kentlere göç ederek üretimi bırakma noktasına gelmiştir. Et ve süt üretiminin birlikte düşünülmesi, et üretiminin ülkenin her bölgesinde artırılmasında özellikle küçükbaş hayvan sayısının artırılması ve buna paralel olarak hayvan başına

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**Anahtar Kelimeler**

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karkas ağırlığının yükseltilmesi gerekir. Sığır eti üretimi için; Türkiye'ye adapte olabilecek kasaplık canlı hayvan ithalinden vazgeçilerek, genç sığır besisi uygulanmalıdır. Besi materyali için ise yerli ırklar ile kombine ırkların melez dölleri kullanılmalıdır. Sektörde üretim ve pazarlama için acilen organizasyon yapılmalı ve çalışanlar sosyal güvence altına alınmalıdır. Küçük ve orta büyüklükteki işletmelerde; girdi, üretim ve pazarlamada kamu iktisadi kurumları ile devlet desteği şarttır. Tarım politikalarının oluşturulmasında konu ile ilgili tüm yetiştirici ve kuruluşların aktif rol alması önemlidir.

**Introduction**

Due to population growth, the number of animals and red meat production in the world are increasing every year. The balanced diet of people, the purchase of adequate animal protein has become a priority issue for developed and developing countries, and therefore the livestock sector remains strategically important despite the technological and industrialization policies (Karakus, 2011). The global red meat industry is an advanced industry. Meat trade between countries; different source structure of each country, consumer choice in meat selection, local industry structure plays a role in the formation of meat prices. Countries with low cost meat production have the advantage of competing in world trade. The major importing countries are the US, China and Russia. Brazil, India, Australia and the USA, on the other hand, are the most important exporter countries. These countries account for 66% of the world's total exports While around 30% of meat production is provided from cattle and around 5% from sheep and goat, In Turkey, 88% of the red meat production from cattle, and 12% is supplied from small ruminants (Anonymous, 2018a).

In the past years, Turkey was known as the agricultural country and exports meat but it is now inadequate in meat production. If red meat imports continue, milk imports will also be inevitable (Karakus, 2011). An important part of the population of the country is engaged in agriculture. About 76.3% of crop production is conducted in rural areas in Turkey, whereas 23.7% is realized in the form of animal production (Pesmen and Yardimci, 2008). In this review, therefore, the problems in red meat production and solutions were discussed in detail.

**Red meat production**

Red meat; the unavailability of geographical features as a cultural give importance to human health and animal husbandry is of particular importance for Turkey. Livestock population migrated to cities and came to the point of leaving production. Consideration of the production of meat and milk together, the increase of meat production in each region of the country, especially the increase in the number of small ruminants, and accordingly, the weight of carcasses per animal should be raised. For beef production; the import of butchery animal must be abandoned. Despite the high potential of animal

production in Turkey, the population increase and meat product has led to an increase in domestic demand. As a result of the decrease in red meat production, the increase in meat prices has become an inevitable result. The main reason for reduction in the presence of animal meat production results in the increase of Turkey meat prices. Other reasons include; the higher fattening costs, the terrorism in the East and Southeast and the instability in prices, the increase in feed prices, the inadequacy of the support for livestock, the wrong policies, speculation by some companies, the result of the decrease in the number of animals. The crisis in the red meat sector has caused problems in the supply of meat from one side and the inadequacies in the consumption of red meat and meat products from the other side. Parallel to the import of red meat it is a fact that milk imports will be inevitable as well.

In Turkey, red meat has not been consumed sufficiently, as 20.2% in total worldwide. This rate is 17.3% in urban and 28.9% in rural areas. 30.5% of urban and 20.8% of rural people consume red meat once or twice a week, 17.6% of city dwellers and 25.5% of rural dwellers once a month (Karacan, 2017). Total red meat production in Turkey was in the level of 1 million 173 thousand tons in 2016, but this figure looks to pass in 2017 (Anonymous, 2018b). 5 million breeding capacity in Turkey has been known that almost half empty. Most of the breeders are undecided about putting animals back in the stable. Those who want to put imported animals waiting to come from abroad. The part comes from animal husbandry. Those who want to

remain insistent are also under cost. Our annual red meat consumption is about 1 million 350 thousand tons. We produce 1 million 173 thousand tons of ourselves. According to the figures below, we have 200-250 thousand tons of red meat. If animal breeders continue to abandon production under the current conditions, the red meat gap may increase from 200,000 tons to 400-500,000 tons in the coming periods. Imported animal and carcass meat prices have been, also, increasing (Anonymous, 2018a).

The risk of exchange rate in the agricultural sector, which is a production model based on imports, is, also, important. There have been sufficient number of animals for milk and meat production in Turkey. We import 50 thousand heads dairy cattle and 500 thousand heads beef cattle each year. If we do not develop our own animal resource, this import will continue in future. Therefore, in any case, it is necessary to increase the number of animals to meet the need for animal originated foods due to the population estimated to be 80 million today, 20 million in 2023 and 93 million in 2050, suggesting to invest in livestock (Anonymous, 2018b). In the first nine months of 2018, cattle and small ruminant imports increased by 130 percent compared to the same period of the previous year and rose to 1 million 457 thousand heads. In the first 9 months of 2017, imports of red meat, which was approximately 2 thousand tons, an increase of 23 times in 2018 reached approximately 46 thousand tons (Anonymous, 2018c).

Turkey was to import only for the purpose of breeding before the 2008-2009 crisis. After the livestock crisis in this period, imports of live animal, red meat and offal were allowed to close the lack of red meat. From the second half of 2009, it has been started that the importation of live meat and meat from the butchers started in 2010 is being continued to reduce the red meat prices which are in an increasing tendency (Saygın and Demirbaş, 2017).

