

BROWN SWISS




MORE THAN MILK

March 2023

Brown Swiss news

The European Brown Swiss journal

Brown Swiss webinars

For the second time, the European federation organized the "I breed Brown Swiss" webinars, where breeders from different countries explain their farm objectives and results and how Brown Swiss contributes to their success.

Many of you joined us for some very interesting exchanges about the Brown Swiss breed. We hope you enjoyed it ! A huge thanks to the breeders who opened their farms doors to us :

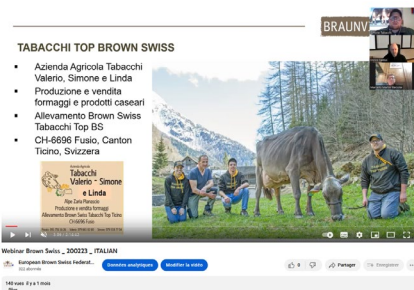
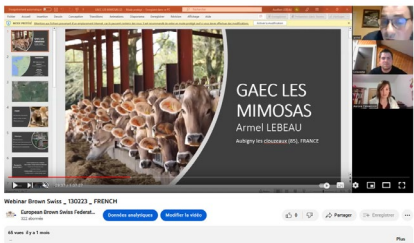
- Ludovic Criscione (CH)
- Armel Lebeau (FR)
- Simone Tabacchi (CH)
- Marcello Martini Barzolari (IT)
- Ernst Marolf (CH)
- Ferdinand Klotz (AT)
- Thomas Fleschutz (DE)

If you could not join, the records are available on our Youtube channel :

- German : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d8ISmu62uk>
- Italian : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgZkUaOOZ0s>
- French : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6SgvrLAubs&t=9s>

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Cow of the year 2022

HUTILE, morphology at the service of profitability

It is a cow that leaves its mark on the herd at GAEC De La Saudraie in Côtes d'Armor, Brittany. She makes her breeders Aurélie and Antoine proud, who enjoy working with her every day. They don't know if they will be lucky enough to have another cow of her standing, but her story keeps growing every moment on the farm.

A remarkable conservation

HUTILE De la Saudraie (Jongleur) in her 8th lactation is distinguished first of all by her impressive youth which owes her an EX 96 in overall score. This is the highest score in France with a remarkable linear: 98 udder, 95 development, 89 rump and 98 in the feet and legs. Calved on February 21, 2022, she started at 33 kg of milk and is pregnant in sexed semen for april 2023. Born on September 4th, 2012, she has turned 10, six months ago.

A deep family

Her mother Joel FUTILE has VG 88. Then we come to UTILE VG 88, daughter of the French bull Janvier, who has done 8 lactations. She has a cumulative production of 69,000 kg of milk. We then come to GALENTI daughter of Eclair who was bought and arrived in Brittany in 1994. Born in Aveyron, her longevity is impressive with 9 lactations and 64,000 kg produced. The pedigree of HUTILE dates back to 1963 with nine generations which produced 6 lactations on average!

Longevity rhymes with fertility and productivity

At 10 years old she has already calved 8 times. Her IVV of 297 days over her first seven lactations is explained by very good fertility. She is at 1.5 inseminations per calving. This does not leave the production aside, on the contrary.

HUTILE already has a cumulative production of 64 952 kg. She will not belie the qualities of Brown Swiss with high milk components. On the finished lactations the average is 3.6 %P and 5.1 % F. She has a seventh and best lactation at 10 587 kg at 5.1%F and 3.5%P.

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Transmission

HUTILE has 4 daughters, including 2 in lactation. JUDICIEUSE EX 92 is in her 6th lactation. She has already produced 48 483 kg of milk with average rates of 3.8% P and 4.5% F. Her IVV is even better than her mother at 287 days. Her second daughter Biver ORIGINALE VG 85 is in her second lactation. She also has two younger heifers by Blooming and Bender.

On the show rings from SPACE to Swiss Expo

HUTILE won her first title in Rennes as primiparous and was named Grand Champion of the Western Brown Swiss show in 2015. Then several trips to Switzerland saw her parade at Swiss Expo. She won her class in 2016 and was awarded an honorable mention in 2nd lactation. In 2017 she was ranked 3rd in the 3rd lactation class, then 5th in her class in 2018 and 2019.

Congratulations for this which is the crowning achievement of ten remarkable years and the work of several generations.



