

Ejourn@l

Spring 2026



World Simmental Fleckvieh Federation
www.wsff.info



European Simmental Federation
www.esf-esf.info

Dear Simmental breeders,

I am very happy and honored to be able to represent the entire European Simmental breeding community. My election occurred during the last general assembly of ESF that took place in Wieselburg (Austria) on 20th March. The attending delegates from 8 countries voted me unanimously, although Italy is a small country considering the population size of Pezzata Rossa Italiana, as it is named Simmental in my country.

In the 64-year history of this federation, founded in 1962 in Munich, this is the second time an Italian has held the presidency. The only previous president before me was from 1985 to 1989, exactly 41 years ago with Hugo Valentin, recently passed away. I must be very thankful with Hugo for the great deal to obtain this prestigious recognition, and therefore I wish to dedicate this success also to him. I am sure that today, from up there, Hugo is delighted with this achievement; In fact, when he resigned from all international positions about 10 years ago, he wanted me to take his place, obviously with the support of the ANAPRI past President Franco Moras, to whom I also extend my sincere thanks. Another dutiful thanks goes to the current ANAPRI Board of Directors, represented by President Martin Deval, who supported and encouraged me to accept this role.

Last but not least, special thanks to Sebastian Auernig who has left me an heavy legacy because he has leaded the ESF in a professional way and bringing into the Federation the great experience of one of the most important country for our breed. Beside to him, I extend the special thanks to all other colleagues of ESF board, in particular my vice Presidents, Georg Hollfelder-Germany and Ueli Schaerz-Switzerland, as well as to secretariat, leaded by Thomas Pfaller, Germany, and Joze Smolinger-Slovenia. I'm fully confident to be well supported in this duty from all of them.

Now I'd like to tell some words about my vision about the role of the European federation.

I am deeply convinced that looking to a future of greater international collaboration is beneficial for all breeders, especially those of smaller populations such as the Italian one. Especially in the genomic era, sharing resources, either data, genomic and phenotypic data, as well as ideas and skills beyond the national borders, are the right way to improve our breed worldwide. My organization, ANAPRI, has demonstrated since long time to be internationally oriented, indeed we started already more than 20 years ago to share conformation traits data with Germany and Austria and from this experience was born the idea of Fleckscore, that now is undoubtedly a real success story for all participating countries.

Even before the Fleckscore, when genomics did not exist and progeny testing was still in use, ANAPRI participated fully convinced to EUROTTEST promoted by our European Federation

to establish a systematic exchange of young bull semen providing stronger Interbull connections among the countries participating in international genetic evaluations. ANAPRI technical staff and leadership were always in favour to all these activities and therefore I am pleased to share my election with the entire ANAPRI team.



From past activities, let's move on to future ones, which, in addition to improving existing ones, like the Fleckscore, must necessarily be oriented towards innovating genetic programs. Despite the European Federation does not have an own operational structure, we can promote and support, as well done in the past, cooperations and projects among all country members, if the case also establishing specific working groups. In the field of genetic evaluation, in name of many european Simmental countries, participating to DAC evaluation, we are proud to be now at top level worldwide, having implemented recently the most advanced "borderless" SingleStep genomic evaluation by exploiting a multi-country genotyped population greater than 1 Million of animals. My respect goes to the entire group of valuable genetists of LfL, Zuchtdata which are hardly working on.

A new challenge for all countries of European Federation will be the collection of new phenotypic data related to health (claw, mastitis, and metabolic disorders), environmental impact (methane emissions), and feed efficiency. I will be committed to involving the European Simmental Federation in the various projects emerging on these topics. Complementary to this work on new phenotypes will be digitalization and sensor technology, namely the use of data from milking robots and their associated sensors. This is far from an easy challenge, considering that the stakeholders are the private companies, now all multinationals, that produce these devices.

Another area in which the Federation will have to be at the forefront is meat production; until a few years ago, it was considered a „by-product“ of dairy cattle farming, and consequently, its dual purpose was laughable in the eyes of large dairy cattle farmers. Today, however, with meat prices skyrocketing for over a year, the situation has completely changed. Proof of this is the lowering price difference between crossbred beef calves (Blue Belgian or other beef breeds) and Simmental purebred calves.

Finally, to take care the young breeders, our future, the European Federation shall invest more to support initiatives for young breeders, like the Fleckscore World Cup and even more, also locally organized from one country or cross-border between two or three countries.

ESF doesn't stop, looking at a nice future.

Daniele Vicario
President of the EVF

General Assembly of the European Simmental Federation



Ahead of the Austrian National Fleckvieh Show, the General Assembly of the Europäische Vereinigung der Fleckviehzüchter (EVF) took place on Friday, 20 March, at Schloss Weinzierl in Wieselburg. EVF President Ing. Sebastian Auernig welcomed representatives from a total of eight member countries of the association.

In his report, President Sebastian Auernig provided an overview of the current priorities and ongoing developments within the EVF. The business report was presented by Dr. Georg Röhrmoser (Germany). The annual financial statements for the years 2023 to 2025 were unanimously approved, as was the budget plan for 2026. Among other measures, the budget foresees increased support for international young breeders' activities.

Matthias Gerber (Switzerland) presented an overview of the activities of the Fleckvieh Beef Working Group, while Ing. Reinhard Pfleger (Austria) reported on the events and activities of the European Exterior Working Group.

During the General Assembly, President Ing. Sebastian Auernig announced that he would not stand for re-election. The delegates of the EVF member countries subsequently elected Dr. Daniele Vicario (Italy) as the new President of the EVF. He will be supported by Vice Presidents Georg Hollfelder (Germany) and Uli Schaerz (Switzerland).

Thomas Pfaller was appointed as the new Secretary General of the EVF. He is also the new Managing Director of ASR Deutschland. Joze Smolinger (Slovenia) will continue to serve as Deputy Secretary General.

The European Fleckvieh breeders expressed their sincere appreciation to President Ing. Sebastian Auernig for his prudent and dedicated leadership during his four-year term of office. Special recognition was given to his personal contribution to strengthening cooperation among the member countries and to the

further development of Fleckvieh breeding at the European

level. At the same time, the delegates congratulated the newly elected Executive Board and assured them of their full support for the coming term.

Special thanks were also extended to the hosts from Fleckvieh Austria for their warm hospitality and the excellent organization of the event.

Attention is already turning to the Fleckvieh-Weltkongress 2026, which will take place from 15 to 21 September 2026 in Brunn, Czech Republic. As part of the congress, the EVF committee meeting will also be held on Wednesday, 16 September 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Dr. Georg Röhrmoser
Ing. Reinhard Pfleger



Foto: Fleckvieh Austria
V.l.n.r. Thomas Pfaller, Dr. Daniele Vicario, Georg Hollfelder, Joze Smolinger, Uli Schaerz



Foto: Fleckvieh Austria
V.l.n.r. Dr. Georg Röhrmoser, Dr. Daniele Vicario, Ing. Sebastian Auernig, Georg Hollfelder, Joze Smolinger

Generalversammlung der EVF



Im Vorfeld der österreichischen Bundesfleckviehschau fand am Freitag, dem 20. März, die Generalversammlung der Europäische Vereinigung der Fleckviehzüchter (EVF) im Schloss Weinzierl in Wieselburg statt. EVF-Präsident Ing. Sebastian Auernig begrüßte Vertreter aus insgesamt acht Mitgliedsländern der Vereinigung.

In seinem Bericht informierte Präsident Auernig über die aktuellen Arbeitsschwerpunkte sowie die laufenden Entwicklungen innerhalb der EVF. Den Geschäftsbericht präsentierte Dr. Georg Röhrmoser (Deutschland). Die Jahresrechnungen für die Jahre 2023 bis 2025 wurden von den Delegierten ebenso einstimmig genehmigt wie der Haushaltsplan für das Jahr 2026. Dieser sieht unter anderem eine verstärkte Förderung der internationalen Jungzüchterarbeit vor.

Matthias Gerber (Schweiz) berichtete über die Aktivitäten der Arbeitsgruppe Fleckvieh-Fleisch, während Ing. Reinhard Pfleger (Österreich) einen Überblick über die Veranstaltungen und Tätigkeiten der Europäischen Arbeitsgruppe Exterieur gab.

Im Rahmen der Generalversammlung kündigte Präsident Ing. Sebastian Auernig an, nicht erneut für das Amt des Präsidenten zu kandidieren. Die Delegierten der EVF-Mitgliedsländer wählten daraufhin Dr. Daniele Vicario (Italien) zum neuen Präsidenten der EVF. Unterstützt wird er künftig von den beiden Vizepräsidenten Georg Hollfelder (Deutschland) und Uli Schaerz (Schweiz).

Zum neuen Generalsekretär der EVF wurde Thomas Pfaller bestellt, der zugleich neuer Geschäftsführer der ASR Deutschland ist. Joze Smolinger (Slowenien) bleibt weiterhin stellvertretender Generalsekretär.

Die europäischen Fleckviehzüchter dankten Ing. Sebastian Auernig für seine engagierte und umsichtige Führung während seiner vierjährigen Amtszeit. Besonders hervorgehoben wurden sein persönlicher Einsatz für die Stärkung der Zusammenarbeit zwischen den Mitgliedsländern sowie seine Beiträge zur Weiterentwicklung der europäischen

Fleckviehzucht. Gleichzeitig gratulierten die Delegierten dem neu gewählten Präsidium und sicherten ihre volle Unterstützung für die kommende Amtsperiode zu.

Ein besonderer Dank galt abschließend den Gastgebern von Fleckvieh Austria für die herzliche Gastfreundschaft sowie die umfassende Organisation der Veranstaltung.

Bereits jetzt richtet sich der Blick auf den Fleckvieh-Weltkongress 2026, der von 15. bis 21. September 2026 in Brunn (Tschechien) stattfinden wird. Im Rahmen des Kongresses ist zudem die EVF-Ausschusssitzung für Mittwoch, den 16. September 2026, von 10:00 bis 12:00 Uhr angesetzt.

Dr. Georg Röhrmoser
Ing. Reinhard Pfleger



Foto: Fleckvieh Austria
V.l.n.r. Thomas Pfaller, Dr. Daniele Vicario, Georg Hollfelder, Joze Smolinger, Uli Schaerz



Foto: Fleckvieh Austria
V.l.n.r. Dr. Georg Röhrmoser, Dr. Daniele Vicario, Ing. Sebastian Auernig, Georg Hollfelder, Joze Smolinger

WORLD SIMMENTAL-FLECKVIEH CONGRESS 2026

IN BRNO, CZECH REPUBLIC
SEPTEMBER 16TH - 21ST, 2026

REGISTRATION INFO

Registration is now open.
For more information please visit official
congress websites:
www.cestr.cz/cs/wsff2026



CONGRESS WEBSITES

NEW: LIGHT VERSION AVAILABLE
SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2026



PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 16TH

Committee meetings
Bull exhibition in Bohdalec

SEPTEMBER 17TH

National Czech Fleckvieh Show
Opening Reception

SEPTEMBER 18TH

Farm tour
Želiv Monastery

SEPTEMBER 19TH

WSFF RMM
Conference - Medel University
Congress dinner

SEPTEMBER 20TH

National Stud farm at
Kladruby nad Labem
Farm tour
Gala Dinner

SEPTEMBER 21ST

Optional program in
Prague

All You need to know about Czech Fleckvieh (český strakatý skot)



Czech Fleckvieh Breeders Association
Ing. Hana Vlčková

The Czech Republic is one of the traditional European countries for Fleckvieh cattle breeding, and Czech Fleckvieh cattle are now a respected part of the global Fleckvieh-Simmental population. Thanks to the long-term and systematic work of Czech breeders, geneticists, and experts, a population has been established that excels not only in high milk production but also in a solid foundation of combined performance, longevity, reproduction, and economic efficiency.

