

Brown Swiss news

June 2022

The European Brown Swiss journal



World Brown Swiss Conference 2022

The next World Brown Swiss conference will take place from October 1st to 5th in Madison, Wisconsin, USA.

Early registrations are extended until July 15th.

Contact your National Brown Swiss information for more information or visit: <https://brownswissusa.wixsite.com/wbsconference2022>



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QUALITY -
FOR LIFE**



»The combination of high quality milk delivery and strong vitality is what we like about our Brown Swiss cows. Throughout their lifetime they offer constant milk quantities, are really healthy and in addition, nicely tempered. We recommend Brown Swiss.«

Family Denzel, Oberessendorf/Germany



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BREED AMBASSADOR

Martin SCHLECKER, strong in the Fleckvieh area with Brown cows



A pure Brown Swiss herd in the district of Neu Ulm - that's something special. Martin Schlecker from Osterberg-Weiler relies on the Brown cow because he is convinced of its advantages. For years he has been milking a herd output of over 10,000 kg milk and good components. The current herd consists of 240 cows. The Schleckers have enough offspring of their own, so no cattle had to be bought in and all cows come from their own herd.

Thanks to good management, the milk yield could be maintained during the barn construction phase, even in the densely populated barn - an empty feeding trough was (and is) taboo even at night! The TMR ration with half grass and half maize silage is presented with a self-propelled feed mixer. In addition, there is concentrated feed from the concentrated feed station. The animals are divided into 2 performance groups. In the performance group up to 150 lactation days there is hay ad libitum.

The farm manages 120 ha. In addition to permanent grassland and silo maize, field grass, winter barley and winter wheat are grown. A new calf barn was built in 2017. A milk taxi was purchased to make work easier, because all calves get whole milk regardless of the milk price

Year	Nr. cows	Milk yield	Fat-%	Protein%	Kg F+P
2017	212,6	10484	4,45	3,78	862,7
2018	231,7	10175	4,33	3,79	827,0
2019	238,1	10621	4,48	3,78	877,7
2020	242,3	10468	4,57	3,82	878,1
2021	240,9	10674	4,60	3,81	897,2

BREED

In terms of breeding, Martin Schlecker strives for a high-performance herd with strong components. Of course, the exterior and fitness should also fit. He favors the uncomplicated, economical cow.

As his own inseminator, he does the mating himself. He looks at each cow individually and chooses the right bull for it. In order to have the right bull in the sperm container for every cow, he orders bulls with very different inheritance patterns. He is currently using the progeny-tested Pukari, but mostly genomic young sires such as Nathan, Dash, Newyork, Vindiesel, Volkwein, and the home-bred Vargas and Vasteras, as well as current basic use bulls. The lineages in his herd are just as varied as the sperm order list.



He is satisfied with his offspring. It is rare for a heifer to be sorted out due to poor performance. He is a regular auction feeder with young cows at the auction in Kempten.

When asked what he particularly likes about the Brown Swiss, he answered that the brown cow is functional, high-performing with high components (and thus increases the milk price) and has good persistence.

Rarely would he dry off a cow under 20 liters to compensate for the fact that the performance was not as high as that of the Holsteins. He has no problems with the often lamented low performance and the calves drink well, too. His herd is purebred because he doesn't want to deal with two different breeds. Being familiar with a breed is extensive enough.

It is therefore not surprising that he was immediately willing to take part in the Braunviehvision project with passion.

Bulls from schlecker farm

So far, the bulls Piet, Etsch, Volmar, Hamster and Hochmoor and the Hebron son Heimo have gone to Alpengenetik from his stock.





Vaselino comes from the Feuerstein daughter 1304, who scores with her excellent udder and feet and legs, as well as with the best fat (4.72%) and over 4% protein. Vaselino was used as a sire of sons and his first daughters will calve shortly. He still stands with an excellent GZW 133 and MW 127 with average milk yield, high fat content and neutral protein. His conformation rating is also predicted to be above average, especially the udder score of 114 points. So far three of his sons have been inseminated, the best of which is



AG VASTERAS dam (2nd lact)

Vasteras, a bull also bred at Schlecker. He is currently used as a sire of sons and is very popular. In addition to his high TMI of 141, he particularly impresses with his excellent inheritance of components and average milk yield. Another highlight is that with Fitness 121 unproblematic daughters can be expected. He promises medium-sized daughters and his feet and legs should be convincing, especially in the pasterns. The highlight of his inheritance will be the udder, especially the traits udder depth and fore-udder attachment that are important for longevity can be very appealing.