HUTILE (Jongleur x Joel) EX96, in her 7th lactation with Arthur.
Credit : Guillaume MOY



Animal health is an important concern for many consumers today. The public discussions are very intense and diverse. But the health of their animals is also an important economic factor for dairy farmers.

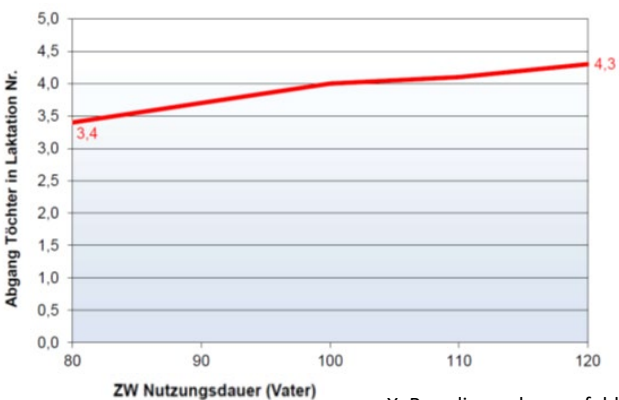
In cattle breeding, it was recognised early on that high economic efficiency cannot be achieved only through high milk or meat yields. Problem-free cows not only help to reduce costs, they are also advantageous in terms of labour economics. In the past, due to a lack of available data, old proven cows were partly used in the breeding programme. Low heritabilities in the health area, also due to the high management influence and too long generation intervals when using older cows as bull mothers, however, brought only little progress in the area of fitness. Only with the introduction of the recording of animal health traits, starting with cell content and useful life, has significant progress been made in the area of fitness and health. Many countries are trying to improve the data collection systems for animal health and to establish them among dairy farmers and breeders.

In Bavaria, with the ProGesund programme, farmers and also farm veterinarians have many options for reporting health information in a central database of the LKV Bayern. Today, this can be done very practically and quickly using a mobile phone app. In Bavaria, this extensive data is mainly collected in the herd typing project BraunviehVision and used together with the corresponding data from Baden-Württemberg and Austria in the genomic breeding value estimation via the cow sample of the new single-step breeding value estimation, as far as a breeding value estimation has already been established for the corresponding trait. This is the case for more and more traits, and more are under development.

On the basis of some evaluations by Dr. Fürst (ZuchtData), practical effects and successes of health and fitness breeding values in Brown Swiss in Germany and Austria are shown below:

Useful life

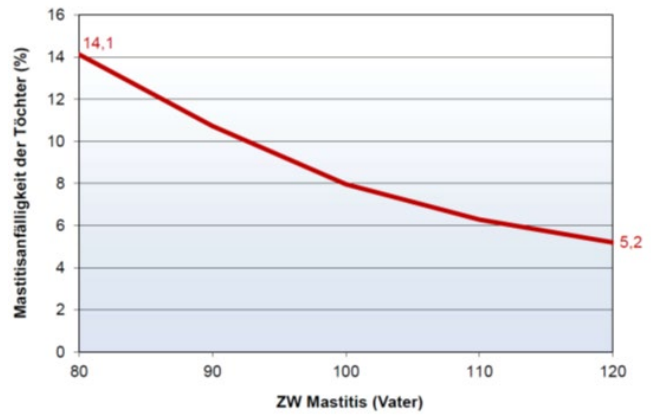
Daughters of bulls with a breeding value between 80 and 120 can be expected to have a longer useful life by almost one lactation.



X: Breeding value useful life (sire)
Y: Daughters leaving in lactation No.

Mastitis

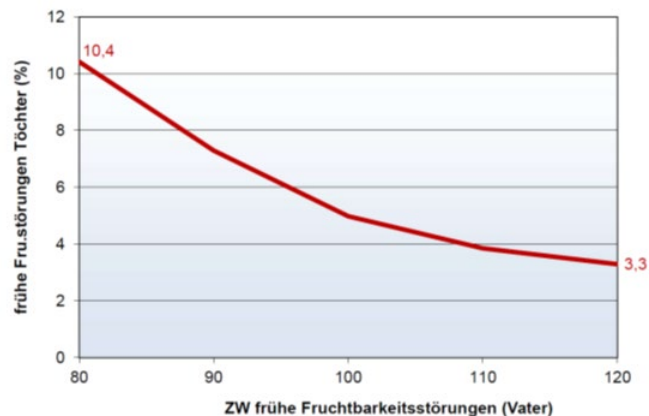
The difference in udder diseases is even more obvious. Offspring of bulls with poor breeding values are expected to have more than 14 % mastitis, while daughters of clearly superior bulls have only 5 % mastitis cases in this trait.



