

Brown Swiss news

July 2021

The European Brown Swiss journal

Promotional videos

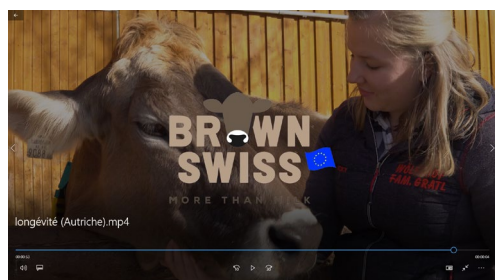
Have you seen our monthly videos to promote Brown Swiss 's assets ?
All videos are available on our social media [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) as well as on our [YouTube Channel](#).
Do not hesitate to look at them !



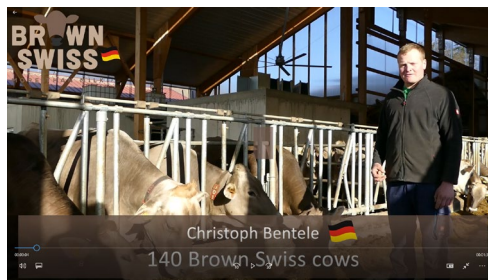
Milking robot



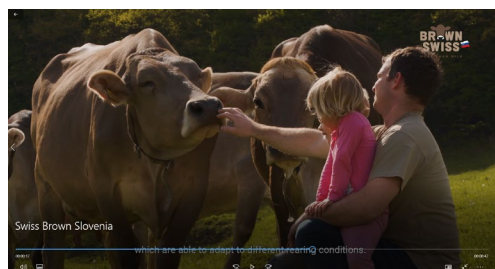
Milk quality



Longevity



Robustness



Milk quality



Calving ease



Heat tolerance



Summary

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#BREED AMBASSADOR

GAEC DU THOREY, in the top of French Brown Swiss herds



Gaec du Thorey in the East of France managed by Gérald and Thomas ETIENNE, is keeping the course transmitted by Bernard and Michelle Guillemain, the herd founders and young retirees. Not used to show cows, the name of the farm is still very famous because it appears from many years, on top of many french TOP Lists for production.

The 120 Brown Swiss have an average production of 9 308kg at 4.1%F and 3.7%F for a total of 711kg of F+P. The 900 000 liters of milk are sold to produce the local cheese AOP EPOISSE.

"Productive cows that don't bother us" are the kind of cows that Gérald ETIENNE and his brother Thomas want. In other words, economical and easy handling cows. Visually, they are not only productive, they also have an impressive morphological level given their production. The average classification note is 82.8 with 126 ISU.

A regular ration all year round

Regularity is one of the keys to success, limiting changes. The ration remains the same all year round and there are no by-products or co-products. The only transitions are the changes of silo and the green feeding to meet specifications of the AOP Epoisses. Cows are in good body condition throughout their careers.

Mixed ration, set at 26 kg:

- 35 kg of corn silage
- Green feeding (50% of the ration) from April 15 to June 15
- 1.5 kg of hay
- 1.5 kg of Rumiluz
- 2 kg of flattened cereals
- 3 kg of non-GMO soybean meal
- Complement to Automatic individual feeding system

The automatic individual feeding system allows individual adjustment of milk potential and costs. This year, the ration was balanced at "only" 26 kg because last year's corn did not provide enough energy. This strategy has earned them second place on the production TOP List after more than 10 years of pole position! But it is necessary to admire how breeders are vigilant on the components and controls the metabolic and economic effects.

Selection objectives

Priority is given to milk using the highest bulls, followed by udder quality. Confirmed bulls have their place as well as genomic bulls if they meet the desired criteria. About twenty females are followed in the BGS selection scheme. The average of females followed into the scheme is 84.1 in NG including 85.9 in MA, which means that the hopes placed on the heifers confirm once adults!

Herd genetic resources

There are several cow's families that mark each generation. The breeders are not used to show cows, but genetic visits within the herd are always very rich in numbers of good and beautiful cows to see!

The oldest cow at the moment is Huray FOUGERE, a 10-year-old cow, in 6th lactation, with a total production of 70,747 kg of milk (2nd lactation over 14,000 kg in 305 days), family of the bull FEVRIER. Other bulls are from the herd: HARLEM (Alibaba), ELAN (Emerog) and LYNTON (Harmonica).

