

Brown Swiss News

The European Brown Swiss journal

www.brown-swiss.org



The European Brown Swiss Federation Sets a Common Vision for Genetic Evaluation Across Europe

During our recent General Assembly, the European Brown Swiss Federation (EBSF) members agreed on an ambitious and forward-looking project:

Within the next five years, we aim to establish a common breeding value estimation for the European Brown Swiss population.

This shared vision represents a major step toward greater collaboration, consistency, and innovation within the European Brown Swiss community.

To achieve this goal, we will set up a dedicated Technical Committee, bringing together leading experts from our member countries.

The Technical Committee will develop a roadmap outlining the steps and resources needed to implement the common breeding value estimation. This roadmap will be presented at our next General Assembly in 2026, in Spain.

We believe that a shared breeding value system will strengthen cooperation among member countries, improve the accuracy and transparency of genetic evaluations, and drive progress for breeders and farmers across Europe.

This project reflects our ongoing commitment to innovation, collaboration, and the sustainable improvement of the Brown Swiss breed.

Summary

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MORE THAN MILK



FRANCE

Top new high milk Brown Swiss sires

We are delighted to present you 3 new bulls from this December proof run, with very attractive traits and international proofs.

Genomic sires

VASCO (Snoopy) is the first son of Snoopy and he makes a great start at 200 ISU. He brings very interesting milk at +2084kg, with nice healthy udders. He is a half brother to Uderzo P. His dam was "genetic price" at the Brown Swiss French national show in 2023, very high milking family. Limited availability, conventional and sexed.



Optimal TACTIQUE, dam of VIVALDI

VIVALDI (Vanilla) is a very complete new bull, the best Vanilla son, very dairy and powerful, complete bull. He is from the same amazing family as Usainbolt. 4 generations of high milking cows, still in the herd ! He is 174 ISU, +1036kg milk, +0,20 protein, +0,59 fat, BB A2A2 !



Aristo REMISE, dam of VASCO

VITAL OB (Edelweiss) is our new pure Original Braunvieh ! Nice feet & legs + udder for this dual purpose bull.

TORNERO P (Ramses) is still #1 ISU and going up at 215 ! He is the son of the current best proven on French base, Ramses. Only on cows.

Proven bulls

Ramses (Antonov) is still #1 proven at 177 ISU, very complete profile, only on cows.

Optimal (Sinatra) is still the number 1 proven in Switzerland and very appreciated at 166 ISU ! Still alive, available conventional and sexed.

Rastaroket (O malley) starts adding daughters in his proof, 37 total. Let's wait April and more daughters in.

More information : <https://www.synetics.world/>



URABRUNE, daughter of RAMSES



Darby and Dacia – Dacapo Sons Dominate

Dacapo's dominance continues unabated in the top list. With DARBY and DACIA, two more representatives of this bloodline join the ranks of Dacapo sons, a phalanx shaped by the Future Alliance Brown Swiss. DARBY (Dacapo*Vance*Alpsee, GZW 149, MW 132, FIT 117), bred by Keller Agrar, Gutenzell-Huerbel, inherits his sire's pronounced performance. However, he stands out from his half-siblings due to his ideally developed teat structure: he produces longer, thicker, and optimally positioned teats. Furthermore, he offers clear potential for improvement in milking speed and udder health.

DACIA (Dacapo*Vollmacht*Cadura, GZW 147, MW 131, FIT 117), bred by Helmut Schoellhorn, Ummendorf, is out of Vollmacht Piazza, a dam who already showed above-average type in her first lactation. In addition to a high milk yield of +1,553 kg, he impresses with an exceptional conformation profile (116 R, 106 B, 106 F, 115 E) and recommends himself as a modern all-round sire.

Piccard – now with daughters in milk

PICCARD (Piano*Huvi*Huray, GZW 28, MW 21, FIT 106, Udder 15, EXT 113) comes from an old cow family with many lifetime production cows. His dam, Huvi Heike, currently has a lifetime production of 84,079 kg, and his granddam, Hillery, has produced over 106,000 kg. The Piano son sires a well-framed cow with ample strength and depth. Her feet and legs are correct. His udder traits are characterized by very good fore udder length and ample width and height in the rear udder.

Save the Date : German Brown Swiss Show 2026

The German Brown Swiss Show will take place on March 15, 2026, in Unterthingau, Bavaria.



