The potential of using a dual-purpose breed in a crossbreeding programme on Holstein and Jersey cows

Bavarian Fleckvieh in Organic Production Systems in North America

Waldhoer – unique in every way

Selection for solids is bearing fruits

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II. Conference Fleckvieh-Simmental of the Americas

Happenings from Down under!

New Fleckvieh Bloodlines from „Down Under”

Whom to contact

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Fleckvieh x MRY – Ideal combination.
Polled Fleckvieh crossed with MRY, an almost endangered Dutch dual purpose breed, has great results. The ten Damme stud in Holland farms with 160 cows which show a rolling herd average of 8.188 kg milk – 4.52 % butterfat – 3.85 % protein. ICP: 381. In difficult times farmers remember that top solids, healthy cows and good reproduction are the basics of dairy farming.

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The Fleckvieh-World is real!
The cattle photos published in the Fleckvieh-World are not retouched. Cattle that are photographed are only allowed to be shared, washed and treated with oil, powder and gloss spray.

Cover:
Emmie 38 is a 3rd generation of crossbreeding with 87.5 % Fleckvieh blood. According to some specialists this cow should not milk at all – the bulls HOF-HERR, BFG RUREX and BFG ROUND UP do not promise the highest milk index, but her expected 1. lactation is 10.391 kg milk, 4.01 % fat and 3.42 % protein.

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The Fleckvieh-World is real!
The cattle photos published in the Fleckvieh-World are not retouched. Cattle that are photographed are only allowed to be shared, washed and treated with oil, powder and gloss spray.
Dear Fleckvieh breeders,
dear customers and friends
of Bavarian Fleckvieh Genetics

The dairy industry is facing an existential crisis with many farms going bankrupt all over the world. BAYERN-GENETIK, as a reliable partner of farmers and source of superior „universal genetics“, is more than aware that it is high time to draw attention all along the line to improve the economics.

Since 1997 BAYERN-GENETIK is in the „crossbreeding business“, starting from scratch, working as a missionary in Germany and spreading out to Europe and later on to overseas countries. Our product „Fleckvieh, the universal breed“ is not a solution for everything and everybody, but it is the best chance to improve economics in a very short time and we know „time is money“.

We get now very positive response from Holstein- and Jersey farmers respectively, which transformed their herds during the past 10 years. They have realized that saving money with additional income from the same cow is a crucial tool to survive in the dairy industry. Farming with dairy cows is like a mosaic – many parts build up the whole picture. Savings from less cost for your vet, better somatic cell counts, less mastitis, easier drying off, better milk quality, less stillbirths and less lost calves but higher income from slaughter cows, better milk quality, sold bull calves for feedlots – all parts add up to make the difference.

Our philosophy is based on „real efficiency“ – our breeding is trying to improve the herds from generation to generation. We do believe in figures and papers after the proof is done, but we never believe in breeding values which promise you the heaven on earth just on a genomic basis. Gamblers work with farmer’s money – sometimes we are frustrated to see how many gamblers are in the rural communities and how easy farmers splash out for a piece of paper.

We are very excited on the other hand with the beef industry. More and more of our clients want to see the „milking potential“ of their beef cows, in other words, asking for the milk performance of our beef bulls. Keep always in mind when you talk about daily gain and beef production: 10 liters of milk = 1 kg of daily gain at the mothers.

Hope you enjoy our new Fleckvieh-World!

You are always welcome to contact us and we would like to invite you to our Facebook account – Bayern-Genetik Deutschland – every second day you get an update of our/your activities. Please help us, to make the world more Fleckvieh!

Yours sincerely

Dr. Thomas Grupp
CEO
The potential of using a dual-purpose breed in a crossbreeding programme on Holstein and Jersey cows

C.J.C. Muller und J.A. Botha, Western Cape Dept. of Agriculture, Research and Technology Development Services. Directorate: Animal Sciences, Private Bag X1, Elsenburg 7607 South Africa
Corresponding author: carelm@elsenburg.com and koosb@elsenburg.com

Breeding and selection programmes in dairy herds in South Africa focused mainly on the improvement of milk yield and conformation traits. Increasingly is being found that the fertility of dairy cows is declining. In South African Holsteins, calving interval (CI) increased from 386 days in 1986 to 412 days in 2004 (Makgahlela, et al., 2008). While the reproductive performance of dairy cows affects herd profitability, little emphasis is being put on the genetic improvement of fertility. At best, non-pregnant cows are culled because of repeated reproductive failure episodes, hormonal treatment and natural service. Because of increasingly poor reproductive performance in dairy herds, farmers are considering crossbreeding to overcome this, reasoning that fertility traits are lowly heritable and should benefit from heterosis.

Traditional crossbreeding comprises using J-sires on H-cows or vice versa. The reason for using J-sires on H-cows is to reduce body size and live weight and is popular in pasture-based systems. This may result in lower milk yield levels while increasing milk fat and protein percentages. However, using J-sire on H-cows reduces beef income from the dairy herd. Although the beef production from dairy herds is not always regarded as important, in some countries this comprises 20 to 50 % of the national beef supply. The Fleckvieh breed is a Simmental derived dual-purpose breed from Germany with medium to high milk yield levels, relative high milk com-
Fleckvieh crossbreeding research

Components and a high beef potential in comparison to J and H cows. Some studies in the USA have shown the advantages of the Montbéliard, a Simmental derived breed from France, over Holsteins. Dual-purpose breeds are used mostly in Europe. Except for farmers’ observations based on a few records, little scientific information is available in South Africa on the effects of using a dual-purpose breed like the Fleckvieh on Holstein and Jersey cows. The aim of the study was to compare the production performance of J- and H-cows to F × J and F × H-cows in a pasture-based and intensive feeding system.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted at the Elsenburg Research Farm of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture. Elsenburg is situated approximately 50 km east of Cape Town at an altitude of 177 m, longitude 18° 50' and latitude 33° 51' in the winter rainfall region of South Africa. The area has a typical Mediterranean climate with short, cool, wet winters and long, warm, dry summers with an average annual rainfall of 650 mm. Milk production data of J- and F × J-cows in a pasture-based feeding system and H- and F × H-cows in a zero-grazing system were collected over six years between 2008 and 2013. The pasture-based system consisted of kikuyu pasture supplemented with a standard commercial concentrate mixture being fed twice a day after milking at 7 kg per day. A pasture-replacement mixture consisting of oat and lucerne hay and a high protein source like cottonseed meal was provided as additional roughage during winter when pasture availability was low. The intensive system comprised feeding a total mixed ration (TMR) to H- and F × H-cows in an open camp system. The TMR providing 17 % CP and 11 MJ ME/kg DM was fed twice a day in feed troughs at levels regarded as ad libitum. Fresh drinking water was freely available at all times. Cows were machine-milked twice a day in a milking parlour about 500 m from the dry lot. The milk yield of cows at the evening and following morning’s milking was recorded approximately every 35 days during the lactation period. Milk samples were collected at both milking sessions and combined for analysis for fat, protein and lactose content at the milk testing laboratory of the National Milk Recording Scheme. The milk, fat and protein production was adjusted to 305 days per lactation. Bull calves born within each system were reared similarly in two ways, i.e. (1) intensively for veal production (marketing age at a live weight of 200 kg) and (2) as steers up to marketing at 21 and 18 months of age for J and F × J and H and F × H steers, respectively. Cows were inseminated from 60 days in milk and reproductive performance of each cow recorded. Heifers were put in a service group from 13 months of age and inseminated when observed in heat. Insemination dates of all heifers and cows were recorded as per usual for a dairy herd. From these dates, a number of fertility parameters were derived. All crossbred cows (+ 50 % Fleckvieh) were grouped together and compared to J and H cows. Some studies in the USA have shown the advantages of the Montbéliard, a Simmental derived breed from France, over Holsteins. Dual-purpose breeds are used mostly in Europe. Except for farmers’ observations based on a few records, little scientific information is available in South Africa on the effects of using a dual-purpose breed like the Fleckvieh on Holstein and Jersey cows. The aim of the study was to compare the production performance of J- and H-cows to F × J and F × H-cows in a pasture-based and intensive feeding system.

