

	Cows and calved heifers	Bulls and oxen more than one year old	One year olds	Calves	Total
1871 . .	15 634	828	2 649	?	19 111*
1880 . .	"	"	"	?	21 006*
1890 . .	15 088	963	1 987	2 909	20 947
1900 . .	16 741	1 140	2 450	3 238	23 569
1910 . .	17 843	1 188	2 911	4 396	26 338
1920 . .	16 936	729	2 520	3 312	23 497
1928 . .	21 083	982	3 063	4 895	30 023

The Icelandic breed of cattle is very heterogeneous, both as regards size, colour, and yield. From the colonization down to the present day little has been done to improve this stock by means of rational breeding. The milking capacity of the Icelandic breed is better than its meat-producing capacity. The average annual milk-production per cow is estimated at 2 400 kilogrammes, while a few may yield as much as 5 000 kg per year. So far as examined the fatty contents of the milk have in most cases amounted to from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 per cent.

Compared with the number of population, *horses* are much more numerous in Iceland than in any other European country, or about one to every two persons. In the Baltic countries (Lithuania, Latvia, and Esthonia) and in Russia, which come next after Iceland in this respect, the number of horses does not amount to more than one to every 4—5 persons. One of the reasons why horses are so numerous in Iceland is to be found in the fact that they have until quite lately been the almost only means of communication between the different parts of the country, and are still largely employed both as saddle horses, and beasts of burden and draught. In some districts horses are also reared for export.

The Icelandic horse is small-sized, from 130—144 cm. in height, and rather shaggy; they do not require much fodder, are wonderfully persevering and sure-footed, and very keen-sighted.

The number of horses has been steadily increasing during the past fifty years:

*) Calves are not included in these figures.