The best scored cow is JAMAICA VG 88 (EX 91 MA) a GARGAMEL daughter, out of Janvier URANIE EX 91 from the same family as HARLEM.

In the line of ELAN and LYNTON, we can cite Emerog FACILE VG 86, the full sister of the bull ELAN, 3 lactations over 13,000 kg, daughter of ASIE VG 86 (Camaro x Mascot TOUNDRA EX 90).



2021 Brown Swiss sale in Chatillon sur Seine



What a pleasure to meet again after a lost year and what a sale for this recovery!

The unusual organization of this 2021 edition, following the cancellation of the traditional show due to Covid, will not have affected the success of the event.

8 lots with a remarkable genetic level were proposed, all followed in the BGS Creation scheme. All the lots found buyers at an average price of € 3,143 for heifers and € 600 per embryo.

For the first time, videos of heifers were posted online ahead of the sale and have allowed buyers from other regions and country to bid.

The top prize goes to QUEEN (Narcotic) awarded at € 3,600. This daughter of MISS (Isold) TB85 x FUTEE (Vigor) TB88, comes from a large family which seduces all over France.

After the sale, farm visits were organized. Visitors were able to admire the females of the FIONA family at GAEC Funcken (52) as well as several daughters of LUTHER. The next morning, the visit to GAEC des Ardelons (21) was an opportunity to see the family of LUTHER's bull as well as several of his daughters.

Autumn expo

From September, the annual expo and show will start again in France.

[SPACE](#) in Rennes, will be the first big event to host dairy shows again. 11 Brown Swiss will be presented there from September 14th to 16th.

[Sommet de l'Élevage](#) will follow in the first week of October with around 60 Brown Swiss. As usual the Brown Swiss show will be followed by a sale, on Friday the 8th.



Cow families 2021 in Switzerland

In spring, judges from Braunvieh Schweiz classified 270 cow families: 211 Brown Swiss and 59 Original Braunvieh. 212 (79 %) families were classified in class A. A total of 18 breeding families scored 90 or more points. Brookings Habella from Martin Holenstein in Stein, St. Gallen, achieved a new Swiss record with 95 points. The list incl. pictures is published on <https://homepage.braunvieh.ch/zuchtfamilienschau-2021/>



Swiss milk recording 2020

In the 2020 milk control year, 138'409 lactations were registered for Brown Swiss cattle. The average milk yield per cow across all ages and production stages decreased by 25 kg to 7'303 kg compared to last year. The fat and protein content decreased slightly. 53 % of the Brown Swiss cows are located in the mountain area and 26 % are spending summer on alpine pastures.

Character	Year		Change to previous year
	2020	2019	
Number of lactations	138'409	140'613	-2'204
Number of standard lactations	110'237	110'412	-175
Ø Standard lactation of all cows:			
Milk kg	7'303	7'328	-25
Fat kg	294	295	-1
Fat %	4.02	4.03	-0.01
Protein kg	250	251	-1
Protein %	3.42	3.43	-0.01
Mature equivalent points	85	85	=
Persistency %	83	84	-1
Days open (in days)	132	130	+2
Cell counts	104	102	+2
Ø Milk kg 4. ff lactation (Valley)	8'281	8'342	-61
Ø Milch kg Original Braunvieh	6'297	6'307	-10



Animal health – an ongoing issue in breeding as well

Improving animal health is one of the biggest challenges in milk production. Braunvieh Schweiz supports its members in this with breeding values and herd management tools.

The use of antibiotics in livestock production is an issue. For example, antibiotic sales have decreased in Switzerland by 52% between 2010 and 2019. In the Swiss dairy production, sales of antibiotics for use against udder diseases have also decreased by nearly 25% since 2008.

Disturbed metabolic processes and health problems lead to changes in milk composition and cow behavior. These correlations should be exploited to a greater extent. For this reason, Qualitas AG is a partner in two international projects on behalf of the breeding associations: SESAM and HappyMoo. Based on the results of these projects, early warning systems for animal health are to be developed.

SESAM is based on data from movement sensors and HappyMoo on refined analyses of MLP samples. In HappyMoo, changes in animal health status on a farm will also be combined with their potential economic impact.

<https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/sesam/en/home>

<https://www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/happymoo/>