Results and Discussion

Because of limited space, only selected results will be reported in this paper. Milk production parameters for J and F × J-cows in the pasture-based system differed (P < 0.05), being higher for F × J-cows (Table 1) with the fat and protein percentage of F × J-cows lower (P > 0.05) than that of J-cows (Goni et al., 2013).
Table 2:

The mean ± se growth performances of Jersey (J) and Fleckvieh x Jersey (F×J) bull calves reared intensively for veal and in a partially pasture based feeding system for beef production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Veal production system</th>
<th>Beef production system</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>J</td>
<td>F×J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of records</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth weight (kg)</td>
<td>27.5 ± 1.2</td>
<td>31.9 ± 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End live weight (kg)</td>
<td>193.6 ± 2.0</td>
<td>194.4 ± 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing age (m)</td>
<td>7.27 ± 0.12</td>
<td>6.21 ± 0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average daily gain (kg)</td>
<td>0.754 ± 0.013</td>
<td>0.865 ± 0.017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot carcass weight (kg)</td>
<td>93.2 ± 1.8</td>
<td>97.9 ± 1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dressing-out (%)</td>
<td>0.48 ± 0.01</td>
<td>0.50 ± 0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* * * Values with different superscripts within production system differ at P < 0.05

For cows in the zero-grazing system opposite results were obtained, i.e. while milk, fat and protein yields did not differ (P > 0.005) fat and protein percentages differed (P < 0.005) between H and F×H-cows (Metaxas et al., 2014).

Data analysed for the J and F×J trial showed that production year affected (P < 0.01) the milk yield of cows. The variation in milk yield from one year to the other could be attributed to changes in herd size, age of animals and management practices differing between years. The effect of cows’ ages on milk production has been reported in literature (Atil et al., 2001 and Mostert et al., 2001). As cows get older, the numbers of alveoli in the mammary gland increases, accounting for the increase in milk yield in older cows. Therefore, the production performance of a herd can be improved by decreasing and increasing the proportion of younger and older cows in the herd. Parity affected (P < 0.05) the production performance of breeds differently. Lactation milk yield for J-cows peaked in the third lactation (5674 ± 133 kg) while milk yield continued to increase beyond the fourth parity in the F×J-cows reaching more than 7000 kg in fifth lactation. Similar trends were also observed in fat and protein yields with F×J-cows performing better than the Jersey cows. Crossbred F×J-cows generally reached higher (P < 0.01) levels of milk, fat and protein yields compared to pure Jersey breed, which is consistent with earlier findings (Bryant et al., 2007 and Heins, 2007).

The birth weight of J- and F×J-bull calves reared for either veal or beef differed (P < 0.01) (Table 2). Fleckvieh × Jersey bull calves had a higher (P < 0.01) average daily gain (ADG) thus reaching the required live weight for marketing as veal earlier (P < 0.01) than J-bull calves at 7.3 ± 0.1 and 6.2 ± 0.1 months of age respectively (Muller et al., 2013).

The end live weight of F×J-steers at 21 months of age was 34% higher (P < 0.01) in comparison to J-steers. For both veal and beef production systems, the higher live weight of F×J-calves and steers at specific ages is due to a higher (P < 0.01) ADG in comparison to J-calves. Early work by Naude & Armstrong...

Figure 1:

The live weight of Jersey (J) and Fleckvieh x Jersey (FxJ) bull calves reared as (a) veal and (b) beef to 21 months of age
Fleckvieh crossbreeding research

(1967) in South Africa, also found low growth rates and efficiency of gain for purebred Jersey steers in comparison to beef-Jersey crossbred steers. The weight gain of J-bulls was improved by 39% by crossbreeding with Simmental bulls. Morgan et al. (1969) and Barton et al. (1994) also found that the disadvantages of pure J-cattle are greatly reduced by crossbreeding with beef breeds.

Although the absolute birth weight of FxH-bull calves was higher than that of H-bull calves, breeds did not differ (P > 0.05) for ADG and age at marketing for veal and live weight at 18 months of age (Metaxas, et al., 2013). This demonstrated the value of the Holstein breed as a dual-purpose breed as originally used in Europe and the United Kingdom. The mean ± SD live weight of FxH and H steers at 18 months of age was 465 ± 75 and 441 ± 59 kg respectively. Results indicate that further studies are required to determine the optimal feeding programme to utilize the growth potential of crossbred bull calves, marketing age and its effect on beef quality characteristics.

For the H vs. FxH trial, age at first service was earlier (P < 0.05) for FxH-heifers in comparison to H-heifers with a larger proportion of heifers serviced by 14 months of age (Table 3). The interval from calving to first service was also earlier (P < 0.05) for FxH-cows in comparison to H-cows with a larger proportion of cows inseminated within 80 days post partum and more FxH-cows confirmed pregnant by 100 days-in-milk. With regards to the reproductive performance of J and FxJ-heifers and cows, age at first insemination and conception age for heifers did not differ (P > 0.05) between

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Heifers</th>
<th></th>
<th>Cows</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H</td>
<td>FxH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of records</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>Number of records</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age first service (m)</td>
<td>16.0± 2.1</td>
<td>15.3± 1.8</td>
<td>Lactation number</td>
<td>1.83± 0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First service &lt;14 m</td>
<td>0.14a</td>
<td>0.26b</td>
<td>Interval CFS (days)</td>
<td>91± 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First service &lt;17 m</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>First service &lt;80 DIM</td>
<td>0.41a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services per conception</td>
<td>1.86± 1.21</td>
<td>2.33± 1.45</td>
<td>Services/conception</td>
<td>2.33± 1.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant first service</td>
<td>0.56a</td>
<td>0.35b</td>
<td>Pregnant first service</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conception age (m)</td>
<td>17.2± 2.4</td>
<td>17.1± 2.3</td>
<td>Interval DO (days)</td>
<td>149± 72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant &lt;14m</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>Pregnant &lt;100 DIM</td>
<td>0.29a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at first calving (m)</td>
<td>26.4± 2.4</td>
<td>26.3± 2.3</td>
<td>Pregnant &lt;200 DIM</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a, b Values with different superscripts within heifer and cow groups differ at P < 0.10.
breeds resulting in a similar age at first calving (Goni, 2013). However, the interval from calving to first service was shorter for FxJ-cows, i.e. 76.7 ± 2.2 days compared to 82.4 ± 2.5 days for J-cows. As a larger proportion of FxJ-cows was inseminated within 80 days post calving compared to Jersey cows (0.70 and 0.54, respectively), the proportion of cows confirmed pregnant by 100 days in milk was higher for FxJ-cows vs. J-cows, being 0.79 and 0.66 respectively. Generally over both studies and breeds inseminator proficiency was poor at 0.45 which could have affected the final conception results. Haile-Mariam et al. (2004) reported services per conception of 1.84 for Holstein cows in Australia which converts to an insemination efficiency of 0.54.