X: Breeding value mastitis (sire)
Y: Susceptibility of daughters to mastitis (%)

Early fertility disorders

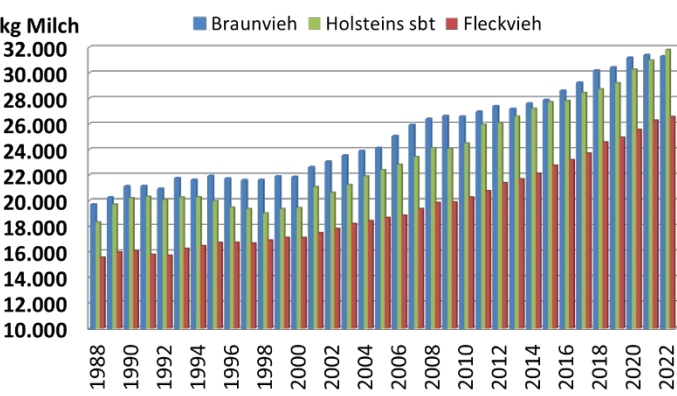
The breeding value early fertility disorders includes uterine infections, postpartum retention and puerperal diseases up to 30 days after birth as well as losses due to infertility during this period. Particularly in the area of fertility disorders and consequently also daughter fertility, very large genetic differences can be found if sufficient data of very good quality are collected. Infertility is still one of the main reasons for dairy cows leaving the farm.



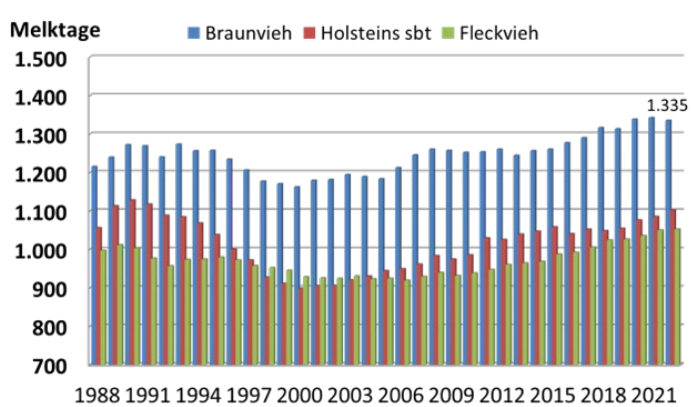
X: Breeding value early fertility disorders (sire)
Y: Early fertility disorders daughters (%)



These examples show how important it is today for breeders and dairy farmers to record health traits in combination with genomic testing of all female animals. This concerns all countries and all breeds. For traits that have been established for some time, considerable genetic progress has already been made. Brown Swiss cows in Bavaria, for example, are showing a very clear increase in useful life and also lifetime performance.



Mean useful life of cows that have left the farm in Bavaria



Mean lifetime production of cows that have left the farm in Bavaria

If such breeding progress is also to be achieved in other health and fitness traits, there is no way around the collection of this data by dairy farmers. Only in this way can Brown Swiss maintain and further expand its internationally good reputation as a fitness and health breed. In Bavaria, for example, the farms are supported by the state and by the breeding organizations through genotyping at favorable rates.

Franz Birkenmaier



AG Västerås 10/347150 for example is a young Vaselino son in Germany with highest allround qualities and best fitness breeding values.



With almost 2,000 visitors in the Hohenlohe Arena in Ilshofen, the RBW Show 2023 was unexpectedly well recognized by the public. In a very tight schedule with 217 cows, the visitors were able to admire a large number of animals and very high-quality collections of the Fleckvieh, Holsteins and Brown Swiss breeds, which was characterized by very udder-strong and functional cows, as every visitor would certainly wish for at home to be able to milk.

