

# BROWN SWISS



MORE THAN MILK

September 2023

## Brown Swiss news

*The European Brown Swiss journal*

Save the dates !

### European Brown Swiss conference

Baia Mare, Maramures county, Romania

October 18th to 20th 2023

[EUROPEAN CONFERENCE | Asociația Bruna Schwyz Maramureș \(asociatia-bruna.ro\)](https://www.asociatia-bruna.ro)

### European Brown Swiss show

Imst, Austria

April 12th to 14th 2024



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 European  
Brown Swiss  
Federation

[www.brown-swiss.org](http://www.brown-swiss.org)



@ebsf\_brownswiss



Family Widrig

### Breed ambassador

Widrig Fabian, Bad Ragaz, Switzerland

### Cow families as the basis of an economic herd

The Widrig family has always bred an economical, durable and dairy cow. The basis of this goal is deep cow families. Three of them stand out in Widrig's Braunvieh herd, dating back to the 1970s. The figurehead of the R family is Eagle Reika with a lifetime production of 127,000 kg of milk.

In the southern part of Sarganserland, between the gondola lift to the mountain of Pizol and the highway, is the farm „Freihof“ located, a very modern and future-oriented farm of the Widrig family.

### Family owned for 3 generations

In 1957, the grandfather of the current farm manager (Fabian) bought the Freihof in Bad Ragaz together with his brother. This was an ideal opportunity to move out of the rapidly growing and tourism-oriented village of Bad Ragaz. With the consolidation of the estate, the farm became larger and more arrounded.

When Albert, Fabian's father, took over the farm in 1989, it was steadily converted from cereal to vegetable farming and cultivated according to IP-Suisse guidelines. The excellent quality of the soil areas in the St. Gall Rhine Valley allowed this step without any problems. During this time, the farm was steadily expanded and extended. A new part of the house and a liquide manure silo were added, as well as a new branch of the business in 2002 with the construction of a chicken masthouse.

In 2010, the tie-up barn was converted into a free barn and in 2014 they built a new silo. To improve operations on the farm and become more flexible to break up peak workloads, they invested in a new milking robot in 2019.

Fabian, who never wanted anything else than to become a farmer, was able to take over the farm from his father in 2021 as the third generation.

### Breeding goal: economic cow

In breeding, no compromise is made on economic efficiency. The foundation-stone of the herd is laid by three deep cow families. The cows must be durable, problem-free, dairy and functional. They do not necessarily have to be show cows.

If a show cow is nevertheless the result, Fabian is also very happy to participate in regional and cantonal or national cattle shows. At the Olma 2021 and at the BRUNA 2022, the 100'000 kg lifetime performance cow Eagle Reika presented itself to a wide audience and represented Widrig's breeding goal impressively.





### Three deep cow families

The R family, from which Reika comes, dates back to the 70s. A proud number of 35 animals from this family are currently in the herd. Another cow family that has been adding value to the herd since 1964 is the T family. The youngest cow family, on which is set, is the L-family. Three breeding families could already be exhibited from this line, of which 20 animals are in the barn. The young bull Luano, a Huge-ET son, purchased by Swissgenetics, comes from it. With over 1'000 kg breeding value for milk and 130 in the udder index, a lot can be expected from him in the future.

As a Bruna Data farm, the genomic breeding values are included in the matings and are considered an important support in the final decisions. By collecting health data, the farm plans to work toward even greater profitability with the brown cow.

The only cow family purchased is the D-line. The foundation cow, Vigor Daisy, was purchased as a heifer from a professional colleague who gave up dairy farming. This line is also convincing in all important traits that distinguish the farm.



Widrig's Eagle Reika



Widrig's Phil Lorena and Widrig's Phil Luna

### Various branches of the farm

In addition to dairy farming, arable farming and vegetable production, the Freihof also has a branch of farming that is not dependent on the soil, namely chicken fattening. The chicken manure perfectly complements the cattle manure and is optimally used in vegetable and arable farming. The chicken is produced for the company Frifag AG from Märwil.

### Combining hobbies

Fabian describes cattle breeding as a hobby. He also enjoys hiking. He can combine both with visiting his young cattle on the alpine pastures. He is usually accompanied by his girlfriend Flurina. The educated veterinarian, who works in a veterinary practice at 100%, is responsible for the health of the animals on the farm and likes to help during her spare time.