The dairy industry is dominated by purebred breeds. Crossbreeding is becoming a way to reduce inbreeding and to improve health, fertility and survival in dairy cows. This is because differences between breeds are much greater than the differences within the breed. Extra benefits can be achieved from heterosis (Caraviello, 2004). In some countries crossbreeding in dairy cattle is regarded as contentious as breed societies regard it as a poor way to overcome breeding and/or management problems. In South Africa the J-breed is becoming increasingly more popular, especially for pasture-based dairy farming systems. It is also used in crossbreeding programmes on Holstein cows. However, the breed’s beef potential is low because of poor growth rates in surplus bull calves and low live weights in culled cows. Generally, in herds with a limited capacity to expand cow numbers, a beef breed is often included in the breeding programme. In this way surplus heifers with a low sale value are replaced by potentially high income beef x dairy heifer and bull calves. This option is, however, only possible when the cow culling rate in the herd is low requiring a low replacement rate. Although this practice is well established in countries like Ireland to supply beef into the European market with a base population of mostly H-cows, for J-herds further research is required to determine the best beef breeds suitable to be used on J-cows. Earlier work by Morris et al. (1992) showed that in New Zealand beef production from Friesian cows can be increased through higher meat yields and dressing-out percentages by using suitable beef breeds, i.e. Piedmont and Belgian Blue sires. Arpacik et al. (1993) showed the potential of J-cows in crossbreeding programmes delivering progeny from Belgian Blue and Chianina sires. Birth weights of calves from these sires were on average 34.7 and 35.0 kg respectively with no dystocia in either group of cows. The growth rate of crossbred steers was higher (P < 0.05) than that of purebred Jerseys bulls. An alternative option would be to use a dual-purpose breed like Fleckvieh or Montbéliard in a crossbreeding programme as this gives the option of utilizing heterosis with regards to milk yield and fertility. However, the financial implications of crossbreeding for dairy farmers should be investigated.

**Conclusion**

Crossbreeding J-cows with Fleckvieh sires resulted in higher milk, fat and protein production in FxJ-cows. Beef production of FxJ-steers was 34% higher than...
J-steers. Marketing age of F x J-veal calves was earlier. Some reproduction traits in F x J-heifers and cows were improved by crossbreeding. Smaller differences in production parameters were observed between F x H and H with only milk composition differing significantly being higher for F x H-cows. Although absolute values for some reproduction traits favoured F x H-cows, differences were not always significant possibly indicating other factors affecting results and the need for more research. While production results in these studies were generally positive, the economic return of crossbreeding would guide breeding objectives.

Acknowledgement:
The authors are grateful for the financial support of BAYERN-GENETIK GmbH over the study period. The support of Mr Thys Swart, South African representative of BAYERN-GENETIK GmbH is also gratefully acknowledged.
Bavarian Fleckvieh in Organic Production Systems in North America

John Popp, Ph.D., Big Bear Genetics, Bavarian Fleckvieh
Dan Leiterman, President/C.E.O. Crystal Creek Natural

The introduction of breeds for crossing on commercial dairies in the United States has become more common over the course of the past 15 years. Choices are on moving toward a single breed and exploiting the merits of 2, 3 or 4 breed crossing systems. There is little argument that the dual-purpose breed – Fleckvieh brings strength into a production system. Other benefits are growth rate of calves, overall health, fitness, reproduction and udder health.

Organic producers embrace Fleckvieh for these reasons. Beyond that we receive a very high number of requests for A2 sires. As a breed Fleckvieh has high percentage of animals that fall within this category. Milk quality is also improved due to the breeds’ propensity to have more Omega 3 fatty acids. Organic production systems emphasize reliance on conserved forages and grazing and in some instances no grain intake. To keep this system functioning, cows have to be able to succumb to periodic energy deficits and be able to convert forage to milk and meat. Muscle can act as an energy storage organ for cows in that it contains glycogen. This glycogen is a sugar reserve that can help cows deal with periods of energy deficiency or stress. The conversion of feed to muscle is more efficient than conversion to fatty acids.

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Fleckvieh crossing in organic production

2) ability to convert a high forage diet to milk while being able to maintain condition and overcome energy deficits
3) improvement in feet and legs
4) low somatic cell count
5) added value from beef revenue
6) milk quality – lower somatic cell count
7) fertility and rebreeding interval

Culver Organic Farm converted to Fleckvieh

The Fleckvieh dairy breed is gaining strong appeal with a wide range of North American dairy producers. One such dairy producer is an organic dairy operation, the

Here are some farm statistics on the Culver Family Farm

Free Stall Barn:
Lactating Cows: 234
Young Stock: 225 head
Breed: 70 % Fleckvieh and 30 % Holstein
Breed Goals: To achieve 100% Fleckvieh status

Production:
Bulk Tank Average: 65 lbs. *
BFT: Current Average 4.11 % *
Protein: Current Average 3.37 % *
305 ME: 18,593 lbs.
Fat 745 lbs.
Protein 610
DIM: 168 days
MUN: 10.4
Lactation Cow Age: 52.9 months
SCC Average: 125,000
Calving Interval: 12.5 months
Conception (preg. check): 77.35 %

* The Culver dairy herd is recovering from a significant mycotoxin challenge. Earlier in the year the test day results for BFT was 4.56 % and the protein was 3.6 %.

So in the life of an organic farmer the things that count the most when using Bavarian Fleckvieh are:
1) better health and growth rate of calves

Culver Family Farm in Bloomer, Wisconsin nestled in the beautiful agricultural country of northwest Wisconsin. The Culver Farm is a century farm established in 1896. Chris and Linda Culver have recently passed the torch to the

Wonderful “cow life” on the Culver Farm. Photo: Hobien
next generation, their son Scott and his wife Kristi. Scott and Kristi have 5 children and have grown the farm from 115 to 234 lactating cows. The Culvers own 600 tillable acres and rents another 440 acres.

Ration

The Culver dairy herd works with the Crystal Creek® nutrition company and feeds a ration that emphasizes higher forage levels. In the winter they feed haylage, high moisture shell corn, Crystal Creek Dairy Mineral, and on rare occasions a little roasted soybeans if needed. In summer the cows are put on pasture to off-set some of the haylage intake.