It is precisely these results that participants in the upcoming Simmental-Fleckvieh World Congress will have the opportunity to see firsthand in the Czech Republic. Czech breeding today represents a modern, sustainable, and competitive model of a dual-purpose breed that combines high milk production with quality beef performance and excellent animal functionality.



Fleckvieh in the Heart of Europe

Spotted breeds have a long tradition in Europe, and in various countries you may encounter the designations Fleckvieh, Simmental, or Montbéliarde. Although some populations are more oriented toward meat production, the Central European model of a dual-purpose breed remains a symbol of balance between milk, meat, health, and longevity.

Czech spotted cattle are a typical representative of this breed. Currently, they make up approximately one-third of the

dairy cattle population in the Czech Republic and have long proven their competitiveness not only on a European but also on a global scale.

The Czech Republic Leads in Milk Production

Official data from ICAR (The Global Standard for Livestock Data) confirm the exceptional performance of the Czech Fleckvieh population.

Year 2023

Country	Year	Breed	Lactations	Lactations length	Milk yield per cow	Milk per cow in 305 d	% fat content	% protein content
Czechia	2023	Fleckvieh	105 575	294	8 210	8 439	3,97	3,51
Poland	2023	Montbéliarde	2 504	305	8 153	8 153	4,00	3,47
Germany	2023	Fleckvieh	698 015	320	8 354	8 049	4,17	3,52
Austria	2023	Fleckvieh	268 760			7 910	4,17	3,41
France	2023	Montbéliarde	373 004	328	7 807	7 847	3,87	3,47
Switzerland	2023	Montbéliarde	7 374	300	7 636	7 731	3,80	3,40

Year 2024

Country	Year	Breed	Lactations	Lactations length	Milk yield per cow	Milk per cow in 305 d	% fat content	% protein content
Czechia	2024	Fleckvieh	102 718	294	8 547	8 786	3,91	3,53
Poland	2024	Montbéliarde	2 549	305	8 182	8 182	3,99	3,52
Austria	2024	Fleckvieh	265 559			8 077	4,16	3,43
France	2024	Montbéliarde	367 330	327	7 732	7 786	3,87	3,48
Switzerland	2024	Montbéliarde	7 770	300	7 584	7 679	3,82	3,39

Year 2025

Country	Year	Breed	Lactations	Lactations length	Milk yield per cow	Milk per cow in 305 d	% fat content	% protein content
Czechia	2025	Fleckvieh	99 721	294	8 634	8 875	3,92	3,54
Poland	2025	Montbéliarde	2 378	305	8 635	8 635	3,91	3,58
France	2025	Montbéliarde	357 653	330	7 831	7 830	3,86	3,49
Switzerland	2025	Montbéliarde	7 818	300	7 518	7 612	3,80	3,40

These results demonstrate that Czech Fleckvieh cattle are among the highest-performing dual-purpose populations in Europe today. However, it is not just the quantity of milk produced that matters. Czech herds also achieve excellent results in reproduction, milk composition, udder health, longevity, beef performance, and overall cow functionality.

It is precisely this ability to combine high production with long-term sustainability that represents one of the greatest strengths of Czech breeding.



Quality underpinned by a strong breeding base

Within the European DAC region (Germany, Austria, Czech Republic), there is intensive genetic cooperation and comparison of breeding results. During the period of bull births between January 1, 2022, and January 1, 2025, a total of 6,277 bulls intended for breeding were produced in Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Italy, and France.

Breakdown of the number of bulls by country:

1. Germany – 4,366 bulls
2. Austria – 1,812 bulls
3. Czech Republic – 66 bulls
4. Italy – 24 bulls
5. France – 9 bulls

At first glance, there is a striking difference in the size of the individual populations. However, the Czech Republic has long demonstrated that even a smaller population can produce bulls of exceptional genetic quality that rival the absolute best in Europe.



Czech genetics attracting Europe's attention

The work of Czech breeders has resulted not only in high milk production in cows but also in the production of elite sires.

A symbolic example is the bull WATERLINE, raised by a Czech breeder and later purchased by a German artificial insemination company. With a current GZW of 146 (04/2026), he has been among the absolute top in all DAC rankings for a year now and confirms the growing importance of Czech genetics on an international scale.

Such results do not happen by chance. They are the result of long-term work by breeders, high-quality herd management, modern breeding methods, and an emphasis on balanced genetic progress.



What will World Congress participants see?

Visitors to the Simmental-Fleckvieh World Congress will have the opportunity to experience Czech breeding operations firsthand. They will see modern farms with high-level management, productive cows, the efficient utilization of combined performance traits, and the results of targeted breeding.

It is precisely this combination of production, functionality, and sustainability that makes Czech Fleckvieh an inspiring model for the future of dual-purpose breeds.

An Invitation to the Czech Republic

The World Congress will not only be a professional gathering, but also an opportunity to learn about Czech agriculture, the tradition of Fleckvieh cattle breeding, and the hospitality of Czech breeders.

The Czech Republic offers visitors a unique opportunity to see the Fleckvieh population, which has established itself among the European elite and continues to push the boundaries of combined performance.

We look forward to meeting the global Simmental-Fleckvieh community and believe that Czech herds will serve as an inspiration for the further development of this exceptional breed worldwide.

In addition to the professional program, the WSFF Congress will also offer a rich cultural experience showcasing the history, traditions, and unique heritage of the Czech Republic. Participants will have the opportunity to visit the historic Želiv Monastery, an important cultural and spiritual landmark with a remarkable architectural legacy.

The cultural program will also include a visit dedicated to another exceptional Czech breeding tradition — the world-renowned Old Kladruher horse. Guests will discover the heritage of the UNESCO-recognized landscape connected with the breeding of the Old Kladruher horse, one of the oldest horse breeds in the world and a proud symbol of Czech animal husbandry.

Together with presentations of Czech Fleckvieh cattle, these experiences will provide international visitors with a broader insight into the quality, tradition, and cultural richness of Czech agriculture and breeding.



We are looking forward to seeing you all.



International Fleckvieh Forum & 75 Years of Fleckvieh Austria

Ing. Reinhard Pfleger, Director Fleckvieh Austria

In the run-up to the 2026 National Fleckvieh Show, the International Fleckvieh Forum at Weinzierl Castle in Wieselburg provided a high-calibre platform for international professional exchange. Over 150 participants from more than 20 nations underscored the global significance of the event, which centred on topics relating to Fleckvieh breeding.

Dr Konrad Blaas (BMLUK) opened the proceedings, positioning cattle farming as a cornerstone of Austrian agriculture and explaining the specific framework conditions of agriculture in Austria to the international guests.

Dr Christian Fürst (ZuchtData) demonstrated that the “Austrian approach to Fleckvieh breeding” is based on a clear breeding strategy: lifetime performance, functionality and fitness. The results presented confirm the positive development of Fleckvieh from Austria in both genetic and phenotypic analyses.

Johannes Steiner (NOE Genetik) applied this approach at farm level, presenting his breeding farm and demonstrating the economic strength of Fleckvieh breeding using concrete figures from milk production and the marketing of breeding cattle. His remarks made it clear that a sustainable breeding progress leads to commercial success.

The international nature of the forum was underscored by contributions from the Netherlands and Peru. Jan Hendriksen and Hans Kerkhof used practical farm data to demonstrate the economic advantages of cross-breeding with Fleckvieh in the Netherlands and spoke about the strengths of crossbred cows compared to pure dairy breeds, using illustrative images.

Dr Joe Mantilla demonstrated how dual-purpose breeding is also successfully establishing itself in Peru under different climatic and structural conditions and is becoming increasingly important. The benefits of genomic selection are also being increasingly recognised and sought after by breeders in Peru.

The event concluded with Managing Director Reinhard Pfleger, who clearly defined the strategic direction of Fleckvieh Austria: a consistent implementation of the breeding programme, positioning the Fleckvieh cow as a high-performing, economical premium dairy cow with the decisive added value of dual-purpose capability.

Anniversary celebration “75 Years of Fleckvieh Austria”

In the evening, Weinzierl Castle provided a fitting setting for the “75 Years of Fleckvieh Austria” ceremony. Numerous breeding families, key figures from the association and artificial insemination sectors, as well as politicians and representatives from all parts of Austria accepted Fleckvieh Austria’s invitation. A large number of international guests from more than 20 partner countries were also welcomed to the ceremony.

Weinzierl Castle was thus filled to capacity, impressively underscoring the national and international standing of Fleckvieh Austria.

In an entertaining journey through time, current leaders – Chairman Sebastian Auernig and Managing Director Reinhard Pfleger – also invited former Managing Directors Richard

Pichler and Johann Tanzler onto the stage. Under the charming moderation of Christine Brunner, they looked back on many milestones of the umbrella organisation’s 75-year history through pictures, stories and anecdotes. This time travel offered interesting historical insights as well as humorous stories from the past.

In his commemorative address, Federal Minister Norbert Totschnig paid tribute to the central role of Fleckvieh Austria as a unifying element within Austria’s organisational structure and as a recognised point of contact in the international cattle breeding network. At the same time, he emphasised Austria’s clear commitment to cattle breeding and thus to sustainable milk and meat production based on high-performing dual-purpose breeds. Particular emphasis was also placed on the importance of the targeted transfer of genetics and know-how from Austria, through which numerous partner countries worldwide can participate in and benefit from the successful ‘Austrian approach’ to cattle breeding.

In their closing remarks, Rinderzucht Austria Chairman Thomas Schweigl, the newly elected EVF President Daniele Vicario, and the President of the Lower Austrian Chamber of Agriculture, Johannes Schmuckenschlager, addressed the festive gathering.

The ceremony concluded with the Fleckvieh anthem, composed by former Managing Director Richard Pichler. Anniversary celebrations drew to a close during an evening gathering, featuring culinary highlights of Austrian beef cuisine and some of the finest wines from Lower Austria, amidst professional discussions, social interaction and music, all in the spirit of Austrian hospitality.

Captions: Photos: Mitterböck



The speakers at the International Fleckvieh Forum



The key figures at the ‘75 Years of Fleckvieh Austria’ anniversary celebration

2026 National Fleckvieh Show – Fleckvieh makes a spectacular appearance on the big stage

Ing. Reinhard Pfleger, Director Fleckvieh Austria

At the end of March, the Berglandhalle in Lower Austria became the meeting place for the national and international Fleckvieh community. First things first: the 2026 National Fleckvieh Show set new standards – in quality of the animals on display and in professionalism of the presentation of farming achievements, as well as in the national and international interest in an event centred on cattle breeding.

Several thousand visitors from more than 20 nations around the world came to attend the event over two days to witness the breeder's highlight of the year. The show's livestream, which featured live commentary, was also very well received and garnered excellent feedback, allowing thousands of interested viewers from many countries to follow breeding progress of Austrian Fleckvieh from their screens on both days of the show.

A varied evening programme was put on the agenda for Saturday evening. Three progeny groups were presented, along with an elite young breeders' competition and the final of the FleckScore World Cup. The night came to a close with a top-class elite auction.

On Sunday, the focus laid on the best and most beautiful Fleckvieh cows from all parts of Austria. Particularly noteworthy was the impressive breadth of exhibiting farms: 174 animals on display came from 131 different Austrian breeding farms. This genetic diversity also underlines the strength of Austrian Fleckvieh breeding – the animals on display were descended from 99 different sires.

