

Brown Swiss news

June 2020

The European Brown Swiss journal



Save the date

Due to the actual situation with the COVID pandemic, the World Brown Swiss Conference 2020 in Madison, Wisconsin, USA has been rescheduled to September 26-30th, 2021.

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RELIABLE 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



#BREED FACT

BROWN SWISS HEAT TOLERANCE

The thermal environment is a major factor that can negatively affect milk production and health traits of dairy cows. Several scientific studies have demonstrated the ability of Brown Swiss to evacuate the heat more easily and to maintain good physical condition compare to other dairy breeds. Light brown color of the Brown Swiss, seems to result in a lower skin temperature due to reduced inward flow of heat than black cows and higher rate of skin evaporation.

In between 2006 and 2013, a study conducted under subtropical Egyptian conditions assessed the daily production and health traits of 900 Holstein, 118 Brown Swiss and 212 crossbreds. The average temperatures were from 10.6°C to 20.7°C in the cold season with a relative humidity of 24.8% to 76.3%. In the hot season, temperatures goes from 22.9°C to 36.2°C with a relative humidity of 35.6% to 65.1%.

	Holstein	Brown Swiss	BS x Holstein
Milk 305 days (kg)	9145	7638	8914
Calving Interval (days)	432	397	412
Peak (kg/day)	46,4	35,2	41,7

	Heat Stress			
	Low	Moderate	High	Diff.
Holstein (kg/day)	36,6	31,1	27,9	-8,7
Brown Swiss (kg/day)	26,4	26,8	25,7	-0,7
F1 BS x Holstein (kg /day)	31,8	30,6	30,1	-1,7

In terms of production, the loss due to heat stress is significantly higher for Holstein from moderate to high heat stress, with a drop of - 8.7kgs of milk at high level of heat stress. Brown Swiss and crossbreds registered a much lower loss of -0.7kgs and - 1.7kgs each.

In terms of health traits, Brown Swiss have better fertility with a calving interval of 397 days. The significant lesser retained placenta and metritis contribute to this outstanding reproductive health ability. Lower clinical mastitis and feet problems were also observed for Brown Swiss and crossbreds compared to Holstein.

