

## The Black and spotted Alpine pig



**Characteristics:** Small to medium-sized pig breed with long, strong legs and a short torso. Therefore, very consistently mountain. The color ranges from black through spotted to dark red.

**Productivity:** 2 litters per year with 8-12 piglets. Late maturity and undemanding breed, ideally suited for extensive free-range.

**Weights:** Sows: 130 - 160 kg, boar: 150 - 180 kg

**Last minute rescue:** More than 100 years ago the high-productivity breeds have taken the place of almost all European pig breeds. In the Alps even completely. In 2013 representatives of the Faculty of Veterinary of Parma have found in a School Farm one last group of Valtellina pigs (also called Grison pig). Pro Patrimonio Montano continued the breed and found after a long search two other relict groups. This was necessary to avoid inbreeding. The three provenances today form now a "gene pool", representing all alpine pig breeds.

**Real mountain animals:** By its light, strong body-building the Alpine pigs are best for mountain pastures. Thanks to their dark color, they are not sunburn-risk and can - unlike modern breeds - be all day outside. Because of its modesty and sturdiness they are ideal for an extensive free-range husbandry. With their rooting they fight monk's-rhubarb and loosen compacted soil by cattle. They are not only culturally, but also ecologically interesting.

**Quality products:** As the Alpine pigs are constantly on the move, they put the fat into the muscle, which is a close-grained, marbled flesh with a good taste. Less achievement, but great quality!

### Earlier spread:

Mountain areas of the central and south-eastern Alpine region.