134 Fleckvieh cows from all breeding organisations and federal states were presented in 19 judging groups. Judge Nikolas Sauter from Baden-Württemberg, Germany, delivered a sensational performance, judging with confidence, a steady hand and technically precise comments. Johannes Christoph from Bavaria also did an excellent job, acting as a prudent ringman.



The organisers of Fleckvieh Austria with the judges and the three national champions of 2026

Outstanding young cows

The young cow section was presented to the judge in six groups.

Nikolas Sauter was thoroughly impressed by the 12 cows that made it to the final ring for young cows. "The conformation, udder and pelvis are impressive in all finalists," the judge said. He shortlisted six cows in the ring, from which he ultimately crowned the very youthful-looking SHIRLEY Pp* (S: Mahomes P*S) owned by Alexander Hörmandinger, Peuerbach, Upper Austria, as Champion of the young cows. He named ROSANNA (S: GS Deluxe) owned by Franz Auer, Wildschönau, Tyrol, as Reserve Champion. ZEISL P (S: Mahindra P*S) owned by Georg Rahm, Schwendau, Tyrol, took third place.



Highlights from the show ring at the 2026 National Fleckvieh Show in Austria

Excellent cows in their prime

The intermediate cow classes comprised a total of ten groups, divided into five groups of second-calf heifers, three groups of third-calf heifers and two groups of cows with four calvings. On seeing 20 cows in the ring for the middle-aged cows' final, judge Nikolas Sauter was absolutely delighted. The middle-aged champion title was ultimately won by KITTY (S: Helsinki) owned by Johannes Bauer, Ratten, Styria. The Reserve Champion title went to OLANDA (S: Senator) owned by Bernhard Fischer, Peuerbach, Upper Austria. Third place went to LARA (S: Mercedes Pp*) owned by Anna and Christoph Eichberger, St. Margarethen/Knittelfeld, Styria.

Mature cows impress across the board

The mature cow classes each featured a group of cows with five calvings, a group with six calvings, and a group with seven or more calvings. The final in the long-term performance cow class was overwhelming. Six magnificent cows stood in the ring. The Champion title deservedly went to PAULA (S: Hugoboss) owned by Andreas Übetsroider, Nussdorf, Salzburg. Reserve Champion was HOLDE (S: Mindos) owned by Josef Rieser, Eben a. Achensee, Tyrol, and third place went to SELINA (S: Haribo) owned by Christian Leitner, Obdach, Styria.

Cow line competition confirms sustainable breeding work

Three maternal-line representatives by the sires GS MC BAUER Pp* and GS MAGNAT Pp* were presented to judge Nikolas Sauter.

The judge crowned the GS MC BAUER Pp* cow line from Johannes Bauer, Styria, as National Champion. The Reserve Champion title went to the cow line from the Milchhof Steiner farm, Lower Austria.

Elite Auction – Top prices for genetics ‘Made in Austria’

The highlight of Saturday evening was an elite auction featuring a strong line-up in terms of both quantity and quality, which impressively underscored the high demand for Austrian Fleckvieh genetics.

In the female segment, nine genomic heifers were successfully sold, achieving an average price of just over 11,000 euros. The offering was complemented by three heifers from the exhibition contingent of the National Fleckvieh Show, which were sold at an average price of 7,500 euros. Furthermore, seven embryo packages on offer were sold at an average price of just over 1,400 euros per embryo.

Particular interest was shown for the candidates in the male segment of the auction. Seven genetically promising candidates were in high demand from the insemination centres and achieved an average price of just over 25,000 euros.

Summary – A breeders’ festival with international appeal

The 2026 Federal Fleckvieh Show in the Bergland region was an outstanding event and a breeders’ festival of the highest order. It was once again evident just how high a standard Austrian Fleckvieh breeding has reached, confirmed by numerous national and international experts. In particular, a further significant step forward was noted in udder quality compared to the last National Show in 2022 – a clear sign of consistent development in Austria’s breeding.

The impressive quality of the progeny collections, whose representatives also featured prominently in the main competition, demonstrated the effectiveness and precision of the Fleckvieh Austria breeding programme. The animals presented displayed, in their breadth and balance, precisely those characteristics that enable economical and sustainable milk production.

The comprehensive supporting programme surrounding the show – including the International Fleckvieh Forum, the ‘75 Years of Fleckvieh Austria’ anniversary celebrations, and an excellently organised bull presentation at GENOSTAR – also contributed significantly to the overall success of the event. Guests from more than 20 countries around the world took the opportunity to see for themselves the breeding progress and performance of Austrian Fleckvieh.

The 2026 National Fleckvieh Show will be remembered as a major breeders’ festival and an impressive international showcase for the performance of Austrian Fleckvieh breeding, providing lasting impetus for future developments.

A comprehensive report on the 2026 National Fleckvieh Show, featuring many photos, can be found at <https://www.fleckvieh.at/bundesschau/bundefleckviehschau-2026/>



Champion Heifers: SHIRLEY Pp* (S: Mahomes P*S) owned by Alexander Hörmandinger, Peuerbach, Upper Austria



Champion Middle: KITTY (S: Helsinki), owned by Johannes Bauer, Ratten, Styria



Champion Long-term High-Yielding Cows: PAULA (S: Hugoboss), owned by Andreas Übetsroider, Nussdorf, Salzburg

Three impressive presentations of offspring reflecting the Fleckvieh Austria breeding programme



Ing. Reinhard Pflieger, Director Fleckvieh Austria

Three progeny groups, presented in the show ring on both Saturday evening and Sunday, met with great interest from the specialist audience and offered the opportunity to gain a comprehensive impression of some daughters of the three Austrian Fleckvieh sires GS DELUXE, MAHINDRA P*S and WINTERTRAUM.

The breeding standard of the selected sires and the quality of these daughters shown achieved a level of progeny presentation that impressively demonstrated the strength and consistency of the Austrian Fleckvieh Austria breeding programme – a standard rarely seen before in such breadth and cohesion. The appreciation from the audience was correspondingly high.

The event began with daughters of GS DELUXE, exhibited by GENOSTAR. The nine cows presented impressively confirmed their sire's breeding values. They displayed considerable height, width, length and depth, combined with generally flatter rumen and functional legs and hooves. In terms of udder conformation, all daughters impressed with very good fore-udder length and a firm attachment – traits that are particularly well suited to the practical demands of modern dairy farming.

Following that, a group of daughters from EUROgenetik sire MAHINDRA P*S were presented. For the first time in the history of the Federal Fleckvieh Show, a progeny group of a genetically polled Fleckvieh bull was presented on this stage – a strong signal for the further development of breeding in this segment.

In terms of conformation, the eight daughters presented confirmed their sire's impressive genetic influence. The cows displayed above-average growth, a broad forend and a productive pelvis. Particularly noteworthy were the sturdy legs with tight pasterns and the long udders with optimally placed teats.

As the third group, GENOSTAR presented a collection of typical WINTERTRAUM daughters. These displayed an extremely consistent hereditary pattern and confirmed their sire's strengths in an impressive manner. The nine cows on display possessed a very fine and correct skeleton, sufficiently broad and optimally positioned pelvises, as well as functional, longevity-oriented legs and hooves. The udders were long, well-suspended and equipped with perfectly placed teats.



The group of MAHINDRA P*S's daughters shone with above-average growth, broad forehead and high-performance pelvises



The daughters of GS DELUXE displayed plenty of size, width, length and depth and impressed with very good fore-udder length



The progeny of WINTERTRAUM scored highly with long, well-suspended udders and perfectly placed teats

FleckScore World Cup – Another Success for Austria



Ing. Reinhard Pfleger, Director Fleckvieh Austria

As part of the 2026 National Fleckvieh Show, the latest edition of the international FleckScore World Cup was held at the Berglandhalle in Lower Austria.

With 53 participants from a total of nine nations, interest in this competition was exceptionally high. A preliminary round took place on Saturday afternoon. The participants were tasked with assessing five cows and bringing their evaluations as close as possible to the specified reference values.

The three best assessors qualified for the grand final, which took place during the evening show to a large audience. Hosted

by Johannes Penz, the finalists – Josef Gaugl (Austria), Fabian Schärz (Switzerland) and Thomas Gschossmann (Germany) – assessed a Fleckvieh cow live in the ring. After each individual assessment, the results were displayed on a big screen, immediately highlighting any deviations from the reference values.

With precision, speed and nerves of steel, the defending champion Josef Gaugl from Austria came out on top, securing victory once again at the 2026 FleckScore World Cup. Second place went to Fabian Schärz from Switzerland, with third place going to Thomas Gschossmann from Germany.



Josef Gaugl (Austria) won ahead of Fabian Schärz (Switzerland) and Thomas Gschossmann (Germany)

NEW ISET SIMMENTAL 2026



The technical committee for the Simmental breed of swissherdbook has revised the overall breeding value (ISET). The aim is to achieve increased genetic progress, particularly in production traits and overall frame.

With the introduction of the new Total Selection Index (ISET) formula in April 2026, the overall breeding value of the Simmental breed is being comprehensively revised. As a result, significant shifts in the breeding value rankings are expected, clearly larger than in years with only a base adjustment.



Swiss simmental herd: With the new ISET, the overall breeding value of the Simmental breed is comprehensively revised.

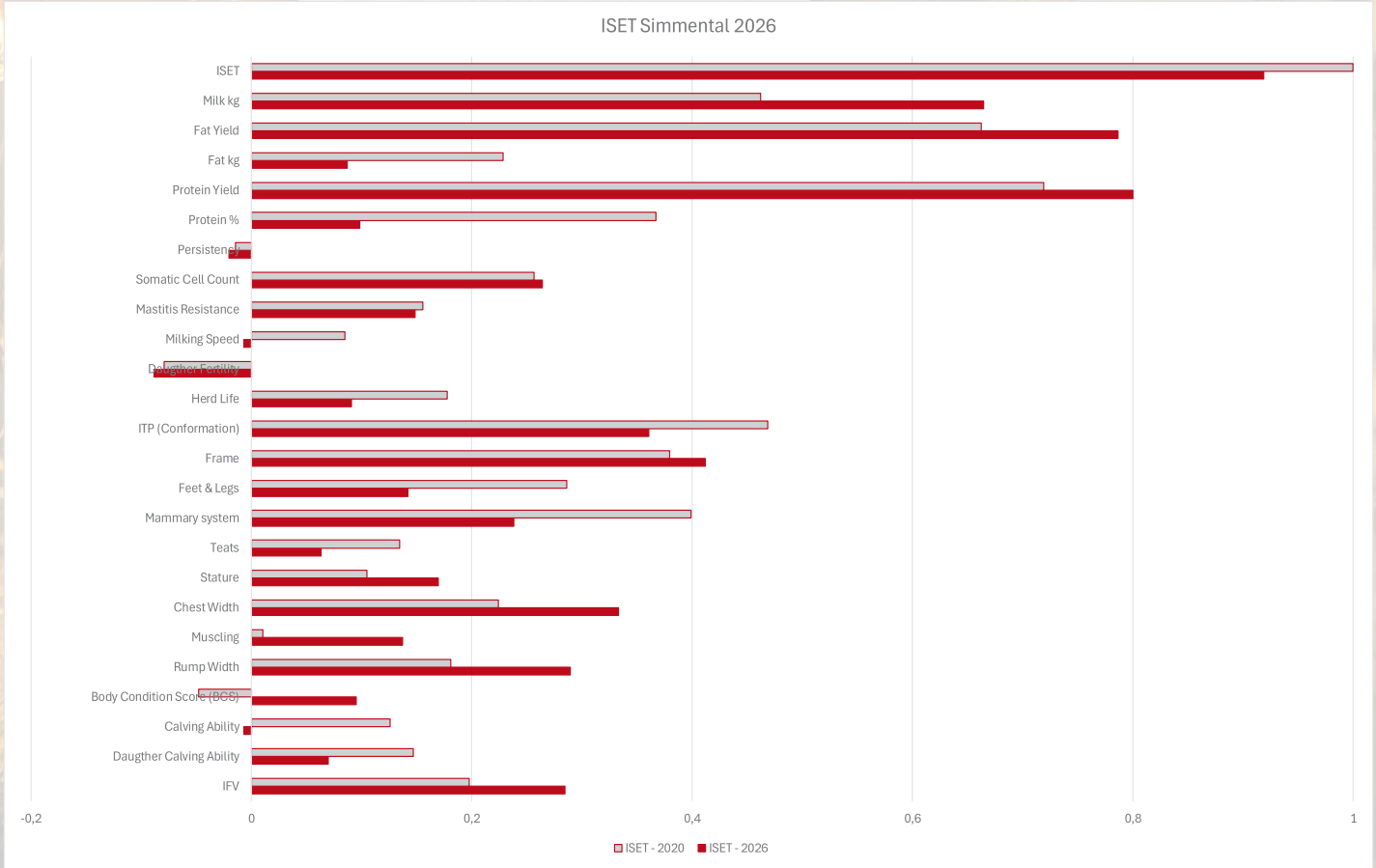
“The introduction of mastitis resistance alongside somatic cell count in the ISET improves selection for udder health.”