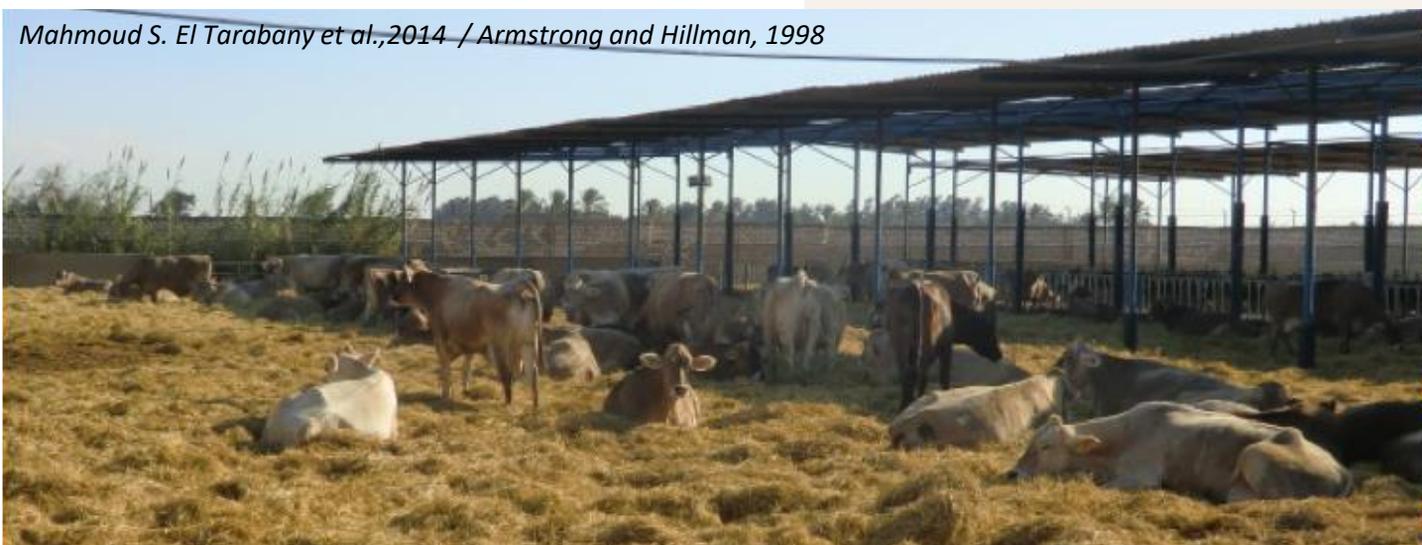


At the University of Arizona, similar results were observed in the herd of 300 Brown Swiss and Holstein were cows were exposed to different ventilation systems. In general, Brown Swiss shows better body temperature regulation with a lower respiratory frequency. Without ventilation system, the milk production was similar to Holstein and the fertility 4 times higher than Holstein under heat stress conditions.

Brown Swiss robustness help to better tolerate the adverse conditions of heat stress. This is a strength for the breed and the reason why Brown Swiss is bred throughout the world under diverse climate conditions. In our European countries, Brown Swiss heat tolerance is also a strength due to prolonged high temperatures encountered in recent years.

	Brune	Holstein
Temperature	39,2	39,7
Respiratory frequency	79	87
Body condition	2,9	2,5
Standard milk kg	27,3	28,5
Pregnancy rate	37,5 %	8,7 %

Mahmoud S. El Tarabany et al.,2014 / Armstrong and Hillman, 1998



#BREED AMBASSADOR

A lot of milk from excellent cows

The dairy farm of Hermann and Sieglinde Wachter in Tschagguns, Austria, is well-known not only in Vorarlberg. With his participation on many shows in Switzerland and last but not least through his acquisition of high genetics in the neighborhood, his name has a good reputation in the Swiss breeding area.

Farm data

Hermann Wachter took over the dairy herd in 1980. At the moment he runs together with his wife Sieglinde 4.8 ha of his own and 11ha leased grassland.

13 cows in milk and 19 heifers are fed in the barn. All the young stock and about 3 young cows are fed during the summer in the alps. The rest of the cows in milk stay at home.

His ration contents 50% hay and 50% grass silage, both of best quality. Depending on the milk yield he gives concentrates several times a day. At the moment he provides around 90.000 kg of milk per year.

Adjusted to his farmsite (alpine pasture), Brown Swiss is the best cow to produce: for his location and the necessity to feed more than the half of his herd in the alps through the summer, there is no alternative to the brown cow, combining milk yield and components.

Beneath his work as a Brown Swiss breeder he produces wood shingles of very high quality. In the wintertime he works in the woods and is also engaged as chairman of the regional alpassociation.



Barn from Wachter Hermann in Tschagguns with his wood shingles production

Breeding goal

Excellent cow as with a lot of milk and good components – so simple sounds the breeding goal of Hermann Wachter. His numerous and remarkable show successes prove, that he is often very near to the goals he set!

2001 the first Brown Swiss Championship in Vorarlberg took place and he won with Morocco „Gusti“ the first Champion in the aged cow class.



Hermann und Sieglinde Wachter are running the farm – children and grandchildren are helping

Since then Hermann Wachter took an active part in almost every championship. 2018 he won the Reservechampion in the middle aged class with Jessys-Joe „Hanni“.

His latest success was on January 18th 2020 at the 14th Night Grand Prix of the Young Breeders association: with Blooming „Sonja“ he won the over all Champion and the Udderchampion. „Sonja“ was scored EX 91 in her first lactation. Since October she is pregnant to Arrow (sexed semen). In her first 100 days she yielded 3.043 kg milk, 3,43% fat and 3,30% protein.

Cow families

Besides Blooming „Sonja“ Hermanns favourite cow in the barn is Jessys-Joe „Hanni“. She was very good placed at a local show 2017, and Hermann purchased her from the breeder Georg Vögel, Hittisau. Lately „Hanni“ was scored EX 92 and in the udder 94. Her show results are impressive:

- Young Cows Champion and Udderchampion (12th Night Grand Prix 2018)
- Udderchampion and Champion Young Cows (6th Brown Swiss Show Oberland 2018)
- Champion Young Cows and Reserve Udderchampion (13th Night Grand Prix 2019)
- Classwinner and best udder (National Brown Swiss Show 2019)

Remarkable good too is Brookings „Selma“, which Hermann purchased in Switzerland. She was scored EX 90 and udder 93 in her third lactation. In her 4th lactation she yielded 10.251 kg milk with 3,82% fat and 3,58% protein. „Selma“ goes over Vigor „Jola“ back to the famous Starbuck „Jola“ (EX 95).