Turkey, Uruguay, in 2016, Brazil, France, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia is also making imports of live cattle from countries such as Germany and Australia. All of the live sheep that

were imported in 2016 and 74% were imported came from Ukraine. Most of the livestock imports are cattle. All imports in 2008 and 2009 are breeding; since 2010, it has been imported to feed and butchery. Most of the cattle imported in 2016 are for fattening purposes; 37% were from Uruguay, 16% from Brazil, 11% from France, and 7% in Hungary. Of the breeding cattle imports, 56% are from the United States, 30% from Austria, 45% from butcher cattle imports from Germany, 19% from Austria and 12% from the Czech Republic. 93% of beef cattle imports are from Brazil (ESK, 2016).

Table 1.Red meat production (changed ratios according to same quarter of last year, %)

		January-March	April-June	July-September	October-December
Total	2015	13,8	19,9	87,7	-26,2
	2016	13,0	3,1	3,8	-8,8
	2017	-2,3	-3,4	-14,4	9,1
Cattle	2015	12,6	20,9	95,1	-26,7
	2016	12,6	5,8	5,1	-3,7
	2017	0,0	-5,6	-19,3	4,5
Buffalo	2015	174,2	-26,8	-83,0	-64,7
	2016	-15,9	-1,4	18,0	118,5
	2017	296,6	329,8	400,9	67,1
Sheep	2015	4,1	5,1	27,1	-18,5
	2016	14,7	-7,7	-14,5	-48,0
	2017	-10,0	-2,1	40,7	68,2
Goat	2015	112,9	53,7	93,3	-35,6
	2016	18,8	-43,8	9,0	-25,6
	2017	-38,3	98,4	26,2	48,1

(TÜİK, 2018).

Turkey in the last 15 years, many major reforms took place in animal

husbandry (Saygın and Demirbaş, 2017). However, these reforms have not been

sufficient to solve many problems in the sector, especially in cattle breeding. The breeding of races, the inability to produce cheap and high-quality feed crops in sufficient quantity, and significant decrease in the animal population except cattle number in 2007-2010. A significant reduction in the number of animals has led to an increase in rural poverty as well as a fall in live animal supply and a rise in meat prices. One of the most important problems is that the breeder cannot provide feed needs.

The productivity of the livestock decreased as the producer's cost increased. The solution of this problem will be possible by the quantitative and qualitative improvement of meadow and pasture areas, by giving the necessary importance to the production of fodder crops and by maintaining the support provided by the growers. It is important to record all stages of production in livestock enterprises. In the livestock sector, organization should be promoted and, more importantly, the efficiency of existing organizations should be increased (Kaymakçı et al., 2010; Tosun and Demirbas, 2012).

Milk and red meat sub-sectors are complementary, not alternative. For this reason, it is also important to establish and maintain a rational production and marketing organization in the dairy sector, prevent seasonal price fluctuations, effectively regulate market conditions in the cooperation of meat and milk councils.

In red meat processing industry, the cutting standard, carcass classification and grading process are not

performed as in EU, so quality-price relation in animal product consumption cannot be established adequately and unfair competition environment exists between the enterprises.

It is very important to investigate the expected results of frozen meat and carcass imports for the future of country animal husbandry. As previous practices lead to negative developments in animal husbandry, the factors causing this situation and the results it produces should be examined in detail. Immediate implementation of the requirements for the solution is very important for future country livestock. Although the country's animal breeders are affected negatively and irreversibly by imports, urgent measures should be taken for this situation. Otherwise, meat prices will continue to decline along with imports, which will mean that the producer will send the animals to the butcher to end the livestock activity. To prevent this, immediate measures should be taken and implemented. It may be too late for the measures. Because most of the animal breeders in our country are experiencing financial difficulties. In particular, small family businesses traditionally continue to grow, while the new generation does not prefer. In spite of the fact that the animal production they have done for years, the members of the new generation have turned to different professions instead of doing so. The population who knows and will make animal husbandry is also affected by the negative consequences of the practices and has come to the point of withdrawal from production.

## Conclusion

Briefly, unfavorable developments in rural development and economic and social problems will be inevitable. Planning and rearrangement of animal production has a great importance. Some suggestions are mentioned here as following;

- To increase the carcass weight per animal to increase meat production, we should focus on increasing the number of small ruminants according to the geography of the whole country.
- If animals are to be imported, adaptation problems to different environmental conditions may occur. Establishing new production and marketing organizations to promote animal production are needed.
- To ensure the social security of all personnel working in small and medium sized enterprises, especially in the sector, will motivate animal production in better direction.
- In production areas, growers can sell their products immediately, be provided cheap and quality concentrated feed, protect and enrich feed resources. This can be provided by government in pilot regions with obtaining assistance in the fight against diseases.
- The restructuring of livestock policies to be ready against fluctuations in adverse market conditions must be planned for long term period.
- There is a need to establish public economic entities that can intervene

in ensuring competitive conditions and in price movements.

- While the agricultural policies are being made, the provision of a common consensus with the related persons, institutions, organizations.
- For breeding material, cross breeds of domestic races and combined breeds should be used.
- The organization should urgently be formed for the production and the marketing in the sector.
- Employees should be under social security.
- In small and medium sized enterprises, state economic institutions and state support are essential for input, production and marketing.
- Red meat consumption habits should be determined on a regional basis. This will, also, change the production habits.

To conclude, in the forming of agricultural policies, it is important that all the breeders and units concerned are actively involved.

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