BREEDING GOAL REDEFINED

During spring 2025, the technical committee defined the new breeding objective. The goal is a wider-framed and higher-performing cow. By shifting the weighting from component percentages to component yields (kg), greater genetic progress in production traits is expected. The increased weighting of persistency follows the same direction. The meat index (IFV) remains unchanged.

Regarding udder health, the committee decided not to focus solely on somatic cell count, but also to include the breeding value for mastitis resistance in the ISET.

Correlations between ISET 2026 and 2020 as well as individual traits



The correlations between ISET 2026 or 2020 and the individual traits show the expected selection response when breeding is based purely on ISET.

Table: Composition of the new IPL, IFF, and ISET for the Simmental breed

	ISSET-2026	ISSET-2020
Fat Yield	14%	6%
Fat %		3%
Protein Yield	14%	16%
Protein %		7%
Persistency	6%	4%
Somatic Cell Count	3%	5%
Mastitis Resistance	3%	
Herd Life	3%	6%
Fertility	10%	7%
BCS	5%	
ITP (Conformation)	13%	15%
Feet & Legs	5%	5%
Rump width	4%	
IFV (Beef)	20%	20%

“Wider-framed cows provide more space for both a wide and high rear udder and good muscling.”

CONFORMATION

In terms of conformation, the weighting of the ITP (overall conformation score) has been slightly reduced. At the same time, rump width has been directly integrated into the ISET. This measure was introduced because measurements of rump width within classification have shown a rather negative trend in

recent years. However, wider-framed cows provide more space for both a wide and high rear udder and good muscling—two key characteristics of a dual-purpose breed.

BODY CONDITION SCORE

The traits calving ease and milk flow have been removed from the index, as they are considered knockout traits by the technical committee.

Instead, greater emphasis has been placed on Body Condition Score (BCS) to specifically promote dual-purpose cows that are able to maintain sufficient body condition and substance.

EXPECTED GENETICS PROGRESS

The table shows the previous and new weightings of the Simmental ISET. More important than the composition of the index itself, however, is its effect on selection. This can be estimated based on correlations between the index and various individual traits—regardless of whether these are directly included in the index or not.

For the new ISET of the Simmental breed, these correlations are illustrated for various traits in the graphic and compared with the previous ISET. Selection based on the new ISET particularly strengthens the breed in performance (kg of milk and components), overall width, muscling, Body Condition Score (BCS), and beef traits (IFV).

Alex Barenco



BodyConditionScore_swiss simmental cow: The Body Condition Score (BCS) is given greater weight to specifically promote dual-purpose cows with sufficient body condition and substance.

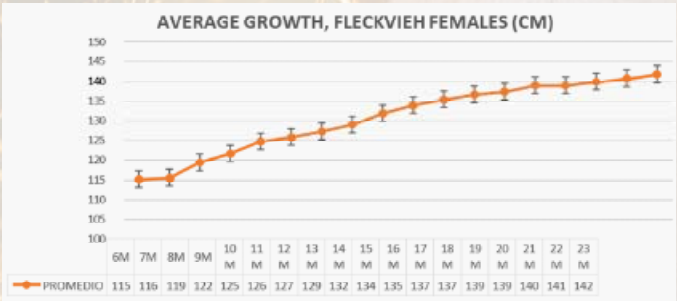
Productive Balance as a Selection Criterion: Growth Curve and Optimal Structural Size of Simmental-Fleckvieh in High-Altitude Tropical Systems in Colombia



Filippo Rapaioli, Executive Director
Sergio Lascarro, Technical Director

The analysis of growth patterns and structural development in Simmental-Fleckvieh cattle under Colombian conditions currently represents one of the most robust tools for guiding genetic selection toward efficient, sustainable production models adapted to high-altitude tropical environments. In a country where a significant proportion of Simmental-Fleckvieh production systems are located above 2,500 meters above sea level, the discussion regarding the ideal type of animal goes beyond traditional standards and requires a technical interpretation that integrates animal physiology, environmental conditions, nutrition, and economic efficiency. In this context, information derived from systematic zoometric measurements has made it possible to construct a clear, objective, and reproducible understanding of the phenotypic behavior of the Simmental population in Colombia, revealing consistent growth patterns and, most importantly, a marked tendency toward a structural size that efficiently responds to local conditions.

Body weight behavior as a function of age describes a progressive, harmonious, and biologically coherent growth curve, in which females reach values that reflect high productive potential without compromising system efficiency. This sustained growth is indicative not only of the genetic quality present in the population but also of the capacity of production systems to support demanding physiological processes under schemes predominantly based on forage utilization. In this regard, Simmental-Fleckvieh demonstrates a remarkable efficiency in converting fibrous resources into body mass, positioning it as a highly competitive alternative in systems where the rational use of pasture constitutes the cornerstone of production and where dependence on external inputs must be minimized to ensure economic sustainability.



(Figure 1 illustrates the growth curve of Simmental-Fleckvieh females under Colombian conditions.)

The observed growth curve should not be interpreted merely as a sequence of weight increments but rather as the expression of a complex biological balance in which genetics, environment, and management interact. The ability of animals to sustain consistent weight gain over time suggests an adequate synchronization between metabolic requirements and nutrient availability, which is particularly relevant in grazing systems where seasonal fluctuations can significantly affect forage

supply. This behavior also reflects an appropriate physiological adaptation that enables animals to maintain performance under variable conditions, thereby consolidating a resilient production model.

Therefore, the interpretation of growth must be approached from an integrated perspective, recognizing that the objective is not to maximize body size indiscriminately, but to optimize the relationship between growth and efficiency. In extensive and semi-extensive systems, where resources are limited and production costs are closely linked to feed availability, biological efficiency becomes the primary selection criterion. Animals that grow in a balanced manner, without excessive requirements, are those capable of sustaining productivity over time and contributing directly to system profitability.

Alongside weight analysis, the evaluation of height provides a fundamental dimension for understanding the structural development of animals. Unlike weight, height exhibits remarkable stability, more accurately reflecting the genetic foundation of the individual and its skeletal growth potential. Height follows a linear, progressive, and highly predictable trajectory, establishing a pattern that allows reliable projection of mature size. This characteristic makes height a highly valuable selection criterion, particularly when uniformity in herd type, consistency in production systems, and long-term predictability are desired.

The integration of height and age data allows the classification of the population within a specific structural size range, represented by the Frame Score, a tool widely used internationally to categorize cattle based on skeletal size. In Colombia, the evidence consistently indicates that the Simmental-Fleckvieh female population is concentrated around a Frame Score of 7, corresponding to medium-to-large-sized animals. This finding is particularly significant because it defines a point of balance that responds efficiently to the country's production conditions, especially in high-altitude systems where adaptability plays a decisive role and where excessive size may translate into productive inefficiencies.

Frame Score	Hip Height (cm)	Classification	Suitability for Colombian Grazing Systems
5	< 135	Small	May be limiting for calf weaning weight and overall feed intake capacity.
6	135-140	Moderate	Acceptable, but with lower growth potential and potentially reduced efficiency in forage conversion.
7	141-146	Moderate-Large	OPTIMAL for Colombian grazing systems. Balanced relationship between intake capacity and maintenance requirements.
8	147-152	Large	May require higher maintenance and incur increased feeding costs to sustain body condition.
9	> 152	Very Large	Risk of inefficiency under grazing conditions, especially during periods of forage scarcity. Higher nutritional requirements.

(Table 1 presents the relationship between frame score classification and its productive implications under Colombian conditions.)

The concept of productive balance becomes especially relevant in this context, as it redefines selection criteria under a functional approach. An animal with a Frame Score of 7 is not simply an intermediate-sized individual, but rather the expression of a phenotype shaped by the interaction between genetics and environment, favoring traits that optimize system efficiency. Such animals are capable of consuming large volumes of forage, efficiently converting these resources into productive output, and maintaining body condition without incurring excessive maintenance costs. At the same time, they exhibit a structural conformation that supports reproduction, longevity, and resilience under demanding environmental conditions, all of which are essential components of sustainable production systems.

Under the specific conditions of Colombia, where many Simmental-Fleckvieh operations are located in high-altitude regions, animal physiology becomes central in defining the desirable phenotype. Reduced oxygen availability at these elevations represents a constant challenge for cattle, affecting metabolism, growth capacity, and overall performance. In this context, the selection of animals with adequate thoracic conformation becomes a critical criterion. A wide and deep chest not only allows greater pulmonary capacity but also promotes improved tissue oxygenation, resulting in enhanced metabolic efficiency, better nutrient utilization, and improved adaptation to altitude conditions.

The relationship between thoracic capacity and productive performance is both direct and significant. Animals with greater development in this region demonstrate clear advantages in terms of resilience, intake capacity, and nutrient use efficiency. In systems where oxygen availability may be a limiting factor, these characteristics distinguish animals that merely survive from those that truly express their productive potential in a sustained manner. For this reason, genetic selection must explicitly incorporate criteria related to structural conformation, recognizing that animal functionality is the result of the interaction of multiple traits rather than isolated characteristics.

Another key aspect of structural evaluation is body depth, which is closely associated with the animal's ability to consume and process large volumes of forage. Greater development in this dimension implies a more efficient digestive system, capable of maximizing the utilization of fibrous resources and sustaining adequate production levels under variable conditions. This characteristic is particularly valuable in grazing systems, where forage quality can fluctuate significantly and where digestive efficiency directly impacts productivity and system resilience.

The development of the middle third is associated both with structural capacity and carcass yield potential, representing a key component in the economic valuation of the animal. Adequate length in this region allows for better weight distribution and a higher proportion of high-value cuts, directly influencing system profitability. Similarly, pelvic dimensions, represented by width and length of the rump, are crucial for reproductive functionality, particularly in females, where proper conformation reduces the incidence of calving difficulties and improves overall herd reproductive efficiency, contributing to long-term sustainability.

The combined analysis of these variables enables the construction of a comprehensive understanding of the type of animal best suited to Colombian conditions. Rather than

pursuing extreme phenotypes, the evidence supports the consolidation of a balanced bovine model in which size, intake capacity, metabolic efficiency, and structural functionality are harmoniously integrated. This model, clearly represented by a Frame Score of 7, provides a solid reference for guiding genetic selection programs, preventing deviations toward animals that, while visually appealing, do not necessarily offer advantages in terms of productive efficiency or sustainability.