Year	Nb cows	Milk kg	F%	P %	F+P kg
2010	11,6	8 686	4,13	3,62	673
2015	10,5	9 217	4,02	3,44	687
2019	11,3	9 845	4,18	3,53	760



In Burgundy region, Emeric work on the family farm since 2007 with his father and their 77 Brown Swiss cows. If the production results of the herd were satisfactory for many years (8500 kgs in average), the climate conditions of recent years and the high heat period encouraged breeders to produce otherwise since 2016. The last 10 years the average production of corn silage was 9T/Ha with some results bellow 5T/Ha sometimes. Therefore, today, farmers prefer spring crops. Grass silage can secure stocks and in the case of a bad year, they have time to turn around and sow something else instead.

Brown Swiss values grass

"In the years when there was a shortage of corn silage, we had to go straight to grass silage in the summer. Despite the inconvenience of feed transitions, we found that Brown Swiss then offered better production results."

Nowadays, corn silage is only 31% of the total mix ration for the benefit of grass and we can observe:

- Better production regularity
- Level of F% and P% maintain with corn-cob
- Less sub-acidosis
- Less digestive problems
- Higher herd longevity
- Lower veterinary cost : from 20€/1000 L to 11€/1000 L

77 Brown Swiss cows
8 705 kg 4.38%F 3.65%P
83.7 points classification score
3.3 lactation in average
27 months at first calving

	Ration before 2016	Ration after 2016
Corn Silage	35 kg	8 kg
Rapeseed- soybean meal	3.5 kg	1.8 kg
Cereal flour	2 kg	2 kg
Hay	5 kg	/
Grass silage	/	20 kg
Corn-cob	/	5 kg

Brown Swiss E show BGS

Brown Swiss is a big family in France, happy to meet and spend good time together on events, but the recent cancellations of all events due to COVID saddened us. Therefore, in order to spend good moments between passionate Brown Swiss breeders despite the actual context, BGS decided some weeks ago, to launch something new!

Easy principle: we invited our breeders to participate in a virtual morphology contest. In the same principle as the competitions organized throughout France, but here everyone will stay on his farm!

Breeders, daughters and sons, apprentices, trainees or simply Brown Swiss passionate were invited to parade their best heifers and cows in a video.

To this date, subscriptions are closed and we are happy to announce the participation of 78 animals throughout France!

Classes are defined as in real contest and an official judge, Guillaume CREPET, will classify animals. Afterwards, public vote will be involved in addition to the judge for special prizes and championship prizes.

Videos of the different classes will soon be available every day on our Facebook page. The Brown Swiss e-Show BGS is above all a fun way to rediscover the pleasure of presenting animals despite the distances and a way to promote our breed. We hope that everyone will have a pleasant time to prepare their videos, watch them and animate their passion for Brown Swiss.

Do not hesitate to follow the show and vote for your best French Brown Swiss on our [Facebook page](#) !



CADURA

The daughter proven sire CADURA (GZW 121) is still one of the highest Cadence sons in Germany and comes out of the old I-dynasty of the Held family. As a genomic bull he was highly demanded in all European Brown Swiss regions and was immediately used as a sire of sons.

There are now more than 100 daughters in the proof and 45 of them are already scored. The first daughters have reached 100 days in their first lactation and delight their owners with an average of 28 kg of milk per day.

CADURA brings the cow with a lot of frame, width and depth in her body. He can be widely used as a specialist for rear udder - but is also an excellent fitness sire (FIT 112).

His sons CANYON and CATMAN are also very successful.

CANYON (GZW 131) comes from a Huvi dam, followed by an Easton granddam. He is used as a sire of sons in all European Brown Swiss populations and sexed semen is also available. CANYON was bred by Andreas Hörmann of Kirchdorf and is one of the most complete udder sires in the breed (udder 125). He will optimize fore udder, rear udder height, udder attachment and teat placement. At the same time, with fitness 128, he is improving longevity (ND 131) and fertility (FRW 118). CANYON is also extremely interesting for organic farms with a Total Organic Merit of 137.