VIRUS Nikita P, dam of VALMONT P and DUNCAN P

Valmont P*S and Duncan P*S

In the polled segment, DUNCAN P*S (Duncan*Virus P*Alpsee, GZW 147, MW 133, FIT 115) remains the benchmark.

From mid-December, he will be joined by his maternal half-brother VALMONT P*S (Varese*Virus P*Alpsee, GZW 146, MW 128, FIT 121). His sire, Varese, has not yet produced any other AI sire, which makes VALMONT P*S even more interesting. The dam of both bulls is Virus Nikita P, bred by Martin Rehm and Dr. Stefan Birkenmaier, an impressively developed second-calf cow who completed her first lactation with over 12,000 kg of milk.

Brown Swiss National Young Breeders Show 2025

The Brown Swiss National Young Breeders Show took place for the second time in Bad Waldsee in November. With approximately 145 animals registered from three German states, the enormous interest of young breeders in such a show was evident. Judges Mathias Eberl and Gerold Riedl, both from Tyrol, judged expertly and were impressed by the presentation and quality of the Brown Swiss cattle in Germany. You can find the full report here: <https://www.rind-bw.de/vermarktung/auktion/auktionsberichte/brown-swiss-bundesjungzuechterschau-2025-2229.html>

6th RBW Sale Night on November 29, 2025

For the sixth time, the Baden-Wurttemberg Cattle Breeders' Association (RBW) hosted a top genetics auction at the RBW Marketing Center South in Bad Waldsee. Over 70 catalog numbers from 8 different breeds were offered.

The best that Germany's Brown Swiss breeding program has to offer was up for sale at the 2025 RBW Sale Night. All categories - embryos, heifers, and freshly calved cows - were represented by top-class pedigrees. Daniel Hofer from Neukirch presented Vanilla Veronic ET, a superbly developed heifer with high genomics and a GZW (total merit index) of 146. She comes from the cow family of Chanel and Network and sold for the highest price ever paid for a Brown Swiss animal in Germany, €17,200, to a foreign buyer. He also secured catalog number 11, a Parsival daughter from Hermann Miller of Bollsberg. She comes from the hottest cow family right now, the same one that produced Olymp. Embryo contracts worth €7,800 made Vanilla, the half-sister of the RBW sire Dacia, presented by Helmut Schöllhorn, an attractive prospect for every Brown Swiss breeder. One of the most heated biddings was for the Olymp/Delano out of Vigana embryos. The donor animal is a highly typed Sting daughter out of Chanel's full sister. The hammer finally fell at €3,600 per embryo!





GERMANY

RBG Memmingen - Maximum Fitness, Superior Genetics & Polled Power!

We are pleased to offer our farmers five new Brown Swiss sires: AG ROXY PP, AG VESPER, AG COLDPLAY, AG VANTAN and AG DISCO.

Genomic Young Sires

AG Vesper (AG VPower x AG Bison) shines with a Total Merit Index of 143 and stands out as an excellent pelvis specialist. With a pelvic score of 122, he transmits long (120) and wide (121) rumps with optimal slope (110). He offers +898 kg milk with neutral components (+0.00% fat; +0.04% protein). His daughters will show high longevity (116) and very good udder health (110); calves will stand out with a vitality index of 115. He also offers a very good sire calving ease of 108. Fore udders will be long (113) and strongly attached (111).

AG Coldplay (Cassidy x AG Vollmacht) is the only Cassidy son and impresses with excellent fitness traits (122). He transmits longevity (113), very good udder health (113) and strong fertility (118). His daughters show sufficient chest width (108) and rump width (115), stand on strong pasterns (113) and have high heel depth (116). With an udder composite of 124, he is particularly strong in udder quality. Rear udders will be wide (112) with a strong central ligament (110). The fore udder attachment is also remarkably strong (118).

AG Vantan (AG Valps x Nathan) delivers +983 kg milk with nearly neutral components (+0.04% fat; -0.01% protein). He stands out with excellent persistency (124). He transmits long (116) and wide (114) rumps. His daughters stand on sound pasterns (111) and have high heel depth (109). He is also strong in udder traits, scoring 122 for udder composite. He transmits high (115) and strongly attached (114) fore and rear udders as well as excellent udder depth (121).