From an economic perspective, the importance of this approach becomes even more evident. In production systems where margins may be tight and feeding costs represent a significant proportion of total expenses, selecting efficient animals directly translates into improved profitability. An animal capable of efficiently converting forage into output, maintaining body condition with lower requirements, and exhibiting strong productive longevity generates sustained positive impacts over time, reducing the need for costly interventions and enhancing system stability.

The consolidation of this type of animal as the standard within the Colombian Simmental-Fleckvieh population is the result of a cumulative process in which breeder experience, environmental adaptation, and the gradual incorporation of technical criteria have converged to define a functional and efficient phenotype. This process has allowed the breed not only to adapt successfully to local conditions but also to stand out as one of the most efficient alternatives for high-altitude production systems, where the combination of genetics and adaptability determines performance outcomes.

In this regard, the generation and utilization of high-quality technical information must be considered a strategic asset for the sector. The ability to measure, analyze, and interpret population performance not only enables the identification of strengths and areas for improvement but also facilitates informed decision-making, reducing uncertainty and increasing the likelihood of success in selection programs. The evolution toward more advanced genetic evaluation systems represents an opportunity to consolidate these advances and position Colombian Simmental cattle competitively on the international stage.

Ultimately, the success of any selection program depends not only on the quality of the information but also on consistency in its application. The definition of a standard such as Frame Score 7 should be understood as a technical guideline that directs decision-making toward functional, efficient, and well-adapted animals. This approach requires a long-term vision, where consistent selection of key traits gradually builds populations that are increasingly efficient and resilient.

In conclusion, the characterization of growth patterns and structural size in the Colombian Simmental-Fleckvieh population clearly defines the type of animal best suited to the country's conditions. The evidence strongly supports the selection of medium-framed individuals with strong forage utilization capacity, adequate thoracic development, and an optimal balance between growth and maintenance requirements. This model not only maximizes productive efficiency but also ensures adaptability and long-term sustainability, positioning Colombian Simmental cattle as a benchmark of functionality, efficiency, and productive balance in high-altitude tropical systems.

Fleckvieh Austria – Milk Yield Results 2025

Fleckvieh continues to gain strength

Ing. Reinhard Pflieger, Director Fleckvieh Austria

As in the previous year, this year's milk yield results showed an increase in performance for Austrian Fleckvieh cattle. In 2024, the 8,000-kilogram mark was exceeded for the first time in history for the average of all herd book cows.

With a further increase in performance of 140 kg of milk in the 2025 reporting year, the average 305-day performance of Austrian Fleckvieh herd book cows now stands at 8,217 kg of milk.

With 330,853 cows inspected (+2,134) and 313,420 herd book cows (+2,036), 2025 also saw a welcome increase in the number of Fleckvieh cows in Austria. At the same time, Fleckvieh was able to further consolidate its dominant position within Austrian cattle breeding. Fleckvieh cows currently account for 75.8% of all Austrian dairy cows in organized herd book breeding.

Structural change continues

The continuing trend of declining farm numbers (-2%) also continued in 2025. Currently, 11,592 (-266) farms in Austria use Fleckvieh as their main breed. The number of breeding herds is 13,191 (-266). The average Austrian Fleckvieh breeding farm has 27 cows.

Over 8,000 kg of milk

The average milk yield of Austrian Fleckvieh herd cows is currently 8,217 kg of milk. The absolute level of milk constituents has declined slightly in terms of fat content to 4.15% (-0.01), while protein content has increased slightly to 3.44% (+0.01). On average, Fleckvieh cows achieved a total of 624 F+P-kg, an increase of 11 F+P-kg compared to the previous year. For Fleckvieh heifers, this increase in performance was 117 kg of milk at 562 F+P-kg and an increase of 9 F+P-kg.

Interpreting absolute performance correctly

When considering absolute performance, the genetic trend in traits that can be bred for must always be taken into account. In

Fleckvieh cattle, this trend has been clearly positive in terms of milk yield over recent years, but slightly negative in terms of milk components. At the same time, the genetic trend for fitness and animal health traits is developing in the desired direction. This ensures long-term economic milk production and also meets society's expectations.

Highlights in the top lists

The top lists of the 2025 performance results provide impressive figures. In addition to the positive breeding development, these performances are proof of the high standard of Austrian breeding farms in terms of management and animal care.

Congratulations and thanks

Fleckvieh Austria congratulates all breeding families who were able to achieve their individual farm performance goals in the past year and who, with their knowledge and hard work, form the basis for the positive international reputation of Austrian Fleckvieh breeding. Fleckvieh Austria would also like to thank all employees of the provincial inspection associations for their conscientious work in performance testing and advising farms.



Kalcher: Austrian Fleckvieh cows scored again with an increase in performance

Tab.4: The best herds (Fleckvieh, size of herd minimum ≥ 10 cows)

breeder	org.	cows (n)	milk (kg)	fat (%)	protein (%)	f+p (kg)
Resinger Franz, Matriei in Osttirol	RZT	15,2	14 834	4,88	3,66	1 268
Penninger Manuela u. Josef, Hernstein	NOEGEN	43,9	15 122	3,90	3,55	1 127
Schlagbauer Peter, Weiz	RSTM	22,6	13 627	4,41	3,70	1 105
Lichtenegger Karin, St. Margarethen/Lav.	caRI	32,7	13 607	4,33	3,57	1 074
Friedl Christian, Unterlamm	RSTM	77,3	13 768	4,22	3,57	1 072
Bauer Matthias, Riegersburg	RSTM	96,0	14 546	3,85	3,51	1 071
Freigassner Gerhard, Weisskirchen in Steiermark	RSTM	23,5	13 702	4,01	3,67	1 051
Steiner Manuel, Krems in Kärnten	caRI	16,3	13 479	4,19	3,58	1 046
Landwirtschaftl. Schule, Grafendorf	RSTM	20,0	13 107	4,27	3,66	1 040
Arzberger Elisabeth u. Andreas, Voralpe	RSTM	49,2	13 702	3,91	3,66	1 037

Fleckvieh AUSTRIA breeding program – Highest lifetime performance of all breeds

Dr. Christian FÜRST, ZuchtData, Vienna, Austria

The challenge in breeding is not only to optimize a single trait, but to simultaneously develop all relevant areas – milk, meat, fitness, health, and conformation.

Highest lifetime yield

Table 1 shows the phenotypic performance in some key trait areas since 2010. It should be noted that these values may depend on external influences such as weather, feed and market conditions, and the quality of the data basis.

Milk yield again showed a significant increase of 140 kilograms. The components remain phenotypically stable thanks to ever-improving management, but genetically the slightly negative trend continues.

Despite the steadily increasing milk yield level, the most important meat parameters have also remained stable or shown a slight increase over the last 20 years. Daily weight gains have increased, while slaughter yield and commercial grade have remained stable or even improved slightly.

In terms of fitness, the development of useful life and lifetime performance continues to be very encouraging. A single year should certainly not be overrated, but it is nevertheless remarkable that Fleckvieh cattle achieved the highest lifetime performance of all breeds for the first time in 2025 (Fig. 1)! Over the last 20 years, the average lifetime yield of culled cows has increased by over 11,000 kilograms for Fleckvieh and by approximately 7,000 kilograms for Holstein and Brown Swiss.

The fertility parameters insemination index and calving interval have remained largely stable in recent years. The average cell count has risen steadily in recent years, but improved slightly again in 2025.

Table 1: Development of selected phenotypic performances in Fleckvieh AUSTRIA since 2010 (ZuchtData annual reports, 2010-2025)

Trait	2010	2015	2020	2024	2025
Milk (kg) – herd book, all lact.	6.736	7.220	7.893	8.077	8.217
Fat (%) – herd book, all lact.	4,13	4,15	4,16	4,16	4,15
Protein (%) – herd book, all lact.	3,40	3,40	3,44	3,43	3,44
F+P (kg) – herd book, all lact.	508	545	599	613	624
Daily gain (g)	1.113	1.143	1.177	1.150	1.156
Carcass percentage (%)	57,1	57,3	57,3	57,6	57,6
EUROP trade class (E=5, P=1)	3,56	3,61	3,68	3,66	3,63
EUROP trade class share E+U (%)	57,5	61,3	67,5	65,5	63,4
Number of calvings	3,89	3,97	4,03	4,16	4,18
Longevity (years)	3,73	3,80	3,90	4,06	4,09
Lifetime yield (kg)	25.567	28.114	31.220	33.507	34.188
Calving interval (days)	392,0	390,0	390,1	390,2	391,9
Insemination index	1,9	2,0	2,2	2,1	2,1
Som. cell count (average, in 1.000)	190,7	180,1	186,5	201,5	197,7
Som. cell count (median, in 1.000)	70	64	64	61	60

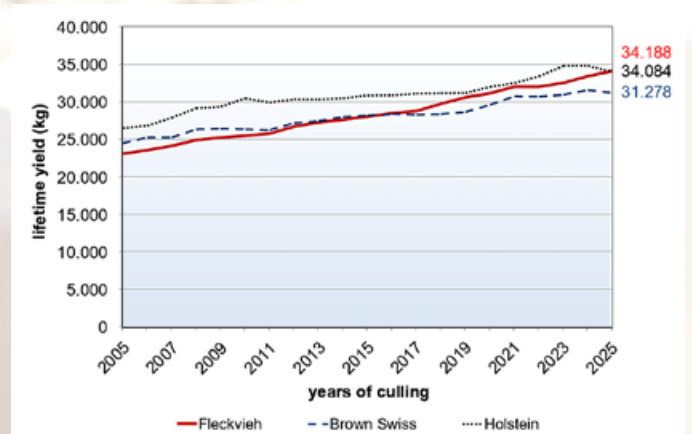


Figure 1: Phenotypic development of lifetime yield over the last 20 years in Fleckvieh, Brown Swiss, and Holstein cattle in Austria.

Genetic development remains positive

Genetic trends—i.e., the average breeding values per birth cohort—are the most suitable tool for assessing long-term breeding developments. Figure 2 illustrates the trends in the female population in the main areas of TMI, MI, BI, and FIT. Since 2010, the TMI has increased by 2.5 points annually. The milk value has been rising almost linearly by 2.0 to 2.2 points per year for decades. Milk yield has seen an average genetic increase of 87 kilograms, but fat content has deteriorated by 0.01 percent per year.

Meat value has shown a slight increase of 0.5 points per year for several years. The fitness value is particularly striking: the annual increase rose from 0.1 points (2000–2010) to 0.5 points (2010–2015) to 1.5 points between 2015 and 2023. Within the fitness area, almost all traits show a positive genetic development, with the strongest being longevity and udder health.