As president of the Sarganserland Agricultural Association and as a member of the Agricultural Council of St. Gall Farmers' Association, Fabian is actively involved in the future of agriculture.

### Farm profile

Widrig Fabian, Freihof 1, 7310 Bad Ragaz

**Location:** 492 meters above sea level, valley zone

**Farm size:** 22.5 ha agricultural land  
7 ha vegetables, 3ha as 2<sup>nd</sup> crop  
2 ha potatoes  
5 ha corn  
4 ha barley  
2 ha artificial meadows  
5.5 ha natural meadows

**Livestock:** 48 cows, 56 young cattle in raising contract  
9'000 heads of fattening poulets

**Performance data:**  
9'972 kg milk, 3.99 % fat, 3.47 % protein, 76 somatic cell counts, 90% persistency

### Insemination bulls:

Owen, Biniam, Jinxer, Mane SG-ET, Aiven-ET, Pete-ET, Caviezel-ET, Leon-ET PP, 1/3 of inseminations with fattening bulls

**Housing system:** free barn with deep cow barn cubicles

**Milking system:** milking robot, DeLaval VMS V300

**Feeding:** Sandwich silage from the silo:  
Grass silage 40 %, corn silage 40 %, barley or rye 10 %.  
additionally: hay 5 %, potatoes and carrots 5 %  
and concentrated feed in the milking robot

**Milk utilization:** 425'000 kg of milk to Emmi Schweiz AG

**Labor:** Fabian (farm manager), Albert and Andrea (parents) employed, Albert works 1 day per week as an agricultural appraiser, Flurina Walser (girlfriend) helps on the farm in her spare time.

# New genomic bulls

## Titanium

The highest foreign bull in Germany from a new cow family



Dam: Pennie GP-82

Noro x Nice GP x Alaska

- New cow family, dam Pennie #5 ISU in France
- #1 foreign bull in Germany
- Great components, fitness and type
- aAa 261435

GZW DE 139  
ISU 188  
GZW CH 1454  
PPR 168



BB A2/A2

## Toronto

The new worldwide leader



Dam: Olvsee GP-82

Piston x Sinatra x Blooming

- Top ranking PPR, GZW, ITE & ISU
- Very high production and top frames
- From Rastaroket family
- aAa 156324

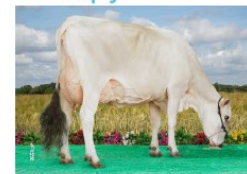
ISU 199  
PPR 230  
GZW DE 134  
ITE 1056



BB A2/A2

## Snoopy

The new star of astonishing milk level



Dam: Perdrix GP-83

Jonmar x Majeste x Hercules

- New #1 ISU bull with the highest milk proof ever +2293 kg
- Best Jonmar son from Namur cow family
- aAa 651423

ISU 208  
PPR 209  
GZW DE 132  
Milk + 2293



BB A2/A2

## Talico P

New heterozygous polled for a famous family



Granddam: LBB Lalice EX-92

Veles P x O Malley x Vigor

- Heterozygous polled from a top family! His grand dam is LBB Lalice Vigor EX 92, Intermediate Champion at Swissexpo 2018!
- High production and complete type
- aAa 615243

ISU 174  
GZW DE 126  
PPR 170  
GZW CH 1347



AB A1/A2

## Tripoli

The complete new Optimal son



Dam: Lisele EX-90

Optimal x Hamster x Juhus

- Allround sire that ticks all boxes
- Ideal to correct too short teats
- New cow family with strength and production
- aAa 561423

ISU 179  
PPR 188  
Milk +1116  
Fertility +1.7



BB A2/A2

## Thor

Extremely complete outcross newcomer



Dam: Pacotille VG-87

Parador x Visor x Shottle

- Outcross pedigree, easy to use
- Extremely complete
- Same family as the sire Ramses
- aAa 243615

ISU 182  
PPR 188  
ITE 895  
P% +1.5



BB A2/A2

## Daughter proven bulls

## O Malley

Worldwide popular, now proven and available sexed !