AG Disco (GS Dacapo x Brice) combines show type genetics with strong breeding values. He offers +971 kg milk and transmits an excellent beef value of 110. In fitness he impresses with optimal performance increase (125) and very good persistency (117). With a rump score of 117 and udder composite of 118, he also shows strength in type. His daughters will have great body depth (114), a tight fore udder attachment (116), optimal udder depth (111) and a strong central ligament (111).

Our existing young sire lineup also continues to offer a wide range of options – the right bull for every cow.



AG DISCO dam *ILAYDA* and his aunt *INAYA*

Strong milk transmitters with more than +1,000 kg milk include AG Roxy (+1,278 kg), AG Sidney (+1,162 kg), AG Viva P (+1,196 kg) and Pasadena (+1,267 kg). AG Sidney produces long-lasting cows (119), with healthy udders (120), wide chests (116), wide rumps (111) and optimal muscling (115). AG Viva P promises fast milking speed (109), good sire calving ease (106), and vigorous calves (113).

High components are a trademark of the Brown Swiss breed. With AG Skyline (+0.13% fat; +0.13% protein) and AG Vectra (+0.06% fat; +0.05% protein), two outstanding representatives are available. AG Skyline is also an excellent udder sire. With a total udder score of 127, he transmits high rear udders (124) and a strong fore udder attachment (117). AG Vectra impresses with great body depth (114), a high rear udder (114), clean hocks (113) and an outstanding rump (113) with optimal slope (115).

Fitness is essential for productivity and cow health—supporting high milk yield, fast recovery after calving, and long herd life. Outstanding fitness sires include AG Skyline (121), AG Sidney (120), AG Hotsun P (120), AG Cupra (117) and AG Viskas P (117). AG Hotsun P additionally transmits long (109), wide (110) rumps and broad rear udders (116).

A strong, well-attached udder is crucial for lifetime performance. Udder quality continues to improve, and AG Skyline (127) and AG Viskas P (123) clearly lead the way. Close behind are AG Cupra, AG Sidney, AG Vectra, and AG Hotsun P with udder scores above 110. AG Viskas P also stands out for long longevity (119), great rump width (118), excellent udder depth (119) and high rear udder height (117).

For strong foundations, farmers can rely on AG Viva P (111), AG Sidney (108) and AG Cupra (108). AG Cupra also offers excellent persistency (110), very good fertility (115) and fast milking speed (111).

Polled Sires

AG Roxy PP (AG Vitobi P x Vallejo P) is the new homozygous polled top sire in our program. He transmits +1,278 kg milk and an overall type score of 115. He also offers a solid beef value (107), long herd life (111), strong udder health (112) and good persistency (107). In type he shows great body depth (111), long (113) and wide (108) rumps. His feet and legs are excellent: 114 points, with clean hocks (111), strong pasterns (111) and high heel depth (109). His udders are high (114) with impressive rear udder height (117), and he transmits longer teats (109).

AG Viskas P, AG Hotsun P and AG Viva P remain essential parts of our polled program. All three are heterozygous polled and impress with excellent fitness and strong feet & legs. They also transmit great body depth and rump width.

Progeny-Proven Sires

Pasadena (Piano x Dario) offers +1,267 kg milk. In fitness he scores with excellent persistency (112) and outstanding udder health (113). In type, he is very strong with 114 points: wide chests (106), deep bodies (110) and long rumps (111). He also impresses in udder traits with long (119) and wide (116) udders and a strong central ligament (111). Feet and legs are also strong (111), with tight pasterns (109) and high heel depth (114).

AG Alpprinz (AG Alpsee x AG Vinery) offers +900 kg milk along with high persistency (110) and an excellent udder health index (115). He convinces with strong pasterns (109) and high heel depth (108). He scores 107 in both udder and feet & legs composites, with high rear udders (108) and longer teats (110).

AG Pusta and Vallejo P also remain in our program. AG Pusta from the well-known Padua line transmits long herd life (114), fast milking speed (114) and excellent udder health (111). Vallejo P is heterozygous polled and offers an exceptional beef value (120), fast milking speed (118) and long herd life (113). He also stands out for strong muscling (110), wide chests (113) and wide rumps (117).

RBG Memmingen wishes you much success in selecting the right sires and with the offspring to come! The complete Brown Swiss offering can be found in the table and online at www.rbgm.de

The Central Technical Committee for the Brown Breed Updates Overall Indices: Greater Specialization to Meet New Breeding Needs

Anarb inaugurated the new three-year term (2025–2027) of the Technical Committees. "Continuity in governance," with reconfirmed presidents, and "guaranteed stability" in technical management were the key themes during the inauguration held last November at the Anarb headquarters in Verona.