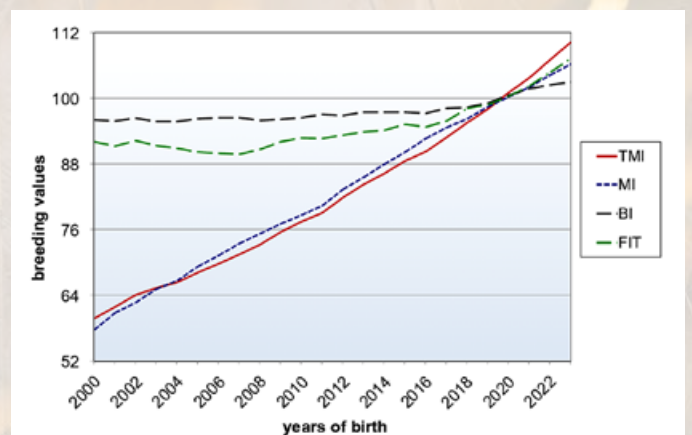
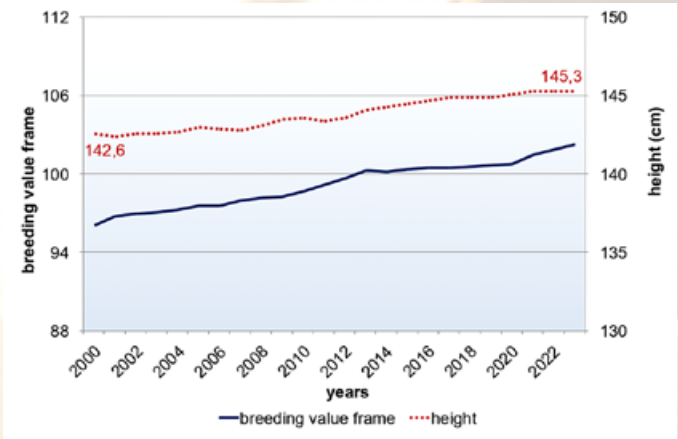


Figure 2: Genetic trends for TMI, MI, BI, and FIT of Austrian Fleckvieh cows

Significant improvements continue to be observed in the exterior, particularly in the udder. This encouraging development is certainly slowed somewhat by the strong selection for polledness, but is still remarkable with an increase of 1.1 breeding value points per year.

The quality of the feet and legs has also improved noticeably (+0.7 breeding value points per year), and muscling has

stabilized again after a prolonged decline in the last eight or so birth cohorts. A rising trend can still be observed in terms of frame, both genetically and phenotypically (Fig. 3). The frame breeding value is increasing by an average of 0.3 ZW points per year, which is also reflected in the continuing increase in the cross height of cows. First-calf heifers born in 2023 are on average 2.7 cm taller than cows born in 2000. This is a development that is not generally desired, although analyses of auction and slaughter weights over the last 15 to 20 years show that Fleckvieh cows have become slightly taller during this period, but not heavier.



The Fleckvieh Austria breeding program aims to carry out 75 percent of all inseminations with genomic young sires (GJV). Last year, this figure was exceeded for the first time, reaching 78.1 percent of all inseminations with Fleckvieh bulls (excluding other breeds and natural mating). The trend toward polled cattle continues unabated and reached 44.7 percent in purebred inseminations last year. In some breeding associations, the proportion already exceeds 60 percent.

MEGASTAR Pp* remains at the top

Table 2 lists the Fleckvieh bulls most frequently used in the 2025 control year. At the top is the heterozygous polled MEGASTAR Pp*, which has repeated its victory from last year.

He is followed by the next superstar HEISS, who already has his first daughters showing good performance and was well placed in 4th place last year. Behind him are WUNDAWERK, WACHAU P*S, and GS MACH MIT Pp*, all of whom achieved over 10,000 inseminations in the 2025 control year. The

top 20 includes only four progeny-tested bulls: VIRGINIA, WINTERTRAUM, GS WUHUDLER, and MABUSO. A total of six polled bulls are in the top 20, including two homozygous polled sires, EDELJOKER PP* and SALOMON PP*.

On the paternal side, the top 20 can be traced back to seven different line founders, with the HORROR line dominating with six offspring and MORELLO and HUCH each with four. While STREIK was not represented in the top ranks last year, three bulls from this line have made it into the top 20 again in 2025.

Table 2: Fleckvieh bulls most frequently used in the control year 2025 (ZuchtData annual report, 2025)

Rank	Name	Birth Y.	No.AI	TMI	MI	BI	FIT	PT*	Line
1	MEGASTAR Pp*	2022	20.702	137	131	103	115	N	MORELLO
2	HEISS	2021	16.069	139	118	119	120	N	HUCH
3	WUNDAWERK	2022	13.270	135	113	107	132	N	HORROR
4	WACHAU P*S	2023	12.556	138	115	98	137	N	HORROR
5	GS MACH MIT Pp*	2023	10.448	127	111	109	122	N	MORELLO
6	GS WILDTRAK Pp*	2023	9.271	139	121	108	124	N	HORROR
7	EDELJOKER PP*	2022	9.217	127	112	109	118	N	EGEL
8	VIRGINIA	2018	8.740	130	123	111	104	Y	RADI
9	GS DUPLEX	2023	8.571	140	132	114	109	N	DIRIGENT
10	WINTERTRAUM	2019	7.955	128	109	103	123	Y	HORROR
11	SCHOEN	2023	7.502	136	118	110	125	N	STREIK
12	STRADIVARI	2023	7.446	130	120	103	116	N	STREIK
13	GS HOCHTIROL	2023	7.176	142	122	113	126	N	HUCH
14	GS WUHUDLER	2018	6.747	132	123	93	116	Y	HORROR
15	MONORON	2022	6.521	137	124	105	122	N	MORELLO
16	MABUSO	2018	6.160	121	118	97	106	Y	MORELLO
17	HERZNEUN	2023	6.119	124	115	118	109	N	HUCH
18	HIMOLA	2023	6.052	140	116	124	125	N	HUCH
19	WALDENBERG	2023	6.020	136	122	108	121	N	HORROR
20	SALOMON PP*	2023	5.979	128	115	110	117	N	STREIK

*PT...progeny-tested; Y= yes, N= no

Conclusion

Year after year, the report on the Fleckvieh Austria breeding program is published—and year after year, the results are very positive. The majority of milk, meat, fitness, and conformation traits are developing in the desired direction; no serious problems are apparent.

Particular mention should be made of lifetime performance: Fleckvieh has even reached the top of all breeds in this category in the current year. This should provide additional incentive to continue driving forward data collection, particularly in the area of fitness (veterinary diagnoses, hoof findings), in conjunction with an expansion of genotyping, in order to secure this encouraging development in the long term.

The title “Fleckvieh Breeder of the Year in Austria” goes to Tanja and Thomas Sommersguter from Wenigzell in Styria

At the top for the first time thanks to consistency and perseverance

Ing. Reinhard Pfleger, Director Fleckvieh Austria

For 22 years now, Fleckvieh Austria has been organizing the “Fleckvieh Breeder of the Year” competition, which is particularly important to Austrian breeders. To be among the frontrunners, exceptional breeding achievements are required. At the same time, high standards of fitness and management parameters are demanded of the herd.

Who is in the competition?

All Austrian Fleckvieh breeding farms that meet the following minimum criteria are included in the evaluation: Fleckvieh is kept as the main breed and at least one young bull used for the first time (with at least 30 inseminations) or a progeny-tested bull (with at least 200 inseminations) or a genotyped male candidate ($GZW \geq 132$ and $Fu+Eu \geq 205$) has been bred. This year, 289 farms met these criteria, spread across almost all breeding areas in Austria.

Exciting decision with first-time winner

The coveted title of “Fleckvieh Breeder of the Year” went for the first time to Wenigzell in Eastern Styria to the breeding family Tanja and Thomas Sommersguter. After several top ten placements over two decades, the dedicated breeding family made it to the top for the first time. The basis for this success was four top-level genomic young sires, two of which were also heavily used in targeted mating. Together with four other interesting candidates, this resulted in the highest number of points of all farms in the “Breeding” category.

As in the previous year, the race for the podium places was close. Second place went to a newcomer to the ranks of Austria's top breeders: the family of Alexandra and Christoph Waldenberger from Weibern in the FIH breeding area provided the most genomic young sires of all farms in the evaluation. Third place also went to a farm from the FIH, namely the Martin

Zauner family from Münzkirchen. Four genomic young sires and 15 male and female candidates ensured a high points yield in the “Breeding” category. The high proportion of lifetime performance cows in the herd is also noteworthy.

Fourth place went to another FIH member farm, the Karin Schmidseider family from Enzenkirchen. An impressive 19 male and female candidates earned many points. For years, the herd has been one of the top-ranked herds in terms of GZW level for cows. Fifth place went to the Bernhard Fischer family, another up-and-coming FIH breeding farm, which scored highly in both the “Breeding” category with four genomic young sires and in the “Fitness” category.

Notable herds among the top 100

The farms of Waldenberger Alexandra and Christoph (FIH), Sommersguter Tanja and Thomas (RSTM), Zauner Martin (FIH), and Fischer Bernhard (FIH) provided the most genomic young sires for insemination. Among the daughter-tested bulls, the farms of Gaugl Josef (RSTM) and Fröschl Elisabeth and Franz (RZO) scored the most points.

The breeding of genetically high-quality male and female candidates also earns valuable points for the evaluation. The farms Steinmann Renate and Johann (FIH), Schmidseider Karin (FIH), and Schafferhofer Daniela and Josef (RSTM) provided the most male candidates. In the female category, the farms Schweighofer Corina and Hannes (RSTM), Binder Andrea and Josef (NÖGENETIK) and Schmidseider Karin (FIH) came out on top.

The highest average GZW values in the herd were achieved by the farms Gruber Josef/Andreas (RZT), Schmidseider Karin (FIH) and Steinmann Renate and Johann (FIH).

In the “fitness block”, the farms Luschnig Erna Maria and Norbert (RSTM), Schweighofer Corina and Hannes (RSTM), and Mitterlehner Martin (RZO) secured the most points. The herds of Heindl Andrea and Bernhard (NÖGENETIK), Sulzbacher Daniel (NÖGENETIK) and Bauer Johannes (RSTM) had particularly high proportions of cows with lifetime performance.

1st place: Sommersguter family, Wenigzell, RSTM



The Tanja and Thomas Sommersguter family runs their Fleckvieh cattle farm in Wenigzell in northeastern Styria. Fleckvieh breeding has been at the heart of the dairy farm for generations. As breeders of the young bulls GS HOT DOG, GS MEADOW, GS MR GOOD Pp*, and MAGNETO P*S, the Sommersguter family is the Fleckvieh Breeder of the Year 2025. With GS HOT DOG and GS MEADOW, two of the “TOP 10 bulls” in the Fleckvieh population come from their herd.

The F family is the oldest cow line in the herd and dates back to a purchase made by the grandfather in the 1950s. In the meantime, the G line and the L line have been added, also through purchases, with the G line beginning to assert itself increasingly. The G line produced the young sires GS HANDSHAKE, GS HOT BOY Pp*, and MAGNETO P*S, while the L line produced GS MEADOW and GS SAUSTARK.

The Sommersguter family has already produced the Fleckvieh breed champion cow four times at a Styrian show: WAX daughter FALTE later even achieved a lifetime yield of almost 150,000 kilograms of milk.

2nd place: Waldenberger family, Weibern, FIH



The Waldenberger family from Weibern is on the podium for the first time. The roots of this success date back to 2014, when Alexandra and Christoph Waldenberger made the decision to enter milk production. Today, two AMS milking systems milk around 70 cows with a herd average of 10,556 kilograms of milk. With the birth of KIKI Pp*, a WAALKES Pp* daughter, the farm entered a new dimension of breeding. As a calf, she achieved a GZW of 151 points and was the number one female Fleckvieh animal in Austria at the time. Today, KIKI Pp* is the dam of the polled young bulls MONDSEE P*S, MATTSEE P*S, VALERE P*S, and HARDROCK PP*. As a member of the FIH and a long-standing partner of the Upper Austria insemination station, the farm has quickly developed into a genetic hotspot.

3rd place: Zauner family, Münzkirchen, FIH



The Zauner farm in the Schärding district has been one of the pioneers of hornless breeding within the Fleckvieh breed in Austria. Today, 80 percent of the cows in the barn are genetically hornless. The herd average is currently almost 13,000 kilograms of milk for 66 cows. Since many cows are already homozygous hornless, there are many interesting options for hornless breeding. The points necessary for the excellent third place in the Breeder of the Year evaluation were mainly contributed by the bulls MAGNUS PP* (Greifenberg and CRV), MEGLITE PP* (Greifenberg), WONKER PP* (EUROgenetik), and VIGO

PP* (Jihocesky chovatel), which were purchased from various insemination stations. Also worth mentioning are the 13 genetically interesting young animals in rearing.

