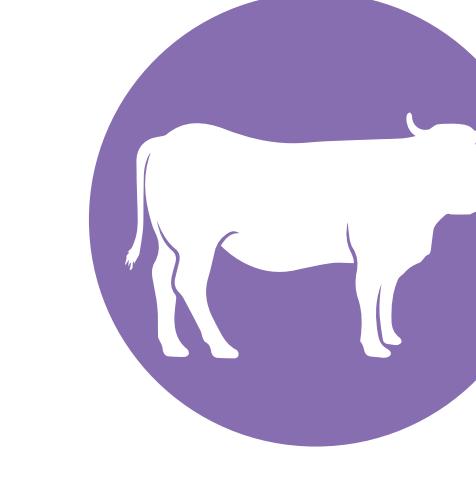




Innovation goes hand in hand with tradition: TRANSHUMANCE



The innovator

Lucía Velasco

Region: Asturias (Spain)

Sector: Livestock

Number of head: 100

Breed: Asturian Valley cattle (Asturiana de los Valles)

Member of two cooperatives and founder of the women farmers association Ganaderas Asturianas

Winner of the Excellence in Innovation Award for Rural Women (Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food)



Features of my innovator journey

- Back to tradition with transhumance - a widespread farming practice in the past
- Family farm with traditional facilities, depending on common pastures
- The valley-mountain pass system alternates mountain grazing in spring, summer and part of the autumn, and stabling and meadow grazing near the farm in winter
- Nomadic cowherds or Vaqueiros de alzada. Families move seasonally with their cattle

Innovation from 3 perspectives

Economic

Excellent meat quality with good market acceptance
Opportunity to earn a living in the rural area
Innovation - tradition
Use of natural resources and less purchase of inputs



Environmental

Protection of the rural landscape and biodiversity
Prevention of wildfires
Prevention of deforestation
Regulation of soil nutrient cycle
Configuration of the landscape
Respect for the ecosystem's natural heritage



Social

Stronger society
Collaborative work and partnerships
Cooperative movement
Gives a voice to rural women through social networks
Gives visibility to traditional nomadic cowherds (Vaqueiros de alzada) and rural women



Barriers

The need for greater acknowledgement of women and to provide them with equal opportunities
Limited social services in rural areas
Lack of infrastructures
Abandonment of pastures and loss of rural landscapes
Problems with wildlife
Depopulation. Less cowherds, more abandoned villages and loss of traditional know-how

“ I'm going to carry on my work to bring tradition and innovation together, because I want my children to live in a fairer world where members of the rural population have the same opportunities as city dwellers, where there is respect for traditional practices and, moreover, where there is real equality for the women and men earning their living in the rural world". Lucia Velasco, farmer



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