CATMAN (GZW 129, Cadura*Hercules) comes from a deep Bavarian bull dam family with high components. CATMAN offers high milk production (MW 124) and promises cows with size, good feet & legs and correct udders. He can be especially used to improve rear udder height (112) and the udder width. In addition, CATMAN offers high milking speed (115) and longevity (117).

RBW



CADURA



CANYON



CATMAN



FAMILIE HÖRMANN



LIESE (HUVI) - HÖRMANN



Flora was chosen as the class winner of the 100,000 kg cows at the 100th anniversary of VZG Stiefenhofen.



AG Vabene
(Breeder: Martin Kirchmann,
Stiefenhofen/Bavaria)

Flora is the best everyday cow

Top agrar is the leading agricultural magazine in the German speaking area. Flora was the only Brown Swiss cow to be the „economic model cow“ (top agrar 4/2020). Breeder Peter Kirchmann from Stiefenhofen (Bavaria) describes Flora as the best everyday cow: She is durable and shows the best udder health with very good fertility. After 13 calves, she convinced on average with almost 10,200 kg milk with 4.61 fat percent and 3.71 protein percent. Breeder Peter Kirchmann is a member of the Rinderbesamungsgenossenschaft Memmingen eG. By the way, a son from Flora stands in Alpengenetik. The AG VABENE daughters are ideal for robot farms. AG VABENE descendants are also characterized by very good udder health and very vital calves.

RBG Memmingen

Genotyping of all bulls in natural service

The Swiss national board has adopted new herd-book regulations. The adapted regulations include an obligation for bulls used in natural service to be genotyped. This includes Brown Swiss, Original Braunvieh and Jersey bulls. This adaptation will improve the accuracy of the herd-book data. In case of unclear pedigrees, comprehensive genomic screening allows to clarify the pedigree.



Vigor_Janko – Photo Han Hopman

Han Hopman

New features in SmartCow app



In order to be able to offer our customers the greatest possible added value, SmartCow is constantly being further developed. Now inseminations can be recorded on the app and transmitted directly to the breeding organizations.

Results of the Assembly of Delegates (AD)

For the first time in the 123-year history of Braunvieh Schweiz, the AD had to be carried out by correspondence due to COVID-19. For the cantons Ticino and Zurich a new board member was elected.



President Reto Grünenfelder was reelected with an excellent result for the coming term of office. – photo Braunvieh Schweiz

Organic Bruna Award

In 2020, 52 organic farms received the Organic Bruna Award. This is about 4% of the organic farms, 41 of which are located in the mountain area and 11 in the valley. The farms have to reach minimum or maximum values for the records of protein content, lifetime production, productive life, days open and somatic cell count.



Organic pasture, Wiesenberg, canton Nidwalden. – Photo: Silvia Zumbühl

Change of SNP-Genotyping Laboratory

In future, genotyping will be carried out at the IFN laboratory in Berlin using a newly developed customized SNP-chip optimized for Swiss breeds. Currently, most of the samples are already genotyped at the IFN in Berlin using the SWISScow Custom 300k Array.

New chip SWISScow Custom 70k Array will be introduced in autumn 2020: A major advantage of the new chip is, that all individual gene tests relevant for BS and OB are included without additional cost (polled, kappa casein, beta casein A2, all genetic defects).



Ear tag with tissue sample

268 farms on the list of the best herdmanagers

268 farms made it onto the list of the best herd managers in the last year. The farms must achieve minimum or maximum values for milk kg and protein content, lifetime performance, days open and somatic cell count.

Buholzer's BS Colombo Cony with 105'725 kg of milk (19.4 kg per life day) with 4.22 % fat, 3.17 % protein with family Arnold Schatt, Feusisberg canton Schwyz. – Photo: Braunvieh Schweiz

268 Economy Stars in the last year



Last year 268 cows reached the conditions for the Economy Star. An Economy Star is a cow from the second lactation onwards, which meets very high requirements regarding performance and fitness. On average, an Economy Star produced 9,357 kg of milk with a somatic cell count of 36 and a persistency of 95 %. The content was 4.10 % fat and 3.73 % protein. The service period lasted 69 days.

Not only beautiful, but also powerful: Schatt's Juggler Jael: 3rd lactation, 13'850 kg milk, 4.22% fat, 3.54% protein, 51 cell count, 91 persistency, breeder and owner Armin Schatt, Feusisberg, canton Schwyz – photo Braunvieh Schweiz