During the opening meeting, the Brown Swiss Technical Committee began the specialization of genetic indices:

- Fromaggio isolabruna® Index:** now exclusively evaluates cheese related productive traits, maximizing protein, percentages, and cheese yield.
- Functionality & Fitness Index:** fully dedicated to health, fertility, and longevity, promoting stronger and longer-living animals.
- Dual-Purpose Index:** integrates fertility (25%), balancing milk production, meat, and functionality, providing greater precision in selecting breeding stock.

The morphological scale was also updated with new traits for feet and legs. Further analyses are planned for Original Brown cows, focusing on persistence and productive maturity.

Finally, the Technical Committee for smaller breeds continued to work on inbreeding management and genetic preservation. The new three-year term represents an innovative step toward targeted selection, genetic progress, and the enhancement of local breeds.

Autumn Evaluation: stable rankings and updates in Genetic Indices

The autumn evaluations confirmed the stability of the population and the strength of the top bulls, all ranked among the top twelve positions nationally and internationally. The Italian ranking continues to be led by Sparky, while being rejuvenated by seven newly published bulls, all sired by different fathers. Among the most notable bulls are Superbrown Vinak (balanced between production and functionality), Superbrown Virgas (excellent in functional traits), and Superbrown Bodengo Atomic (top in morphology and production).



New indices, New Stars: winter rewards the best

Under the Christmas tree, new stars are emerging among cows and heifers, along with updated tools to better support breeders. The winter genetic evaluation brings encouraging news, despite the lower number of newly published animals due to the summer pause in functional checks. Among the 38,000 indexed cows, Hercules Gretel (daughter of Hercules), Juli Anja (daughter of Juli), and Patrice Paige (daughter of Patrice) maintain their leadership, showing excellent productivity and longevity. Among the new entries, Barly Jamajka Et (daughter of Patrice) stands out. The competition is also lively among the over 31,000 heifers, led by Rocky Grace (daughter of Rocky-FR), Kiba Boxe Alverta (daughter of Boxer), and Fuchsi (daughter of Pepito), with very high indices and promising newcomers like Wendy (daughter of Platin). The movement in the rankings is a clear sign of dynamic and ever-evolving genetics.

The 2025 Edition Confirms the Success of Anarb Training

The 2025 edition of the Anarb course to become Breed Experts recorded great participation and enthusiasm: over fifty participants from across Italy completed the two-year program, confirming the growing interest in specialized technical training. The program featured two tracks, one dedicated to Bruna/Bruna Originaria and the other to native breeds, combining online theory and on-farm practice covering genetics, indices, mating plans, morpho-functional evaluation, and biodiversity protection. The course concluded with written, oral, and practical exams at the Anarb headquarters and the Zomer Mario farm (Trento). The examining committee ensured quality and professionalism, highlighting the value of the future breed experts.

Consorzio Triumphs at the Mondial du Fromage in Tours

The isolabruna® Consortium conquered the 2025 Mondial du Fromage in Tours, establishing itself internationally with five medals that showcase the excellence of Bruna milk. Gold Medals were awarded to Parmigiano Reggiano isolabruna® (Caseificio Lanfredini, Parma) and Formaggio Allevo isolabruna® (Silvano Turato, Padova); Silver Medal to Ragusano Dop isolabruna® (Rosario Tumino, Ragusa); Bronze Medals to Asiago Dop Fresco isolabruna® (Silvano Turato, Padova) and Caciocavallo isolabruna® aged in a cave (Masseria La Lunghiera di M. Netti, Bari). The quality and richness of Bruna milk won over the international jury, confirming the strength of Italian cheesemaking and the unique value of isolabruna® products worldwide. A success that unites tradition, technique, and flavor.

Bruna Day in the South

On November 6, in the Murgia area of Bari, the Bruna Day in the South took place, gathering over 220 participants including breeders, technicians, and enthusiasts. The spotlight was on the outstanding animals from the Pavone farm, selected for morphology and production. The day featured exhibitions, technical discussions on selection, morphological evaluation, and innovations, as well as a silent auction of heifers. Awards and recognitions highlighted the achievements of farms and young talents. The event confirmed the importance of dialogue among experts, breeders, and institutions, promoting growth, collaboration, and a sustainable future for the Italian Bruna breed.