Daughter: Romane

Bender x Glarus x Dally

- Doubled his daughters, his milk proof gained 156 kg! Will add many more daughters at next proofs runs
- Very stable, complete type
- Astonishing udders
- Excellent components and good fertility
- From Parisienne family with 101275 kg lifetime

ISU 146  
+3.1 P%  
+3.8 F%  
Type 2.1  
Udder 1.6  
Rump 2.5



BB A2/A2

## What's new after the August 2023 proof run ?

BGS is the unique breeding organization for BROWN SWISS in France, actively working for the BROWN SWISS breed in France (as unique herdbook and breeding program) and worldwide.

The August 2023 proof run shows no less than 6 new bulls, in the top of all rankings worldwide.

We are highly working on the polled range and a new addition is arriving this summer, Talico P, already available sexed, coming from a tremendous family, LBB Lalice EX-92. Just be a little more patient, 2 more will follow in the near future ! And more to come later !

La crème de la crème of French BROWN SWISS today will be present at the national BROWN SWISS show with 140 females on the 5th of October, during the world's best livestock show, SOMMET DE L'ELEVAGE in Clermont-Ferrand, France. Don't miss it ! We hope you see you there !





Büsser's Brice ENYA

CH 120.1590.9053.9

85-87-84/86-85 VG85

1. L. 2.01 7'217 kg 4.12 % fat 3.82 % protein (proj.)

Breeder / owner: Ivo Büsser-Alder, Goldingen, St. Gall

Picture: Moy

### Dreamer and Apple

The two hopes, which have often been used in relation to extremely high fertility, have fulfilled their expectations. Apple points with 114 and Dreamer with 111 enormously fruitful daughters out. Unfortunately, they did not fulfill the expectations in the breeding value milk yet.

### Blood diversity at the highest young bulls

The variety of bull fathers has clearly increased. This is underlined by the fact that the top-100 young bulls come from 28 different bull fathers. Guy (5x) and Bellboy (4x) are most found. With Sting leads a Tu SG son out of Antonov Omaienne, the full sister of Noro, the breeding value list. With TMI 1535, +982 kg milk and a top fitness value of 136 he will surely be a demanded sire. With a fertility of 121 he is currently the second highest next to Velmer P in this area. With Pactol Saphir comes an absolute outcross bull into the offer. With the Blood combination Pactol × Amor × Traction and a breeding value of 1479 TMI he may be used broadly.

### Names in the top of three at the Original Braunvieh stay unchanged

Killy, Orlando and Lordan have been the top trio at Original Braunvieh since December 2022. They are all similar in their strengths and weaknesses. When it comes to milk, they differ only slightly. Killy breaks the 1300 TMI mark again. With 1310 TMI, he is clearly at the top. The milk production is not one of the strengths of this trio. Only Killy can improve a bit. Despite being established bulls for their age, they are holding up strongly. The good beef inheritance of them is striking. Killy remains at the top with beef value 117. This is where Orlando and Lordan lose a little. Nevertheless, with 109 and 104, they reflect the ideal dual-use type. Orlando can increase in fertility and cell count by one point each and has excellent values of 117 and 107 respectively. Killy remains top with 129 regarding udder transmission. The small increase in performance (milk, fat % and protein %) helped him to regain the top. Let's be curious how this head-to-head race in the December breeding value estimation will continue.

### Brice and Hüge are the winners

ANDREAS KOCHER, Braunvieh Schweiz

Two Bender sons are the winners of this breeding value round. Together with Visor they are the top three. There are currently six progeny tested bulls with over 1100 kg milk in Switzerland.

Brice takes the lead of the progeny-tested bulls. In the August breeding value estimation, he increased his breeding value by +200 kg milk and 8 points in fertility. With 1382 TMI he is 4 points ahead of Visor P. His half-brother Hüge is also experiencing a positive trend in fertility with increasing security. He can improve by 8 points to 107. With an udder composite of 132, he is also one of the best bulls on offer in this area. Now it is to be hoped that other top sons from Simbaboy Caluna's intensively used cow family will convince with such brilliant performances. Another performance sired by Bender has been added to the offer. Boy is the only progeny proven bull with more than 1200 kg and positive components. With +0.07 % fat and +0.05 % protein, he is at the top in terms of milk value. With 145 MIW, he ranks first, 6 points ahead of Visconti. With a lot of milk and functionality, Bender will continue to leave his mark on the Brown Swiss breed.



Hüge MANILA



Walsers Brice  
UNA