4th place: Schmidseider family, Enzenkirchen, FIH



It seems that the Schmidseider farm has a subscription to top rankings in the Breeder of the Year evaluation. The Schmidseider family's herd ranks first among Fleckvieh farms in Austria with an average GZW of 126.5. This forms the basis for intensive breeding work, which makes the best possible use of genomic selection and embryo transfer. Currently, there are around 25 young animals with a GZW of 135 in the barn. The half-brothers MINARETT PP* (S: Minoa P*S) and WACKER PP* (S: Wondreb Pp*), purchased from the Hohenzell insemination station, made a significant contribution to the 4th place in the current evaluation. The dam of these bulls belongs to the I line, from which the positively progeny-tested bull HORAZIO P*S (S: Hilfinger) also originates.

5th place: Fischer family, Peuerbach, FIH



2025 was a very happy year for the Fischer family in many respects. In addition to placing in the top 5 in the Breeder of the Year competition for the first time, they also enjoyed success at the Upper Austrian Breeding Cattle Show at the Rieder Messe. The MAKAY daughter PRISKA was champion among cows with two calvings. The SENATOR daughter OLANDA was reserve champion among cows with one calving. Currently, there are around 90 high-performance cows with excellent conformation on the farm. The most genetically interesting animals are flushed in cooperation with the Hohenzell insemination station. The bulls HERNESTO (S: Heiss), MALVION P*S (S: Mahindra P*S) and MATHIS P*S (S: Merdico P*S), which were included in the evaluation, are also used at EUROgenetik.

8 Tons and Double Effect

The aim of Fleckvieh breeders in Austria is to think and breed holistically and sustainably. That is why we would like to introduce you to these exceptional six Fleckvieh cows from Austria, which can combine the following remarkable achievements:

1. A total lifetime yield of at least 100,000 kilograms of milk - a standard that is common in cattle breeding worldwide and is synonymous with sustainable performance.
2. A total lifetime yield of at least eight tonnes (8T) of fat and protein. The amount of fat and protein is our actual selection criterion for milk and thus also

the ranking criterion for lifetime yield. In Fleckvieh breeding, we deliberately focus on high protein and fat content in the milk.

3. The special advantage of Fleckvieh cattle is the so-called 'double effect': the naturally elegant muscling of our cows not only stabilises them, but also ensures that purebred animals can produce beef of the best quality and quantity in addition to their milk. Every calf, whether male or female, that is not used for breeding is therefore ideally suited for the production of beef.

Ing. Reinhard Pfleger,
Director Fleckvieh Austria



Fleckvieh

Robust - Efficient - Sustainable

The breed of the future in economy and ecology

photo: Mitterböck



LOVE

AT 65 4807 829 (left)

POLARBAER x REUMUT, Birth:
22.10.2015, 7/6 304 14.872 4,00 595
3,32 493, HL 6. 305 16.915 3,95 668
3,26 551, LP: **110.689 kg / 8,2 t F+P**

ABBA

AT 78 8427 522 (middle)

WILDWUCHS x GS WAX, Birth:
31.12.2013, +9/9 302 11.554 3,99 461
3,61 417, HL 5. 305 14.566 4,01 584
3,51 511, LP: **109.831 kg / 8,4 t F+P**

MALVINE

AT 57 6079 128 (right)

MANIGO x WAL, Birth: 09.08.2014,
+8/8 300 11.083 3,49 386 3,38 374,
HL 8. 305 13.467 3,37 454 3,37 454,
LP: **100.916 kg / 7,1 t F+P**

photo: Penn



HARMONY

AT 24 1344 422,

HUPSOL x WEINOLD, Birth:
27.12.2012, +10/9 305A 11.145 4,30
480 3,48 388, HL: 4. 305A 11.912
4,47 533 3,52 420,
LP **109.232 kg / 8,6 t F+P.**



**national
champion 2017**

photo: Baumann



KALLA

AT 91 1733 722

REUMUT x MANDELA, Birth:
20.11.2013, 10/9 302 10.798 4,46
482 3,34 361, HL 3. 305 12.203 4,69
572 3,25 396,
LP: **102.967 kg / 8,0 t F+P**



**mother of
GS DER BESTE**

Zuchtwert Austria goes international

DI Lisa Fürst and Dr. Christian Fürst, ZuchtData, Vienna, Austria

What do “Plemenné hodnoty Rakúsko”, “Ausztiai tenyésztértékek” and “Avusturya damızlık değerleri” have in common? Correct, they’re all translations of our breeding values database Zuchtwert Austria found at <https://zuchtwert.at/>

At its initial release in January 2023, the site provided a total of five languages: German, English, Czech, Spanish, and French. Since then, thanks to multiple international translators, six additional languages were added to the translation feature: Romanian, Croatian, Slovak, Italian, Turkish, and Hungarian. This brings it to a total of 11 available languages, in which over 60,000 bulls of around 30 different breeds can be viewed. For Fleckvieh, more than 35,000 bulls with a total of over 1.5 million breeding values can be found!



Advanced features

Zuchtwert Austria allows users to search for breeding bulls by both basic and advanced information – from name, breed and sire to specific breeding values, genetic defects and semen availability. The search results, which may consist of thousands

of bulls, are sorted by the Total Merit Index (GZW) by default, to show the genetically best candidates at first glance; if they prefer, users may however choose a different sorting by clicking the table headers. Up to ten bulls may be selected in the results table to enable the “Compare bulls” feature, which provides a visual comparison of the selected bulls’ breeding values and highlights strengths and weaknesses. Additionally, clicking on a bull’s name navigates to its own page that contains more detailed information such as photos, pedigree, conformation values, and progeny.

The breeding values database is worked on continuously and has received regular updates since its initial release. One of the recent changes is the “new since” filter, which allows users to search for bulls that were added to the database in a specific month.

Used on all continents

Despite offering predominantly Austrian, German, and Czech breeding bulls, Zuchtwert Austria is visited by users all around the globe (see figure). The translation feature as well as the responsive design of the website, which simplifies the navigation on mobile devices, make the website more accessible to international users. While there are many plans that will be implemented to further improve Zuchtwert Austria in the years to come, the developer team is open to discuss any other ideas or feedback – we would be happy to hear your thoughts, so do not hesitate to reach out!

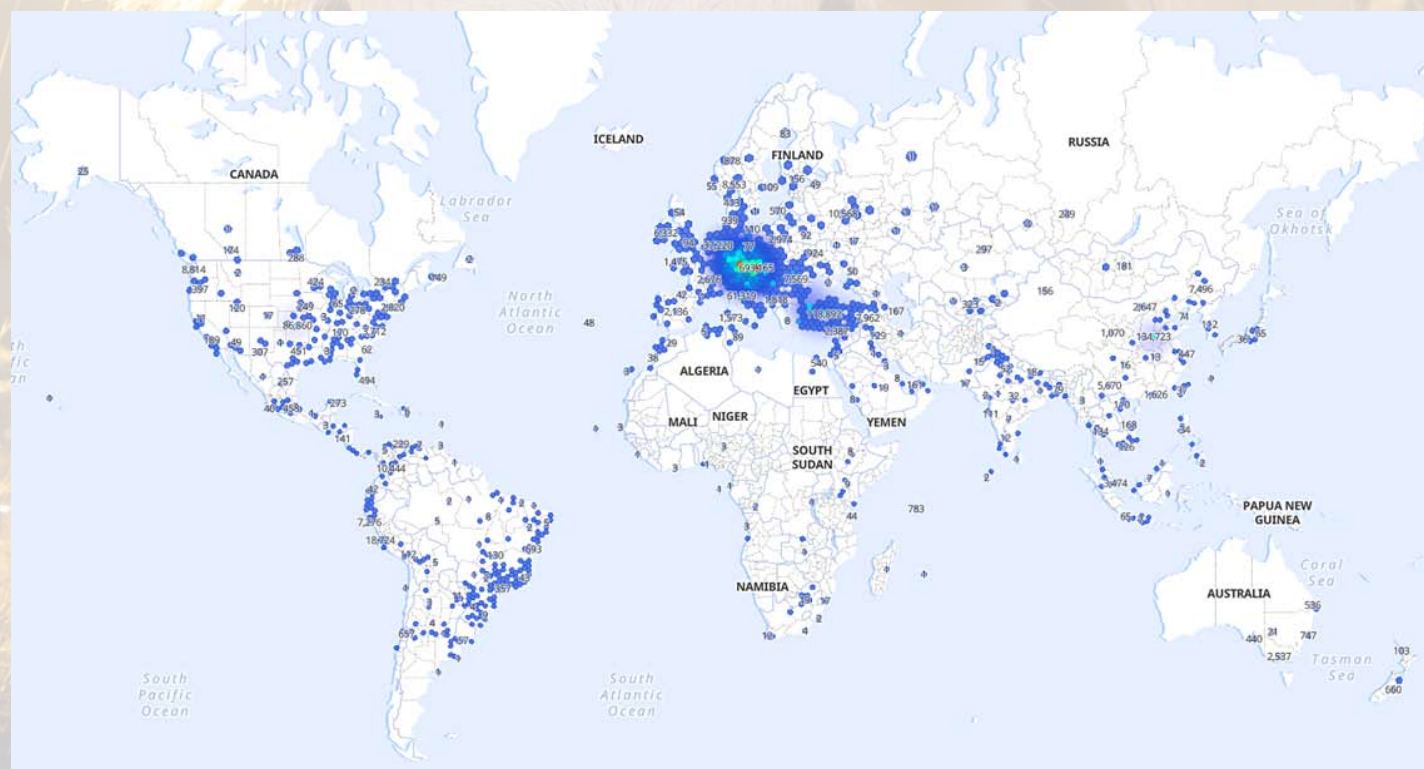


Figure: Visits to Zuchtwert Austria within 10 days

New ASR Managing Director



Neuer ASR-Geschäftsführer

At the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Süddeutscher Rinderzucht- und Besamungsorganisationen e.V. (ASR), a change in management took place on 1 April 2026, with Thomas Pfaller succeeding Dr. Joana Stock as Managing Director. Thomas Pfaller is well known in the cattle breeding sector. He studied Agricultural Sciences at the Technische Universität München and subsequently worked for several years at Bayern Genetik. There, he was responsible as head of the breeding and production department. More recently, in January, Pfaller assumed leadership of the progeny testing working group at the Institute of Animal Breeding of the Bavarian State Research Center for Agriculture (LfL), and now takes over as head of ASR. With his extensive experience in breeding, artificial insemination, and genetic evaluation, he brings excellent qualifications to actively shape the future development of cattle breeding in Southern Germany.



Foto: Ariane Haubner

Bei der Arbeitsgemeinschaft Süddeutscher Rinderzucht- und Besamungsorganisationen (ASR) hat es zum 1. April 2026 einen Wechsel in der Geschäftsführung gegeben. Thomas Pfaller übernahm die Position von Dr. Joana Stock. Thomas Pfaller ist in der Fleckviehszene kein Unbekannter. Der gebürtige Niederbayer studierte Agrarwissenschaften an der Technische Universität München und war anschließend mehrere Jahre für Bayern Genetik tätig. Dort verantwortete er als Bereichsleiter die Bereiche Zucht und Produktion. Erst im Januar übernahm Pfaller die Leitung der Arbeitsgruppe Nachzuchtbewertung am Institut für Tierzucht der LfL (Zuchtwertprüfstelle) und steht nun an der Spitze der ASR. Mit seiner umfassenden Erfahrung in den Bereichen Zucht, Besamung und Zuchtwertschätzung bringt er beste Voraussetzungen mit, die zukünftige Entwicklung der süddeutschen Rinderzucht aktiv mitzugestalten. Sehr erfreulich für die Branche ist, dass diese wichtige Position mit einem fachkundigen und bestens vernetzten Experten aus der Rinderzucht besetzt werden konnte.