Observations about Fleckvieh

The Culvers have come to really appreciate the many benefits of the Fleckvieh breed and are working towards having a full barn of purebred Fleckvieh milk cows. On all levels the Fleckvieh breed has out-performed the Holsteins in the herd. The production is as good or better than the Holsteins, with higher components. The Fleckvieh’s durability (especially in hot weather), reduced metabolic challenges at freshening and ease of calving have been impressive. The Fleckvieh cows also tend to breed back faster which helps to keep the calving interval short. The Fleckvieh cows are very good grazers, yet handle the barn setting just fine. Bull calves bring excellent premiums at the sale barn and the Fleckvieh cull cows will bring top dollar as well. The Culver’s love the breeds’ temperament and the Fleckvieh cows are a noticeably more profitable breed to have on the farm. Scott and Kristi really enjoy showing visitors their Fleckvieh cows and young stock and have become strong advocates for the breed. Like Scott says, „The biggest mistake I made was not going to the Fleckvieh breed sooner.” He recommends to other farmers, „don’t make the same mistake, get Fleckvieh into your breeding program today.”
Waldhoer – unique in every way

♦ John Popp, Ph.D. – Big Bear Genetics

Waldbrand was a bull that was very sought after for first time breeding. Out of a tremendous dam and the sire Winnipeg, he was a great success story. There is a saying that sometimes a great or famous person can steal all the „thunder“ or a „attention“.

At the time, Winnipeg had sired a lot of bulls including Waldhoer. Waldhoer had impressive numbers for calving ease (130), fitness (132) and productive life (122) he was sure to do some great things. Walhoer is a son of Sonja (a daughter of Ralpon) that had 12 calves with a high production in her third lactation of 11811 kg – 3.56 F, 3.41 P (26015 lbs).

Albeit, within the Fleckvieh breed the straighter leg set on daughters could be of concern, it made him almost a perfect candidate for crossbreeding. The need for a bull with guaranteed results for easy calving and having the ability to correct cows with sickled legs and weaker heels made him an appealing choice. So what was the outcome? We have now marketed Waldhoer for close to seven years.

Not often can I say results speak for themselves. We introduced Bavarian Fleckvieh to North America in the late 1990’s and in that time we have seen a lot of sires come and go. Standouts have been Enrico, Hippo, Round Up and Rurex to name a few.

Right now, without question, Waldhoer will join the group of the most remembered. His results have and will continue to be exceptional. Waldhoer calves are born easily no matter which dairy breed he is crossed to. Waldhoer daughters grow up to be feminine first lactation cows with ample milk production, good fertility and udders that are trouble free. Coming into second lactation, the cows start to develop increased musculaity. This is crucial to the philosophy of Bayern Genetik to make high productive life cows. Daughters from this great bull are now in many different production systems in Canada and the United States. Free stall barns in Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota….daughters are the same type and style and do well. Grass based dairies…same story.

Open drylot farms in California, Colorado, Idaho…. same story. Waldhoer makes his daughters like ‘peas in a pod’.

The following farms shared results of some daughters:

**Eastview Farm, Michigan**

*B2306 dry/fresh at 23 months 305 milk 28552 lbs 1007 lbs Fat, 890 lbs Protein, average cell count 66000*
Waldoer-daughters in crossbreeding

### #2394
3rd fresh at 21 months & 34 months & 2 year - 10 months, 305 days 25'964 lbs, 953 lbs Fat, 853 lbs Protein, cell count 66000 2nd lactation on pace for 31'200 lbs 1200 lbs Fat, 1000 lbs Protein

### #1999 (Jersey cross)
2nd lactation fresh at 33 months 305 days 26'348 lbs, 1185 lbs Fat, 798 lbs Protein, average cell count 90'000

### #2112
3rd fresh at 20 months & 33 months & 45 months 305 days 26'800 lbs, 1011 lbs Fat, 888 lbs Protein, 2nd lactation 32'410 lbs, 1141 lbs Fat, 1113 lbs Protein, average cell count 15'000 SCC

### #2951
dry/fresh at 22 months 305 days 26670 lbs, 1095 lbs Fat, 878 lbs Protein, average cell count 107'000

### Schleiss Farms in Kewaunee, Wisconsin:

#### #1856
2nd lactation fresh at 33 months

#### #1856 (Jersey cross)
2nd lactation dry 305 days 21'726 lbs, 879 lbs Fat, 701 lbs Protein, average cell count 25’000

#### #2025 (Jersey cross)
1st lactation (dry) fresh at 23 months 305 days 21'685 lbs, 907 lbs Fat, 701 lbs Protein, average cell count 25’000

### Table 1:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ID</th>
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<th>305d milk (lbs)</th>
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<th>Protein (%)</th>
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<td>145 days 120 lbs (peak)</td>
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Photos: Popp
Fleckvieh in Slovakia

Selection for solids is bearing fruits

♦ Ing. Ivan Típáč, executive director MKM-STRED, spol. s.r.o.
Ing. Vladimír Varchola, BAYERN-GENETIK

Farma MKM - STRED spol. S.r.o., located in the village of Druzstevna pri Hornade, is a member of EXATA and has been a long time leader in livestock breeding, not only in eastern Slovakia, but for the whole country. In the evaluation of „Top Farms Slovakia“ they have repeatedly finished within the top positions. In 2015 they received a beautiful 6th place among the 150 best Fleckvieh-Herds in Slovakia.

Farm history began in May 1999, when the management of the newly established company MKM-Stred purchased 217 dairy cows from the original agricultural cooperative. The average milk performance of the cows at that time hardly reached 4009 kg in 305 days. Since June 2015 the company has the possibility to use another farmstead, farm Kosicka Polianka, which, according to the plans of management, will be used for rearing heifers.

Basic figures about the farm: The total area of agricultural land is 1450 ha, thereof 960 ha are arable land and the rest includes permanent grassland area, meadows and pastures.

They manage a cattle herd of 860 animals, with 400 dairy cows. Only the purebred Fleckvieh are considered as Fleckvieh cows, therefore only 250 cows are registered at the Slovak Simmental Association herd book, the rest are Montbeliard crossbreds. The Montbeliard were used a couple of years ago to breed the Holstein x Fleckvieh crossbreds F1 and F2 generation in a 3-way cross.

The main focus of the farm is milk production. Ing. Ivan Típáč, executive director of the company, is responsible for the selection and breeding work. Together with his farm managers he is trying to keep an individual approach to every single cow.

He knows who is the sire and dam of almost every older cow on the farm. Thanks to this approach, many cows that would be slaughtered after the 1st lactation on other farms, get a chance to have another calf and show their genetic potential during the 2nd lactation. It is therefore no coincidence that the cows are reaching an average age of 4.98 years and an average lifetime production of 26,000 kg of milk.

The feeding ration for heifers is strictly regulated. By the age of 12 months, the heifers are fed intensively, focusing on rumen development a home-produced starter is added to the ration. Starting at 13 months of age, heifers do not receive any concentrates. During the summer season, roughly from mid-May to mid-October, the heifers are on pastures and they are trying to breed them in order to calve at an age of 28-29 months.

MKM-Stred farm is one of few companies, where management plans to increase...
the herd size to 500 cows, despite the unfavorable situation on the dairy market. The farm has a long-term cooperation with the milk processing plant in Bel Michalovce, which is specialized in cheese production (Baby Bel, Karicka-brick). During this long-term cooperation the milk plant Bel in Michalovce decided to change the payment to a new pricing system based on milk components. This motivated MKM-Stred to continue intensive selection on milk ingredients, especially the increase in the percentage of protein. The herd reaches a high proportion of fat and protein (4.0% fat, 3.6% protein), which has a direct impact on the milk price for the farmer comparing to the surrounding suppliers. This price is the result of superior quality of raw milk supplied to Bel, with the total amount of bacteria not over 16,000 and somatic cell count not higher than 250,000.