Vasteras comes from the Verdi-daughter 1561, his granddam is the Himalaya-daughter 1318, from which the Hebron-son Heimo was sold and will soon be daughter proven. Both dam and granddam are high-component cows and impress with their functional conformation. The granddam was even classified with 92 points for udder and overall conformation VG 89. Thus, in addition to the genomic numbers, the absolute numbers also fit and there is an excellent cow family behind this bull.

Working with such brown cows is fun!

The lfeeling son Illas, from whom the first daughters are currently calving, is one of the more recent vintages. Sinatra-son Sidence still has an excellent TMI of 136 and has interesting bulls in his pedigree with Cadence and Huxoy. His son Silvan was also bred on the Schlecker farm and goes back to Vanpari and Payssli.

Seasidebloom son Sevilla is a very popular genomic young sire and was also used very heavily because of his conformation qualities combined with high milk yield.

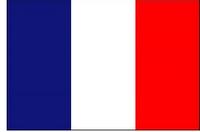
Veles Pp

Genetic polling is becoming increasingly important in dairy farming. Here, too, the Schlecker farm was able to make its contribution with the bull Veles Pp. The Vidal PS son was bred from a very productive and conformationally strong Vobis (VV: Volvo) daughter. It has already produced almost 40,000 kg lifetime production. The granddam Monice comes from the lineage Jupaz (VV: Jupiter) from Simvitel and with ten calvings and more than 123,000 kg lifetime production she is still top fit in the herd and is carrying her eleventh calf. Despite her performance of over 13,000 kg at peak performance, she is a very fertile cow and convinces with good calving times.

It is therefore not surprising that Veles Pp is very popular in both the breeding program and the dairy farms. With a TMI of excellent 137 and positive components with an average milk yield, he can also hold his own against the competition. There are no weaknesses in the conformation either. His udder index is very good at 115. A little attention should be paid to milkability, with dam and granddam showing over 3 kg/min in absolute terms.

Vaselino and Vasteras

It is always a special achievement when a young bull meets the high demands of insemination work. An additional specialty is the bull Vasteras. His father Vaselino was already bred by the Schlecker farm and combines two important cow lines in the farm.



100 000 kgs performances

As a tradition in France during each regional show, it is an opportunity to reward the breeders of cows who have passed the milestone of 100,000 kg of milk in their career.

After two blank years due to covid, the regional show in Chatillon sur seine in eastern France brought together 107 Brown Swiss early June.

On this occasion, 8 cows from 8 different farms received a reward for having passed the famous milestone of 100,000 kg produced.

Among them :

BELLE DE MAIE EX91 (Pronto) from Mr Alain Terrillon with a total lifetime production of 134 457 kg of milk at 4,7% F and 3,8% P.

ENDIVE (Brillant) from GAEC Darbois Frères with a total lifetime production of 130 370 kg at 4,5 % F and 3,8 % P.

Key figures 2021

Brown Swiss total effective continue to slightly increasing in 2021 reaching a number of 19 114 (+275) Brown Swiss cows under milk control (official and non official).

The total Brown Swiss AI reach 49 713 AI in 2021 (+0,9%) with a slight decrease in pure breed AI (-2,1%) but an increase of +5,3% in crossbreeding on other breeds. Sexed semen represent 25,2% of AI.

In term of performance, Brown Swiss progress in milk but also in components with an average of 7 850 kg 4,26%F and 3,7% P.



ProRind opens a new Breeding and Marketing Center



At the beginning of the new year 2022, the former Brown Swiss breeding association Allgäuer Herdbuchgesellschaft (AHG) merged with the Breeding Association for Black and Red Holsteins in Bavaria (SRB) to form the new breeding association ProRind. Pro Rind is thus the largest breeding association in Bavaria and has almost 150,000 herd book cows, of which almost 80,000 are Brown Swiss cows.