(Text: ASR)

(Text: ASR)

Breeding for Lifetime Performance Shows Results

ASR annual review of the key figures of the German Fleckvieh population 2025

The decline in the Fleckvieh population in Germany slowed significantly in 2025. With a reduction of 17,000 animals or 0.57%, the decrease was more than half as strong as in previous years. High milk prices and good fertility levels on farms are considered possible reasons for this positive development.

For the first time in several years, both milk recording cows and herdbook cows recorded increases. A total of 817,265 cows were under milk recording, of which around 86% (703,548) are registered in herdbooks. This highlights the impact of the services provided by local control associations (LKVs) and breeding organisations, as well as related services such as mating advice and the transparent market situation for breeding cattle and calves. Herd genotyping programmes in Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg also contribute to this positive trend.

However, structural change in Fleckvieh herds continues. The 11,257 herdbook farms under the umbrella of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Süddeutscher Rinderzucht- und Besamungsorganisationen (ASR) keep an average of 62.5 cows, which is 1.6 animals more than in the previous year (+2.56%). The decline in first inseminations has also slowed significantly compared to previous years (-1.89%).

In the 2025 insemination year, genomic young sires accounted for 82% of matings in Bavaria and 85% in Baden-Württemberg. Of these, around 75% were polled, and approximately 30% were homozygous polled (PP). Overall, more than 50% of calves in the Fleckvieh region are now born polled. Genotyping continues to gain importance: the number of female genotypes increased by over 13% to almost 79,500, bringing the total to more than one million genotypings at the beginning of 2026. Each genotyping contributes significantly to increased information and system reliability.

Performance development remains stable. Milk yield increased slightly by 9 kg to 8,653 kg. Particularly positive is the slight improvement in milk components, with fat and protein each increasing by 0.01 percentage points. When also considering progress in beef performance, Fleckvieh continues to demonstrate its high efficiency as a dual-purpose breed.



In the area of linear conformation recording, 37,268 young cows were evaluated. Withers height increased slightly by 0.3 cm, which is attributed to more intensive rearing practices on the evaluated farms.

The marketing year 2025 was characterised by unprecedented prices for both breeding and slaughter cattle. As a dual-purpose breed, Fleckvieh was able to fully exploit its strengths. At the same time, narrow price differences between slaughter and breeding animals made exports more difficult, particularly for heifers and young cattle, whose marketing numbers declined significantly. In contrast, the market for young cows developed positively, with 11,570 animals marketed (+773).

The calf market remained stable, with 199,032 calves marketed, 89% of which were male. Despite declining cow numbers, this confirms the continued attractiveness of the calf market. Overall, 2025 will go down in history as a record year for cattle marketing.

Thomas Pfaller, ASR

Tabelle 3: Vermarktungszahlen Fleckvieh 2025

	2025
Zuchtrinder	35 075
Jungbullen	1 857
Kühe	11 570
Kalbinnen	3 022
Jungrinder	8 044
Zuchtkälber männlich	930
Zuchtkälber weiblich	9 652
Nutzkälber	199 032
männlich	176 457
weiblich	22 575
Fresser	6 595
Rinder gesamt	240 702

Züchter des Jahres 2025: Top 3 unverändert an der Spitze



Bei der diesjährigen Auswertung zum „Züchter des Jahres“ blieb die Spitzengruppe erstmals in gleicher Reihenfolge wie im Vorjahr bestehen – ein Novum in der Geschichte des Rankings.

An der Spitze steht erneut die Familie Estelmann aus Gerolting, die sich damit zum vierten Mal insgesamt und zum zweiten Mal in Folge den Titel sichern konnte. Auf Rang zwei bestätigt die Schürer-Hammon GbR ihr konstant hohes Leistungsniveau und gehört seit Jahren zuverlässig zur absoluten Spitze der Fleckviehzucht. Den dritten Platz belegt erneut die Busch GbR aus Hechlingen, die damit ihre starke Position im Spitzenfeld eindrucksvoll behauptet.

Die Bewertung basiert auf einem umfassenden Punktesystem, das sowohl Zuchtwerte leistungsgeprüfter und genomischer Bullen, Exterieurbewertungen, Ausstellungserfolge als auch Lebensleistungsdaten und Dauerleistungskühe berücksichtigt. Zusätzlich fließen moderne Zuchtkriterien wie Genotypisierung

und Herdengesundheitsprogramme verpflichtend in die Gesamtwertung ein.

Insgesamt zeigt die Auswertung, dass sich kontinuierliche Zuchtarbeit, genetischer Fortschritt und konsequente Leistungsorientierung langfristig auszahlen.

Der Geschäftsführer der ASR, Thomas Pfaller, sowie ASR-Vorsitzender Georg Hollfelder und Zuchtleiter Hans Vorderwestner gratulierten der Familie Estelmann persönlich vor Ort zu diesem besonderen Erfolg. Text: ASR

Züchter des Jahres 2025: Familie Estelmann

Es gratulieren: Thomas Pfaller, GF der ASR (v.l. knieend), Georg Hollfelder, ASR-Vorsitzender (2.v.r.) und Zuchtleiter Hans Vorderwestner (r.). Familie Estelmann: Carina und Maxi mit Tochter Heidi sowie Hannes und Christiane mit Tochter Emely, v.l. stehend bei der Majestix-P*S-Tochter Bastix (2 Kalb.), Hans und Maria sowie Marina und Stefan Neumeier (knieend) und die beiden Azubis Jacob Steger und Benedikt Stoll.

Breeder of the Year 2025: Top 3 unchanged at the top

In this year's evaluation for "Breeder of the Year," the leading group remained in the same order as in the previous year for the first time – a first in the history of the ranking.

Once again, the Estelmann family from Gerolting is at the top, securing the title for the fourth time overall and the second time in a row. In second place, the Schürer-Hammon partnership confirms its consistently high level of performance and has been a reliable fixture at the very top of Fleckvieh breeding for years. Third place is once again held by the Busch partnership from Hechlingen, which impressively maintains its strong position among the leading breeders.

The evaluation is based on a comprehensive scoring system that takes into account breeding values of progeny-tested and genomic bulls, conformation assessments, show successes, as well as lifetime performance data and long-living cows. In addition, modern breeding criteria such as genotyping and herd health programmes are mandatory components of the overall ranking.

Overall, the results demonstrate that consistent breeding work, genetic progress, and a clear focus on performance pay off in the long term.

The Managing Director of the ASR, Thomas Pfaller, together with ASR Chairman Georg Hollfelder and Breeding Director Hans Vorderwestner, personally congratulated the Estelmann family on site for this outstanding success.

Breeder of the Year 2025: Estelmann Family

Congratulations from: Thomas Pfaller, Managing Director of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Süddeutscher Rinderzucht- und Besamungsorganisationen (ASR) (front left, kneeling), Georg Hollfelder, ASR Chairman (second from right), and Hans Vorderwestner, Breeding Director (right).

The Estelmann family: Carina and Maxi with daughter Heidi, as well as Hannes and Christiane with daughter Emely, standing from left, next to the Majestix P*S daughter Bastix (2nd calving). Hans and Maria, as well as Marina and Stefan Neumeier (kneeling), and the two apprentices Jacob Steger and Benedikt Stoll.



Foto: Ariane Haubner

10th Night Show in Wertingen impresses with top-quality cattle and strong breeding youth



The 10th Night Show once again demonstrated impressively how passion for animals, breeding expertise, and professional event management come together successfully. The event reaffirmed its status as the only Bavaria-wide cattle show where young breeders can compete on an interregional level.

The Exhibition Hall was once again completely packed when the final competitions took place late in the evening. Due to high demand, not all interested participants were able to compete. In addition to the animal competitions, various show and youth formats, including Bambini and stable board competitions, ensured a diverse program.

In the Fleckvieh section, around 100 animals were entered. In the type competition, a Spumante daughter stood out as the winner. In the junior showmanship class, a young female exhibitor from Upper Franconia claimed victory, followed by further strong placings from regional young breeders' clubs.

Among the young cows, a Valo PP* daughter was named class winner and champion. The reserve champion was a Mur Pp* daughter. In the intermediate cow class, a Herango PP* daughter impressed and was later also crowned overall champion of the Fleckvieh breed together with an Edelstein daughter, who became reserve champion.

The older cow classes also featured high-performing animals from various bloodlines. The class winner was a Wendlinger daughter, while a Herzfeuer daughter secured the reserve title.

In the showmanship competition, the victory also went to the youth from Franconia, who impressed with a consistently strong performance.

The anniversary edition of the Night Show once again highlighted the high level of Fleckvieh breeding in Bavaria and the strong youth development within the young breeders' clubs. Passion, know-how, and great motivation continue to inspire the audience at the 10th Night Show in Wertingen, Bavaria.

Text: ASR

10. Night-Show in Wertingen begeistert mit Spitzenqualität und großem Züchternachwuchs

Auch die inzwischen 10. Night-Show hat eindrucksvoll gezeigt, wie Leidenschaft für das Tier, Zuchtcompetenz und professionelles Eventmanagement erfolgreich zusammenfinden. Die Veranstaltung bestätigte einmal mehr ihren Status als einzige bayernweite Rinderschau, bei der sich Jungzüchterinnen und Jungzüchter überregional messen können.

Die Schwabenhalle war erneut bis auf den letzten Platz gefüllt, als die Finalwettbewerbe am späten Abend ausgetragen wurden. Aufgrund der großen Nachfrage konnten nicht alle Interessierten starten. Neben den Tierwettbewerben sorgten verschiedene Show- und Nachwuchsformate, darunter auch Bambini- und Stalltafelbewerbe, für ein abwechslungsreiches Programm.

Im Fleckviehbereich standen rund 100 Tiere im Wettbewerb. Im Typwettbewerb überzeugte eine Spumante-Tochter als Siegerin. Im Junior Showmanship setzte sich eine Jungzüchterin aus Oberfranken durch, gefolgt von weiteren starken Platzierungen aus den regionalen Jungzüchterclubs.

Bei den Jungkühen fiel die Entscheidung auf eine Valo-PP*-Tochter als Klassensiegerin und Champion. Die Reservesiegerin stellte eine Mur-Pp*-Tochter dar. In der mittleren Kuhklasse überzeugte eine Herango-PP*-Tochter und wurde später gemeinsam mit einer Edelstein-Tochter sogar zum Gesamtchampion und Reserve-champion der Rasse Fleckvieh gekürt.

Auch bei den älteren Kühen präsentierten sich leistungsstarke Tiere verschiedener Abstammungen. Die Klassensiegerin stellte eine Wendlinger-Tochter, während eine Herzfeuer-Tochter den Reservesieg errang.

Im Showmanship-Wettbewerb der Vorführerinnen und Vorführer ging der Sieg ebenfalls an den Nachwuchs aus Franken, der mit einer konstant starken Leistung überzeugte.

Die Jubiläumsausgabe der Night-Show unterstrich eindrucksvoll das hohe Niveau der Fleckviehzucht in Bayern und die starke Nachwuchsarbeit in den Jungzüchterclubs. Leidenschaft, Know-how und viel Motivation begeistern die Zuschauer der 10. Night-Show in Wertingen in Bayern.

Text: ASR