The company delivers 2.625 Mio. kg of milk annually, of which 135,000 kg are sold from a mobile shop named „Farmers milk“. In addition to revenues from the milk sale, the farm obtains extra profit from the sale of breeding bulls. In 2015, they sold 16 bulls for natural mating units and 2 bulls were sold to A.I. stations. Another source of income is the sale of pregnant heifers for export. In 2014, MKM-Stred was evaluated as the largest producer of breeding bulls in Slovakia. When selecting the bulls for mating MKM-Stred is trying to invest in TOP sires, while they are focused on milk ingredients, longevity, easy calving and functional type (F&L, Udders). Years ago they were one of the first farms that started to use the legendary bull BFG SAMURAI. Throughout the whole period they used over 1,000 doses of this unique bull.

As mentioned earlier, the purebred herd is mated exclusively with pure TOP Fleckvieh bulls, while the F1 and F2 generation (FL x HF) are bred to Montbeliard to make use of higher heterosis.

Utilization of arable land for crop rotation is as follows: 300 ha winter wheat 300 ha corn for silage 100 ha beans 120 ha alfalfa, clover the remaining 140 ha are seeded with sunflower, flax and sorghum.

All cows in the production section receive the same feeding ration, consisting of corn silage (11 kg), sorghum silage (11 kg), alfalfa or clover silage (12 kg), grass hay 2 kg, 5 kg of sugar beet pulp, and 9 kg of concentrate (malt flower, rapeseed meal, wheat meal, corn, beans, premix).

Heifers are on the pastures from mid may till mid of October.

Photo: Varchola
Mobile milk shop. 135,000 kg milk are sold from this mobile shop as „Farmer’s Milk“.

Mr. Tírpák, executive director of MKM-Stred Farms, loves his job.

such as soybean meal and cottonseeds are replaced by products from our own production such as legumes and high quality forage. “When we asked, what troubles him the most on the situation of livestock farming in Slovakia he said: „We are missing more and more relationship to animals, this feature is disappearing from farming today. Some farms with a high concentration of animals are often unable to keep individual access. For the management of these farms, animals are only a means of production that brings money. Daily milk production is elevated above the needs of the cow. It is therefore no coincidence that on these type of farms, the cows are leaving the herd and go to the slaughterhouse after first lactation, there is a high culling rate in these herds. When you realize, how much money is invested to grow a pregnant heifer, we can only wonder, how particularly on these farms economic milk production is possible.”

Dairy farms like MKM-Stred, where the cow is considered not only as a means of production, but as a living organism that is given daily attention, are outstanding examples of sustainable livestock production.

Production barn for 300 dairy cows.
CROATIA – Bayern Genetik distributor- Reprovet, celebrating two years of semen business

Dr. Antonio Orak

In these odd times, which also affect the milk industry with the milk price dropping far below „break even” level, our valuable partner & distributor Veterinarska stanica Krizevci managed to establish their genetic business subsidiary within the last two years and are already well recognized under their brand name „REPROVET.”

A successful establishment within this short time space is only possible by making brave, lucrative and most important responsible steps towards livestock selection, mating and breeding, together with their partners- the Fleckvieh dairy farmers.

As a clinic-company „Veterinarska stanica Krizevci, d.o.o.” now exists for over 60 years and together with their tradition and experience in routine work with large animals, starting the distribution of Fleckvieh semen became the „cherry on the cake.” For all included parties this was a good decision, but particularly for over 1,000 happy dairy breeders, which are served by over 35 veterinarians and technicians from Reprovet. Due to a relatively small investment in their car fleet they are well recognized and in many farmyards welcome.

With reorganization of employee’s scheme, they became No.1 imported semen retailer in Croatia, despite a very strong competition that is mostly in dumping prices and importing doubtful quality genetics!

Very active promotion and presentation on the most important agricultural events in Bjelovarski sajam (Bjelovar fair) at spring and autumn, created a positive breeders opinion about Reprovet. The booth was a place for a beneficial visit with direct and true answers in a relaxed atmosphere escorted by Bavarian specialties!

At many of the „Eastern” states veterinary organizations were traditionally only participating in the technical part of breeding, which is commonly known as A.I. (Artificial Insemination), with semen offered by local mostly governmental owned A.I. stations.

Unfortunately, most of the time, the genetic level of the used bulls were not of the desirable quality and sometimes even with known negative indexes, but at that time not recognized and understood by veterinarians, technicians or farmers!

Bayern Genetik as a provider for semen can be proud to look back, as with its first approach to the Croatian market, more than 7 years
ago they have made a drastic change in genetic standards by offering well proven and known bulls like Mandela, Manitoba, Ilion, Hippo, Round Up, Waterberg, Resolut, etc. Many of the Bayern Genetik bulls have created some unique progeny, which were successful at many local exhibitions and shows. Nowadays, as every cent counts on the farm, Reprovet’s team of experts advice their clients to carefully select bulls according to the current market situation.

Bulls with strong beef index are used even in purebred Fleckvieh populations and while talking on crossbreeding, there is left hardly any pure breed HF cows in the region of north east of Croatia! Reprovet’s team supports us with the organization of trainings and education workshops for young „starting“ vet-colleagues, as well as providing technical service to farmers in fertility issues! After more than 60 years of general veterinary business, 2 years in bovine semen distribution, are long enough that Reprovet’s management recognizes other opportunities with Bayern Genetik.

Recent projects of Reprovet and Bayern Genetik in Croatia are soy silage with low anti-nutritional factors, genetic testing for a2 and last but not least the start of a boar A.I. semen station, which is in big demand locally, due to specific farmers needs!

We can be very happy and pleased that the excellent partnership continues with Reprovet, whose example can be a guideline for all other potential partners of Bayern Genetik, from all over the world.

On this occasion, from a small paradise - Croatia, I’m happy to invite You, with no exceptions in which part of the world You are reading this article, to join us in Universal breeding. We promise, that with the team of Bayern Genetik you will be more than just a business partner! Feel free to contact Reprovet’s team for testimony.
Farmreport Aukes Family in France

♦ Stef Beunk, BAYERN-GENETIK Benelux

„We are currently in the phase of increasing our farm, the herd size as well as the milk production. The cows on the farm are getting older and the conditions on our farm are better due to our new free-stall barn. At the moment the cows produce 30 kg milk per cow and day with 21 kg concentrate per 100 liter milk. We are working on converting our herd to 100 % Fleckvieh as fast as possible. Especially in this period of bad milk prices, the Fleckvieh helps us to keep the costs low and have an extra income by selling beef. But the most important of all is the pleasure we get working with Fleckvieh“.
### Table 1:
**Technical and economical figures based on data from 2006 and 2015**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>situation 2006</th>
<th>situation 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cows in production</td>
<td>60 cows</td>
<td>82 cows</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Lactations</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>3.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milk yield</td>
<td>9,799 kg milk, 4.20 % fat and 3.38 % protein</td>
<td>8,630 kg milk, 4.51 % fat and 3.50 % protein</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somatic cell count</td>
<td>90 % lower than 300,000</td>
<td>90 % lower than 89,000</td>
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<td>Discount on milk price</td>
<td>Britannia punishment discount: 4.2 € per 1,000 kg milk</td>
<td>No punishment discount</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calving interval:</td>
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<td>Percentage death birth</td>
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<td>Insemination number</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pregnancy rate after 1st insemination</td>
<td>34 %</td>
<td>61 %</td>
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<td>Veterinary costs:</td>
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<td>0.08 Ct/liter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income slaughter cows and bull calves:</td>
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<td>Age at 1st calving:</td>
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<td>Percentage calving without assistance:</td>
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<td>96 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average price bull calves:</td>
<td>Brittany 138 €</td>
<td>Aukes 284 €</td>
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<td>Average price breeding cattle:</td>
<td>Brittany 753 €</td>
<td>Aukes 1220 €</td>
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*Fleckvieh x Holstein cows grazing at the Aukes Farm. Photo: Beunk*  
*Fleckvieh takes over the barn. Photo: Beunk*
How to have fun farming and earn money