Almost at the same time as the merger, ProRind opened its new breeding and marketing center in Unterthingau, 10 km east of Kempten in the Ostallgäu district on Friday, May 27th. On Sunday, May 29, it was presented to the public with an "open day". More than 5,000 visitors took the opportunity to inspect the new building that day. A new auction arena for breeding cattle with an adjacent barn, a marketing center for livestock calves and a new, modern office building for the employees of the breeding association, the government employees for the breeding program and the LKV Bayern were built here for around 12.5 million euros in a construction period of 15 months.

The special thing about breeding cattle marketing in the new facility is that all calved heifers are no longer managed by the breeder, but only move in a driving system, from unloading to auction in the arena. With this, the breeder can market his breeding animals with little effort, which should make the marketing of breeding cattle even more attractive. The auction arena offers space for 300 people, in the barn there is room for 220 young cows.

22 breeding cattle auctions take place in Unterthingau every year, every 2 weeks during the winter months. The first breeding cattle auction on Thursday, June 2nd was already a complete success. Almost 200 calved heifers, mostly Brown Swiss animals and 12 breeding bulls were also sold abroad at top prices.

The new marketing center for farm calves offers space for 850 calves. Here, too, the calves are brought together in a sophisticated driving system from unloading to the scales with individual animal registration in collection boxes and then guided to the small auction ring. After sale, they can be sorted into groups in collection boxes for transport. An auction of an average of 650 farm calves takes place here every Monday. The previous marketing locations of Kempten and Buchloe will be merged in Unterthingau. The premiere on Monday, June 7th also went well with the farm calves.

Dr. Birkenmaier





In 1996, farm manager Werner Brader moved 45 cows from the tie stall barn to the free stall barn. 25 years later, the herd of Werner and Christine Brader GbR has 185 head of cows and additional offspring. During the continuous expansion of the farm, great attention was always paid to animal welfare.

Werner and Christine Brader's business is idyllically located in the Memmingen area. The family farms 75 hectares, of which 45 hectares are grassland, 21 hectares are maize and 9 hectares are winter wheat and winter barley. The managers are supported by their sons Mathias and Manuel and their daughter Jana.

Feeding is important

The topic of feeding is very important on the Brader farm. A strong focus is placed on the dry cows in particular, because Mathias Braders' opinion is, that the dry cows are the most important cows in the barn.

"Lactation starts before calving," says Mathias Brader, "all mistakes that happen here are noticeable in the birth phase and in the performance for the next lactation." A two-phase mixture is therefore currently fed to the dry cows.

The aim is to achieve a high DM intake for the rumen volume with this feeding. A low DCAB balance is achieved by lowering the energy content in the ration. Straw (chopped to less than 4 cm), grass, corn, soy bean and minerals are used for this.

The lactating cows get a total mixed ration for 28 - 30 liters for the whole group. There are two types of concentrated feed for the cows on the robots, as well as isomaltose molasses. The feed ration is discussed and adjusted with the nutrition advisor depending on the forage situation. The Brader farm is currently feeding a mixture of 16 kg of grass, 25 kg of maize, 3 kg of rapeseed, 1.5 kg of grass cobs and 180 g of minerals.

The quality of the forage has to be right

At Braders, the focus is on high forage performance. "Milking a lot of milk always starts in the field," is a motto of the family business. That is why the grassland structure is critically examined and attention is paid to high silage quality during the silage harvest. Mold in the silo must be avoided at all costs, because even if the best feed is available, mold infestation has a negative effect on the milk yield and cow health.

In feed management, care is taken to ensure that lower-ranking cows are given the same opportunities when it comes to feeding. This principle is implemented by non-selectable TMR, so that the higher-ranking cow cannot select the better feed components from the TMR.





Why Brown Swiss?



For farm manager Werner Brader, the advantages of the breed are clearly stated in a few keywords: udder, feet and legs, longevity, components, hoof health, suitability for robots, but also the cow character stand for the characteristics of the brown cow.



Breeding activities and breeding successes

Due to Werner and Christine Brader's passion for the Brown Swiss breed, the farm is heavily influenced by breeding.

When selecting bulls, in addition to a high overall breeding value, care is taken to ensure that genomic young bulls have safe and functioning sires. Mathias Brader calls this a "high-performance sire episode"! High maternal performance also plays a major role in selecting bulls.