The Brown Swiss breed competed in 7 individual classes. With daughters of the bulls Casanova, Canyon, Bisto, Antonov, Assay and Anibay, many cows from local sires were able to secure top places in the rankings. The first class was won by the Casanova daughter Toni by Peter Rohmer, Kirchdorf. Salomon Fantastic by Ernst Rau, Ebersbach won the second class in a close decision ahead of Janik Irene by Sauter GbR, Krattenweiler. The champion of the young cow classes was Casanova Toni by Peter Rohmer, Kirchdorf, who was able to assert herself against the second-placed cow Bahama by Ernst Rau, Ebersbach. The title of udder champion young cow went to the Janik daughter Irene from Sauter GbR, Krattenweiler. Two classes were also available for the second calf cows. In the first class, the outstanding cow Ballerina from Sauter GbR, Krattenweiler confidently prevailed against Bisto Kiki from Ernst Rau, Ebersbach. She could clearly score with correctness in body and expression. The best udder in this class, however, was Phil's daughter Inora, from Sauter GbR, Krattenweiler, the winner of the Waldseer Braunviehtag, who ultimately won the overall udder decision. Vinbab Susen from Kramer GbR, Erolzheim, was the winner of the second class of second calf cows. She prevailed against a Puck daughter from the same herd and finally became reserve champion behind Ballerina, from Sauter GbR.

The intermediate cows with 4 and 5 calves were ranked in a very high-quality class, in which Assay Katrin by Michael Zimmermann, Bad Waldsee, was the champion cow and Anibay Alpengirl by Andreas Hörmann, Kirchdorf, was the reserve champion cow. Among the old cows, the ring of the cows with 6 calves was won by Vigor Lava, by Michael Schmaus, Rot a. d. Rot, while in the cows with 7 and 8 calves, the well-known Easton daughter Forteas prevailed against Huxoy Galaxy by Edwin Kling, Murrwangen. Forteas, from the stock of Aaron Albinger, Biberach is also the dam of the bull Bisto and was able to convince the judges with almost 100,000 kg lifetime production, so that in addition to the award as cow with the highest lifetime production, she was also awarded the title of old champion cow became.

However, the Grand Champion title of the Brown Swiss breed could not be taken from the outstanding and incredibly harmonious cow Ballerina owned by Friedrich and Nikolas Sauter, Krattenweiler that day.



Champion young cows: 232 Huvilu Ballerina Friedrich & Nikolas Sauter GbR, Krattenweiler Reserve Champion young cows 236 Vinbab Susen Franz und Gabriele Kramer GbR, Erolzheim



Udder Champion: Phil Inora Friedrich & Nikolas Sauter GbR, Krattenweiler



The Grand Champions 2023 - in the center 232 Huvilu Ballerina Friedrich & Nikolas Sauter GbR, Krattenweiler

ANARB meets the breeders Members on the territory

In view of the Annual Assembly scheduled for April, Anarb is organizing a series of events throughout the national territory in order to meet the breeders' members. From North to South Italy, the meetings have become an important moment of exchange of information, sharing and comparison between the Association and its Members.

The topics discussed during the meetings are the following:

- update on Anarb activities;
- sharing of breed selection objectives;
- update on ongoing technical activities.

The meetings generally end with a moment of conviviality preceded by an exchange of views between Anarb and the breeders on the future prospects of the breed.

Freedom is...

Working in contact with animals

What drives a young twenty-four-year-old man to take up the profession of breeder? A young Italian breeder from the province of Bari (Puglia) shares with us his experience.



A highly debated topic among Italian insiders is the concern about the future of the "profession of breeder". It cannot be denied, in fact, that there are realities in which the average age of breeders is high, at the same time many motivated young people still carry on this work with passion, either because inherited from their family tradition or thanks to their own spirit of entrepreneurship.

In the hinterland of Bari, Carlo lives and works at the homonymous company, Carlo Marco Lopane. Son of a family of breeders, Carlo carries on the work of the generations that preceded him in the family. With a smiling face and a look towards the future, Carlo speaks of himself.

What does it mean to you to be a breeder?

I left my studies very early and immediately dedicated myself to the work in the stable. I admit that my interest was not in books, but in helping my father in the family business. Of course, I could have deepened my studies, but that decision felt right for me, giving me a greater sense of achievement and I am happy to say I still do not regret the choice I made that day.

In 2018 I took over the reins of the family company of which today I am the owner.

40% of the animals in my stable are Brown cows. The stable is surrounded by 70 hectares of land (owned and rented) cultivated as fodder. Of these, 30% are left for grazing. My cows live in a semi-wild state, they spend their time outdoors 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, except for the reuse period. Among the Brown cows, there are now 30 lactating cows as well as calves and steers.

What prompted you to choose the profession of breeder?

Passion is what drives me every day to work as a breeder, it is something which runs through my blood!

Many people ask me how I keep up with the life as a young person. Of course, being a breeder imposes tight rhythms that are far from my peers' lifestyle, but all this doesn't feel like a sacrifice to me.