♦ Samuel Palmer

In 1989, the year Samuel Palmer was born, the average size of a UK dairy farm was less than 70 cows. Now, with over 30,000 fewer milk producers, that average is approaching 200 cows. Back then a 2000 cow dairy herd was unimaginable, today they are a reality.

The dairy industry is traveling the same way as most others have already gone. It is becoming polarised. There will be large, super-efficient, well managed operations befitting from economies of scale; selling their huge volumes of milk at prices capable of competing on the international stage. And there will be small innovative and highly focused producers, providing a high quality intimate service within specialist niche markets. Unfortunately the middle-ground businesses, unable to compete on price or service, will become squeezed; eventually being forced to leave the industry. „If one preaches this prognosis, one should practise it.

When no personal desire to be involved with a mega-dairy exists, the only remaining long-term option is to pursue ones aspirations in a niche market. Once that market has been identified, and you are at ease with it becoming - if you are to succeed - your all consuming passion, you have to set about implementing tasks which will achieve your goals.“ „In our case one of the eight key tasks facing our redefined business was “differentiation“. Differentiating our 360,000 litres of milk from the 14,000 million litres currently produced each year in the UK. This is where the Fleckvieh comes in.

Ask anyone on UK in a supermarket, or even at a farmers meeting: „Do you know what a Fleckvieh is?“ and you will, almost certainly, receive a blank stare in reply. Tell them you have dairy Simmentals, you get the same response. But if you tell them: „we milk cows like the one on the “Milka” chocolate wrapper“, their eyes light up! This recognition gave us, in the eyes of our customers, that instant differentiation; enabling us to open the door and get in front of their desk to discuss what we could do to help their business. They liked our proposition and now we are working hard to implement it.

With the help of Hans Holzer of BAYERN-GENETIK, we made our first importation of pure Bavarian Fleckvieh in March 2014. A second consignment of animals arrived two months later. The 56 animals quickly adapted themselves to our very simple system of farming. Grazing starts, weather permitting, in late March or early April. The cows being milked are the first to go outside. Initially just in the day, coming inside at night. Then as the days lengthen and the ground firms up they remain outside during the day and night, coming in twice a day for milking at 6.00 in the morning and 4.00 in the afternoon.
As autumn sets in and it has become dark at 6.00 am the milking herd are brought back inside at night and taken out to grass during the day. Depending upon the amount of rainfall and grass growth they continue to graze outside during the day. As soon as the grass becomes scarce or the pastures start to become sodden with rain, they remain inside until the following spring. Whilst inside, or waiting to be milked, the cows are given free access to high dry matter silage, haylage or hay. The only supplementary feed they receive is in the milking parlour. When a cow will typically receive each milking 1.5 - 2 kg of a mineralised compounded pellet possessing 20 % protein. The farm is divided up into 9 fields, separated by thick hedge rows. The permanent pastures, with some over 300 years old, have evolved to suit the micro-conditions of soil drainage. The numerous species of grass, clover and wild flowers, lend themselves to cutting at differing dates. Irrespective of a fields’ optimum cutting date, silage used to be made across the whole farm in early June by contractors using a forage harvester. It was ensiled in a covered clamp and weighted down by large bales of straw. This has now changed, each field is mown separately using a front mounted mower-conditioner, the grass is then wilted, baled and if the moisture content exceeds 15 % is wrapped in 6 layers of stretch-film. The resulting quality and palatability of the baled silage is much better; also, the risk of secondary fermentation or mycotoxin development on an open and heating up silage face has been eliminated. All milking cows, dry cows and young stock are loose housed in different buildings, on deep straw bedding, applied fresh every day.

“Despite warnings from our veterinary that this system will cause high Somatic Cell Counts we have not experienced any such problem. Our SCC is the lowest in our area, with a rolling annual average of below 80,000. Combine this with almost no lameness and a calving index of just 350 days, we must have one of the best health and fertility scores in the UK.”

Such a tight calving index obviously has an adverse effect on lactation yields. However one benefit of the Fleckvieh is the value of its calf. The calves grade well and consequently command a very good price when sold. „Currently a 4 week old purebred Fleckvieh male calf is worth around GBP 300. With a typical farm-gate milk prices of only GBP 0.22 per litre that calf is worth 1350 ltrs of milk. When you factor in the costs of producing milk, the calf is then worth just over 2000 ltrs. And of course there is a better cash flow! For this reason the important criteria to us, when judging a cows’ milking performance is not kg of milk solids per lactation, but kg of milk solids per annum.”

Heifer calves retained for breeding are weaned at around 7-8 weeks of age. During the period they are receiving milk they are kept in small groups of up to 5 calves. Bedded on fresh straw, they are given free access to good quality hay and a blend of rolled cereal, minerals and molasses. Once they are routinely eating their blend, a specially formulated heifer rearing nut is added to their diet. When weaned the calves are put into a slightly larger group of up to 10 animals. Then, as growth rate dictates, into a larger group, where they remain until calving down.

„At the outset our 10 year objective was to create a closed, high health status herd of 60 long lived, fit, healthy and happy milking cows, producing 7500 litres per annum with 3 % casein in a total solids of 12.8 %. This must be achieved off grass, supplemented by no more than 1000 kg per cow of purchased feed. Only 2 years in to our 10 plan we already have 20 very promising heifers waiting to calve, an annual average of just under 6000 kg of milk with 3.7 % protein. So I think it safe to say: so far we are very happy with our choice of Bavarian Fleckvieh!”
Future is Fleckvieh in Northern Ireland

♦ John Stewart, North Antrim milk producer

University graduate John Stewart farms in partnership with his parents Iain and Sylvia, and Brother Samuel. They farm 250 acres near Ballymoney in Antrim County, Northern Ireland. They own 130 dairy cows and have become more and more confident in the Fleckvieh breed during the past seven years. Their herd currently is 65% Fleckvieh and they are working towards a full 100%.

Necessary Change

Seven years ago, we realised that in order to maintain an efficient and problem-free herd, change was required. The Holstein cows were no longer cost efficient and were becoming increasingly hard to manage. We wanted a working cow with a long life span, one that would hold value at the end of its working life. We did some research and one newspaper article on Fleckvieh cows caught our eye. We contacted David Hazelton from Bavarian Genetics and started buying Fleckvieh semen and have been breeding Fleckvieh ever since.