The bulls currently used include AG Vanpari, AG Jakarta, AG Vail PS, AG Bison and AG Vassri. Many top sellers of the Brown Swiss breed come directly from the Brader family: Huray, AG Vanpari, AG Vasco, AG Vassri, AG Hergatz P, AG Vollpro Pp and AG Vail P are famous examples of these breeding successes. Five interesting bull calves are currently being reared at Alpengenetik.

Whether it's the Brown Swiss Vision project, the topic of embryo transfer or the typing of interesting bull calves - the Brader family is involved everywhere, as the development of the Brown Swiss breed is very important to them.

Christine Brader puts her heart and passion into rearing calves

So it is not surprising that a lot of passion and heart is invested in calf rearing. Christine Brader is responsible for this on the farm. During the first few weeks, the calves are housed in individual igloos in the outdoor climate barn and are fed with a special calf TMR in addition to an intensive milk feeding up to the 14th week. Then it goes to group housing in the calf barn.

Text: Rinderbesamungs-Genossenschaft Memmingen eG (RBG),
Fotos: RBG

Cow families 2021 in Switzerland

In spring, 8 judges from Braunvieh Schweiz classified 217 female cow families: 180 Brown Swiss and 37 Original Braunvieh.

A total of 7 breeding families achieved 90 and more points. Fantastic Fara from Norbert von Rickenbach from Steinerberg, Canton of Schwyz, and Anthony Arosa from Reto Enz from Neuägeri, Canton of Zug, achieved the highest score in 2022 with 91 points each.

The list including pictures is published on <https://homepage.braunvieh.ch/bilder-galerie/#zuchtfamilienschau>



BRUNA 2022 - 125 years of Braunvieh Switzerland

About 2 months have passed since the two BRUNA weekends celebrating the 125th anniversary of Braunvieh Schweiz in Zug. Around 400 exhibitors have shown 380 Original Braunvieh and 337 Brown Swiss animals. Around 5,000 people followed the spectacle on site in Zug over both weekends, 43'000 more from 39 countries clicked on the livestream and almost 14'000 people watched the recordings on YouTube.

BRUNA BS: Jongleur Janina from Franz & Pascal Felder and Koni Pfulg & Matthias Niederöst, Marbach, Canton of Lucerne, were crowned the great Brown Swiss Champion of BRUNA BS 2022. Among the heifers, Brice Vera from Markus & Matthias Süess, Andwil, Canton of St. Gallen, took the champion title.

BRUNA OB: At the BRUNA OB 2022 the Swiss Original Braunvieh cattle fascinated the numerous visitors. The big winner was Orlando Odessa from René Stalder, Hasle, Canton of Lucerne. The champion title of the heifers was won by Lorento Lilli from Josef Kempf, Isenthal, Canton of Uri.

All important information and pictures of BRUNA 2022 are published here: <https://homepage.braunvieh.ch/bruna-2022/>



Swiss milk recording 2021

In the 2021 milk control year, 137'429 lactations were registered for Brown Swiss cattle. The average milk yield per cow across all ages and production stages increased by 28 kg to 7'331 kg compared to last year. The fat and protein content increased slightly. 53 % of the Brown Swiss cows are located in the mountain area and 25 % are spending summer on alpine pastures.

Further information about the milk control year 2021 can be found here in the magazine CHbraunvieh from page 5 on : <https://homepage.braunvieh.ch/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/CHbraunvieh-02-2022.pdf>

Character	Year		Change to previous year
	2021	2020	
Number of lactations	137'429	138'409	-980
Number of standard lactations	108'821	110'237	-1'416
Ø Standard lactation of all cows:			
Milk kg	7'331	7'303	+28
Fat kg	296	294	+2
Fat %	4.04	4.02	+0.02
Protein kg	252	250	+2
Protein %	3.43	3.42	+0.01
Mature equivalent points	85	85	=
Persistency %	84	83	+1
Days open (in days)	132	132	=
Cell counts	102	104	-2
Ø Milk kg 4. ff lactation (Valley)	8'272	8'281	-9
Ø Milch kg Original Braunvieh	6'306	6'297	+9

