The Brazilian cattle breeds, also known as naturalized or creole, originated from a long process of natural selection from the first Iberian cattle brought to the country. These breeds are known for their rusticity, adaptability, and resistance, fundamental aspects to survive in the environmental edaphoclimatic peculiarities in which they established (Félix et al., 2013). When America was colonized, the Iberian races were brought by the Portuguese and Spanish (Brito, 1998; Egito et al., 2002), so cattle in South America are directly associated with the advance of the colonizing fronts and the interiorization of the continent (Mazza et al. Al., 1994). In practical terms, the bovine breeds in Brazil can be classified into two groups: local cattle and exotic cattle (Félix et al., 2013). In the sense of valuing and maintaining these animals, these localities, considering only the conservationist aspect through the maintenance of genetic variability constitutes a limited and superficial view. Local breeds should be seen as having genes that allowed them to adapt to the specific conditions of each region, being able, therefore, to produce products with added value, in regions where other breeds would have difficulty adapting.

**Breeds of cattle & origin**

The **Caracu breed** is a direct descendant of *Bos taurus* Iberian and *Bos taurus aquitanicus*, introduced in Brazil by the Portuguese settlers in 1534 in São Vicente, state of São Paulo. They were created for several centuries facing all kinds of difficulties like scarce food, diseases, strong weather, and parasites. This pressure of natural selection molded the so-called Creole (native) animals, of which the yellow-colored ones were separated, and hence the **Caracu** was established. In 1909 the national Caracu and Mocho Nacional selection station was formed in Nova Odessa (SP) and in 1916 the Brazilian Association of Caracu Breeders (ABCC) was founded.

It is a race that descends from the bovine creole without horns, that by natural genetic selection appeared in Rio Grande do Sul, being descended from the first animals received from Portugal. The official breeding began in Nova Odessa (SP) in 1911. In 1939 was founded the National Association of National Cattle Mocho Breeders who started registering the animals. The National Mocho breed was consolidated, at the beginning of the XX, by infusion of Caracu blood on the hornless cattle, coming from Goiás State, of unknown origin. As an adapted European breed, it fosters the success of crossbreeding in the adaptation of cross products, and can become an option for beef cattle. The zebu Tabapuã was also formed with some blood of
National Mocho, in addition to the lineages of Caracu Mocho.

The breed known as Pé-Duro (Piauí and Maranhão) or Curraleiro (Goiás and Tocantins) were adapted to the Brazilian semi-arid region, and subsequently migrated to Central Brazil (Carvalho et al., 2001). The name Pé-Duro originated from the fact that the animals from the northeastern “Sertão” (hinterland) steps on rocks, environment where soft-hulled animals cannot survive (Carvalho et al., 2010). Some authors say that these animals originate from the union of Portuguese and Spanish races, probably from the union of Alentejano with Galego or Minhoto (Mariante & Cavalcante, 2000), or according to other authors that they are direct descendants of the Portuguese breed Mirandesa. However, Carvalho et al. (2001) state that it is unlikely that only Mirandeses cattle originated the Curraleiro cattle, but rather a group of animals from different genetic groups not yet established as a breed.

It is assumed that natural selection determined the most suitable animals to strive and multiply in these regions, which generated the basis of Curraleiro Pé-Duro cattle. The Curraleiro Pé-Duro herd previously inhabited the entire national territory and contributed to the formation of the Caracu, Mocho Nacional and Junqueira breeds (Egito, 2007) (Text adapted from Felix et al., 2013).

Pantaneira cattle, also known as Tucuras or Cuiabanos originated from animals brought from the Iberian Peninsula to Brazil, by the Portuguese and Spanish (Mazza et al., 1994) on expeditions to the River Plate Basin. The influence of the Portuguese races occurred in an indirect way, during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, through races already adapted as the Franqueiro and Curraleiro (Mazza et al., 1994). According to Primo (1992), due to the large expanses of land in the Pantanal, lack of fences and favorable environmental conditions, these cattle were reproduced in full freedom and acquired characteristics of rusticity and adaptation to the environment in which they live, giving rise to the animals of the Pantaneira breed. (Text adapted from Felix et al., 2013).

Until recently, it was believed that the main contribution to the formation of Lagean Creole cattle was from the herds transferred by the Jesuits in the beginning of the eighteenth century, from Vacarias del Mar to the fields above the mountain, forming Vacarias del Piñar. However, recent research has revealed that when the pioneers arrived to establish their farms in the Campos das Lages, the cattle was already scarce. Probably by the intense traffic of tropeiros by
the drove way, opened by Cristovão Pereira de Abreu. The constant flow of tropeiros by the lages fields, must also had influenced the formation of creole herds of the south, since the first farms had been established. Over the centuries the Southern Creole herds had undergone a process of natural selection with little human interference, since the farms of were not fenced and cattle were gathered annually in rodeos for counting and selling of animals. This enabled the Creole cattle to fully adapt to the climate and pasture conditions of the region.

These cattle dominated the native fields of southern Brazil until the beginning of the 20th century, when the modern European breeds began to be introduced. Considering the condition of a single racial grouping and following the international parameters for designation of the bovine breeds, the researchers of Embrapa began to denominate this cattle as "Crioulo Lageano" in their scientific works. Undoubtedly, the current herd of Lagean Creole cattle descended from matrices and reproducers selected on farms located in the Lagean plateau, in the altitude fields of the southern Brazilian plateau. The Lagean Creole cattle belong indisputably to the trunk of the Bos taurus ibericus

Site consultation:

https://fazendagrande.net/historia-crioulo-lageano/


https://buiatrics.com/