Stable Breeding Values with Single-Step

The December breeding value estimation confirms the results from August. As usual, only a few bulls achieve a complete progeny test result, which requires 10 daughters in 10 herds with three test weighings on the reference date. The reason lies in seasonal calvings influenced by summer grazing on alpine pastures.

Among progeny-tested bulls in the AI program, seven foreign bulls lead the ranking. At the top remains Optimal, confirming his excellent values with 539 daughters. With a total breeding value of 1411, achieved through outstanding milk and fitness traits, he stays the undisputed number one.

Arif, classified since August, improved with 66 additional daughters and gained 119 kg milk. He now transmits +1069 kg milk, +0.23 % fat, and +0.17% protein, giving him a milk value of 147. His fertility index also rose to 99. Following are Tu, Visor, Sparky, Andi, and Austria. Their pedigrees include influential Swiss bulls like Blooming and Anibal – clear proof that international genetics fit well with our strong-type population.

The most influential bull Brice also remains strong. With 2887 daughters, he shows a solid progeny test: good milk yield, positive protein, excellent fertility, and outstanding type – confirmed by many satisfied breeders.

Young AI bulls

Among young bulls, Harvey stays in pole position. He comes from a deep, high-performing cow family. His dam will likely finish her second lactation with over 9,000 kg milk. The next three generations achieved over 12,000 kg and even 15,000 kg milk. These cows are kept on a farm that sends them to alpine pastures in summer.

Harvey is followed by Da Vinci and Diabolo, both imports that contribute performance, fitness, and genetic diversity to Braunvieh breeding.

Adjustments in April

Next April, mastitis resistance, fertility, and calving traits (normal and live births) will also switch to Single-Step. Changes are expected due to factors like sexed semen, SpermVital doses, ET inseminations, and new interfaces.

Additionally, a new total breeding value will be introduced: 50 % performance (25 % milk), 35 % fitness, and 15 % type, which will influence rankings.



Kaufmann_James_JONA_1Lact: KeLeKi
1. Lakt. proj.: 6152 kg 2.81% 3.59%
LBE: 80/83/81/84/84/82
von Züchter Thomas Kaufmann, Balgach



James Therese von André Furrer, Bleiken,
mit einer Leistung von 7'782 kg Milch bei
3.98 % Fett und 3.77 % Eiweiss in der ersten
Laktation.
Lustenberger

Original Braunvieh

Omar holds the lead

Omar remains number one in total breeding value. With 124 more daughters, his milk index rises again above +500 kg. Strong components, especially protein (+0.12 %), and a meat index (IFV) of 126 makes him nearly perfect.

Orlando gains strongly: +30 points in total breeding value thanks to 50 new daughters from second use, moving him to second place (1263 points). Milk and fertility values improved. Behind them follow Killy and Donald, both with high IFV.

Top young bulls unchanged

Among young bulls, Assero and Baileys, remain in front and they are widely used.

Despite high values, the rule applies: *"Don't put all eggs in one basket – spread the risk."*

Ranks three and four are interesting: Kuno and Placi share the same combination (Omar x Rino). Kuno's milk values improve, likely benefiting from his sire. Placi loses some milk like his dam, but changes are within expectations.



Mauerer_Joery_MALOYA-OB_grz / Lustenberger
Lakt: 014 kg 3.59% 3.24%
LBE: 81/83/78/83/84/81
von Züchter Michael Maurer, Heimenschwand



How is IFV calculated?

The meat breeding value includes slaughter weight, muscling, and fat cover (CH-Tax) for calves and fattening animals (bulls, heifers, steers).

For Original Braunvieh, Natura Beef (3 %) is also considered. Data comes from neutral grading in slaughterhouses by Proviande (=Industry organization for the Swiss meat industry). Analyses show: bulls with high breeding values achieve the best carcass grading. Since IFV counts for 20 % of the total breeding value, it has a strong impact.

The December evaluation was stable and smooth. Braunvieh breeders have excellent options to select bulls with high total breeding values and broad usability through genetic diversity. Braunvieh Schweiz wishes everyone a relaxing Christmas season and much joy with productive, durable and long-living Braunvieh cows.



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Digital Magazine on Brown Cattle Breeding

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