Problem solving with Fleckvieh

We were immediately impressed at the value of the Fleckvieh bull calves, worth in excess of £200. In the past, we would have finished our male calves as bull beef and had no problems meeting specification levels. However, with the ever-changing beef market we now castrate our male cal-

Ilan and John Stewart with David Hazelton on the pasture checking on the crossbred Fleckvieh cows. Photo: Hazelton
Fleckvieh in Northern Ireland

Fleckvieh bull calves are highly sought after throughout Northern Ireland. We were also impressed with the Fleckvieh cow, discovering that, on average, fat cow value has tripled and values are continuing to increase as the years go by. Replacing our Holsteins with Fleckvieh has also helped reduce replacement costs for the herd. The lower replacement rates are an important factor as cows have a longer working life span. We would hope in the future to sell replacements or put a beef bull to the cows. Another benefit is that our veterinary costs have fallen to £40 per cow on the current herd average. This has nearly halved from seven years ago and it will continue to decrease as more Fleckvieh-cows enter the herd. We have also discovered that somatic cell count levels have fallen, and are currently sitting at around 100. As a result, our herd has very little problems with mastitis. Other health problems like milk fever and displaced stomachs are non-existent.

Further Advantages

With feed being the largest input cost, Fleckvieh cows are only eating two tonnes of concentrate compared to Holstein cows that needed at least three or more tonnes. This is another saving. Another plus is that I think getting cows back in-calf is a lot easier with Fleckvieh than with Holsteins. Average calving interval 7 years ago was over 400 days and was our biggest problem. Now our average calving interval is 380 days and is falling every year. We are aiming to reduce it to 360-370 days. This improvement of fertility levels has all to do with the body condition of cows. When a Fleckvieh cow calves, she loses very little condition, resulting in less health problems and reduced stress. As a result, it is easier to get her back in-calf. All dairy farmers want to increase their milk yield and Fleckvieh can deliver this. As milk yields per cow have increased year on year, less concentrate was fed per cow. Average peak of lactation for heifers is 30 litres with cows averaging 40 litres. More milk is sold to the creamery as less milk is being discarded. Lactation curves in Fleckvieh are not as extreme as in Holstein cows, and both butterfat and protein levels have increased.

Our Farm

We graze cows from April to October depending on weather conditions. The Fleckvieh is a great forager and can deal equally well with indoor or outdoor conditions. Our milking herd is largely made up of Waldbrand, Ilion, Rurex, Rumgo and Willie cows. These bulls have produced great daughters, which are easily managed. Current replacement heifers are bred from bulls including Passion, Wyoming, Reumut and Zauber. These heifers are very strong and they display great dairy traits. We intend to continue to use Reumut and Zauber in the future as well as Ilja, Moritzburg and Walfried. In conclusion, Fleckvieh are performing fantastically well, and the ever-improving performance levels have shown us that change was both beneficial and necessary. These trouble-free efficient cows are extremely successful on our farm. Fleckvieh was a great cross on the Holstein cows and our F2 Fleckvieh cows are continuing to improve their performance. Financially Fleckvieh cows are seven pence per litre more profitable than Holstein cows. Change has certainly paid off for us and the future is most definitely Fleckvieh.
### Fabia
Purebred from Ginter family.

**BFG HAERTSFELD**

**Photo: Menop**

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**98 % Fleckvieh, 2 % Red Holstein**

**Evaluation of the progeny: relative figures for each trait**

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<th>Number of the evaluated animals: 262</th>
<th>64</th>
<th>76</th>
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**Pigmentation Body**
- 36% red
- 25% darkred
- 81% covered
- 19% spotted

**Pigmentation Eyes**
- 36% both eyes
- 15% one eye

**Fitness**
- Calving Ease 100 99%
- Vitality 99

**97% Fleckvieh, 2% Red Holstein**

- Perfection of the progeny: relative figures for each trait

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Number of the evaluated animals: 262</th>
<th>64</th>
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**Persistence**
- Perfect double attitude
- Outcrossed sire

**Ornassi. Purebred/Germany.**

**Photo: Gruber**

**Nanni. Purebred/Germany.**

**Photo: Gruber**

**10/188759**
**Born: 2005/08/11**
**Breeder: Wagner, Weilach**
**S: HULOCK 178434**
**D: HELINE DE 09.34087386**
**DS: LOTARRY 2724000**
**DDS: ROMEN 7553**

**Line: Huch**
Dual purpose sires

10/185090
Born: 2002/01/01
Breeder: Bell, Baiem
S: REGIO 191190
D: KARLA DE 09.30189399
DS: ERFURT 21773
DDS: ZEULOT 7377

- **ILION**
  - Line: Redad
  - 10/185090

**Top exterior**
**Good persistence**
**Attention to delivery**

- **Belinda.** 50% Fleckvieh/50% Holstein/Germany. Photo: KeLeKi

- **Champion cow 2013.** Czech Republic/Purebred. Photo: Basovnik

- **Pia.** Purebred/Italy. Photo: Nolli

**95% Fleckvieh, 5% Red Holstein**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Number of the evaluated animals: 3012</th>
<th>Relative figures for each trait</th>
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<td>51% covered</td>
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<tr>
<td>16% both eyes</td>
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**Evaluation of the progeny**

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<th>Trait</th>
<th>Number of the evaluated animals: 3012</th>
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<td>Udder Purity</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>Added teats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

95% Fleckvieh, 5% Red Holstein
**Dual purpose sires**

**BFG RIJEKA**

*96180.* Purebred/Germany, 3rd lactation 8500 kg milk.

**Top milk production**

**Functional udder**

**Milking speed**

**10/198533**  
**Born:** 2009/01/30  
**Breeder:** Kappelmeir, Maisach  
**S:** RAU 605345  
**D:** LITANI DE 09.35126369  
**DS:** WATERBERG 195500  
**DDS:** HUSALDO 4811

**RIJEKA**  
**Line:** Redad

**Pasture**

**Top Milk Production**

**Functional Udder**

**Milking Speed**

**Progeny Group**

Presented in Osterhofen June 2016.

**Liebe.** Great grandmother of Rijeka in 2014, today she is 21 years old and had her 19th calf in May 2016.
Dual purpose sires

10/179513
Born: 2008/04/19
Breeder: Nickl, Trabitz
S: RALMESBACH PS 169545
D: LAURA DE 09.39531433
DS: MERKUR FH2 184530
DDS: RALLEX 22521

♦ ROSSKUR
10/179513
AMS = PASTURE +

♦ Top milk production
♦ Milking speed
♦ Suitable for heifers

BFG ROSSKUR PS

♦ Lilli. Purebred/Germany.

♦ 651. Purebred/Germany.

♦ Zypresse. Purebred/Germany.

Total Merit Index  103  94%
Milk Index  114  99%
Daughters 147
Milk-kg  6821 +820
Butterfat-% 4.11 -0.12
Butterfat-kg  281 +23
Protein-% 3.37 -0.13
Protein-kg  230 +18
Beef Index  96  99%
Net Gain  97  99%
Dressing Percentage  95  99%
Carcass Conf. Score  95  99%
Fitness  88  91%
Fertility -2%  82  82%
Calving Ease  122  99%  101  98%
Vitality  105  99%
Productive Life  99  84%
Somatic Cell Count  88  97%
Milk Speed  108  98%
Persistence  96  99%
Pigmentation Body  58% red  26% darkred
42% spotted  38% covered
Pigmentation Eyes  19% both eyes  13% one eye

95 % Fleckvieh, 5 % Red Holstein

Evaluation of the progeny relative figures for each trait
Number of the evaluated animals: 112

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Turner Genetic

Zypresse. Purebred/Germany.