How do you see the future of your profession in the next decade?

I fear that in the near future only a few will choose this profession. This is a job that requires a lot of commitment and sacrifice which not everybody is ready to undertake. I think I am among the lucky ones, in my region we are a close-knit group of young enthusiastic breeders, but this is not the case everywhere! What might be of help would be a reduction in the bureaucratic burden related to our work and more State financial support in favor of our category.

If you had to make a commercial, what aspects of your work would you highlight?

The relationship that a farmer establishes with his cattle is something unique. One may call it understanding we understand each other even if we do not speak the same language!

I take care of my animals and they recognize and follow me. Living a breeder's life means that every day is different, exciting and stimulating. You are in deep contact with nature and it, by definition, changes every day.

When I work outdoors and take care of my Brown cows, I feel it is the life I wanted, I feel free!

Francesca Frigo

"rb- la razza bruna" nr. 1/2023



New record with eight 100'000 cows on the same farm

On the farm of the Hansueli & Andrea Scherrer in Neukirch (Egnach), Thurgau, there were **eight cows with a lifetime production of over 100000 kg of milk** at the end of 2022. These were from left to right.:

- Wurl Gisi (13. lactation.121'886 kg of milk, 3.91 % fat, 3.54 % protein),
- Wagor Wega (10. lact. 120'082 kg, 3.90 % f ,3.35 % p),
- Carlo Bella (12.lact. 119'843 kg, 4.07 % f , 3.65 % p),
- Wurl Ulli (10. lact. 113'240 kg milk, 4.28 % f, 3.50 % p),
- Vigor Sereina (10. lact. 111'015 kg milk, 4.00 % f ,3.7 4 % p),
- Tau Regina (12. lact. 105'141 kg milk, 3.92 % f, 3.36 % p),
- Wurl Flora (8. lact. 104'965 kg milk, 3.47 % f , 3.22 % p),
- Huray Sara (7. lact. 100'291 kg milk, 4.09 % f , 3.54 % p).

Innovation in the laboratory report – The 6-field graph

The evaluation scheme for the interpretation of the milk content for conclusions on feeding is adapted. In the process, the reverse side of the laboratory test report is fundamentally revised and now corresponds to the latest scientific findings. Probably the most fundamental change is the introduction of the 6-field graph.

The fat/protein ratio (fpr) now plays a central role in the evaluation of energy supply. The great advantage of the fpr is, that it is a milk quantity-independent indicator, which is consequently not subject to any dilution effect, as it is the case, for example, with the protein or fat content.

Economy Star 2022

To receive the Economy Star award, high requirements must be met in terms of performance, udder health and fitness. This award is given from the second lactation and 298 cows climbed this hurdle last year.

Conditions for the Economy Star:

- Milk yield:
 - 2.lact. min. 8'000 kg in midland and 7'500 kg in mountain area
 - > 3. lact. min. 9'000 kg in midland and 8'500 kg in mountain area
- Protein content: min. 3.60 % in midland and 3.50 o/o in mountain area
- Cell counts: max. 60'000
- Persistency: min. 90 %
- Days open: max.90 days



Economy Star Brookings Habella, Martin Holenstein, Stein, St Gallen



Braunvieh claims 133'767 controls and 104'454 standard controls. The Original Braunvieh, incl. ROB can show 14'621 controls, which correspond to an increase of 680 controls, almost 5 % in relation to the previous year.

53.8 % of the Brown cows completed their lactation in the mountain area. Compared to last year, this increased by 0.5 %. For 25.7 % of the cows at least one weighing was made on an alp. The output of adult cows in the valley area without alpine pasture is 8'236 kg of milk for the year.

Braunvieh gesamt	Calendar year		Change to previous year
	2022	2021	
Number of controls	133'767	137'429	-3'662
Number of standard controls	104'453	108'821	-4'368
Ø Standard lactation of all cows:			
Milk kg	7'258	7'331	-73
Fat kg	293	296	-3
Fat %	4.04	4.04	=
Protein kg	249	252	-3
Protein %	3.43	3.43	=
Nature equivalent points	84	85	-1
Persistence %	83	84	-1
Days Open	133	132	+1
Somatic cell counts	100	102	-2
Ø Milk kg 4. ff lactation valley	8'236	8'272	-36
Ø Milk kg Brown Swiss	7'394	7'454	-60
Ø Milk kg Original Braunvieh	6'207	6'306	-99
Ø Milk kg OB incl. ROB	6'091	6'204	-113