Photo: Menop

Photo: Menop

651. Purebred/Germany.

Photo: Menop

95 % Fleckvieh, 5 % Red Holstein
ROUND UP

10/188325
Born: 2002/01/01
Breeder: Aidelsburger, Altmuenster
S: RAUBLING 187141
D: HEIM AT DE 09.34073084
DDS: RENGER 33955

♦ Perfect double attitude
♦ Good persistence
♦ Top calf quality

Buche. Purebred/Germany.

Total Merit Index 107 99%
Milk Index 102 99%
Daughters 9364
Milk-kg 6746 +144
Butterfat-% 4.15 -0.03
Butterfat-kg 280 +3
Protein-% 3.46 -0.03
Protein-kg 234 +3

Beef Index 109 99%
Net Gain 115 99%
Dressing Percentage 113 99%
Carcass Conf. Score 116 99%

Fitness 99 99%
Fertility -1% 101 99%
Calving Ease 101 99% 97 99%
Vitality 69 99%
Productive Life 106 99%
Somatic Cell Count 110 99%
Milking Speed 104 99%
Persistence 89 99%

Pigmentation Body
56% red 22% darkred
39% spotted 34% covered

Pigmentation Eyes
13% both eyes 13% one eye

94 % Fleckvieh, 6 % Red Holstein

Evaluation of the progeny
Number of the evaluated animals: 1608

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Relative figures for each trait</th>
<th>64</th>
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10/188325
Born: 2002/01/01
Breeder: Aidelsburger, Altmuenster
S: RAUBLING 187141
D: HEIM AT DE 09.34073084
DDS: RENGER 33955

Round-Up Line: Redad

Buche. Purebred/Germany.

94 % Fleckvieh, 6 % Red Holstein

Duppy. 75 % Fleckvieh, 25 % Holstein/Netherlands.

Purebred Round-Up-daughters exhibited at the EuroTier 2012, Hannover.

Photo: Menop

Photo: Menop

Photo: Haubner
Dual purpose sires

BFG WALFRIED

10/605904
Born: 2010/10/22
Breeder: Moser, Spittal
S: WAL 605218
D: FLORA AT 432.974.609
DS: MALEFIZ 160055
DDS: REGIO 191190

- **Allroundsire**
- **Suitable for heifers**
- **Persistence**

WALFRIED
Line: Horex

10/605904

**BFG WALFRIED**

Iller. Purebred/Germany.

Photo: Menop

**Walfried calves at a crossbreeding farm.** Photo: Grupp

**100 % Fleckvieh**

**Total Merit Index**

| Body | 105 |
| Muscularity | 108 |
| Feet & Legs | 102 |
| Udder | 107 |

| Cross Height | 107 Small |
| Body Length | 104 Short |
| Hip Width | 94 Narrow |
| Body Depth | 103 Flat |
| Pelvic Angle | 108 Flat |
| Hock Angularity | 90 Posty |
| Hock Development | 95 Well-developed |
| Patasms | 98 Weak |
| Hoot Height | 106 Low |
| Fore Udder Length | 109 Short |
| Rear Udder Length | 118 Short |
| Att. of Fore Udder | 98 Loose |
| Suspensory Ligament | 98 Not marked |
| Udder Height | 102 Low |
| Teat Length | 81 Short |
| Teat Thickness | 91 Thin |
| Teat Placement | 100 Outwards |
| Rear Teat Placement | 101 Outwards |
| Udder Purity | 100 Added teats |

| Fitness | 125 84% |
| Fertility | -1% 114 69% |
| Calving Ease | 117 99% 102 87% |
| Vitality | 102 92% |
| Productive Life | 124 78% |
| Somatic Cell Count | 119 91% |
| Milking Speed | 94 93% |
| Persistence | 127 94% |
| Pigmentation Body | 55% red 31% dark yellow |
| 40% covered 37% spotted |
| Pigmentation Eyes | 15% both eyes 5% one eye |

Evaluation of the progeny relative figures for each trait

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Dual purpose sires

**WALLENSTEIN**

- **Rebe.** Purebred/Germany.
- **Jadika.** Purebred/Germany.
- **Rosi.** Purebred/Germany.

**10/192421**
Born: 2006/03/10
Breeder: Krautenbacher, Waging
S: WAL 605218
D: DAGMAR DE 09.35104574
DS: RANDY 68122
DDS: HORWEIN 21199

- **Suitable for heifers**
- **Super cow family**
- **Sexed semen obtained**

**WALLENSTEIN** Line: Horex 10/192421

**95% Fleckvieh, 5% Red Holstein**

<table>
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<th>Evaluation of the progeny</th>
<th>relative figures for each trait</th>
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- **Fitness**
  - Total Merit Index: 114
  - 98%
  - Milk Index: 107
    - 99%
  - Daughters: 2073
  - Milk-kg: 6765 +736
  - Butterfat-%: 3.91 -0.37
  - Butterfat-kg: 264 +0
  - Protein-%: 3.39 -0.10
  - Protein-kg: 229 +18
  - Beef Index: 106
    - 99%
  - Net Gain: 106
    - 99%
  - Dressing Percentage: 99
    - 99%
  - Carcass Conf. Score: 104
    - 99%

- **Fitness**
  - 106
    - 97%
  - Fertility: ±0%
    - 96
  - Calving Ease: 109
    - 99%
  - Vitality: 109
    - 99%
  - Productive Life: 113
    - 96%
  - Somatic Cell Count: 104
    - 99%
  - Milking Speed: 99
    - 99%
  - Persistence: 101
    - 99%
  - Pigmentation Body
    - 52% red: 26%
    - 26% darkred: 50% spotted: 28% covered
  - Pigmentation Eyes
    - 32% both eyes: 9% one eye

- **95% Fleckvieh, 5% Red Holstein**

- **Bone Muscularity**
  - 113
  - 99%
- **Feet & Legs**
  - 107
  - 99%
- **Body**
  - 102
  - 99%
- **Hoof Angle**
  - 94
  - 99%
- **Hock Angularity**
  - 95
  - 99%
- **Hock Development**
  - 96
  - 99%
- **Pasterns**
  - 106
  - 99%
- **Hind Height**
  - 113
  - 99%
- **Fore Udder Length**
  - 102
  - 99%
- **Rear Udder Length**
  - 101
  - 99%
- **Att. of Fore Udder**
  - 107
  - 99%
- **Suspensory Ligament**
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  - 99%
- **Udder Height**
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  - 99%
- **Teat Length**
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  - 99%
- **Teat Thickness**
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  - 99%
- **Teat Placement**
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  - 99%
- **Rear Teat Placement**
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- **Udder Purity**
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  - 99%

- **Body Depth**
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  - 99%
- **Pelvic Angle**
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  - 99%
- **Hock Angularity**
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  - 99%
- **Hock Development**
  - 96
  - 99%
- **Pasterns**
  - 106
  - 99%
- **Hoof Height**
  - 113
  - 99%
- **Fore Udder Length**
  - 101
  - 99%
- **Rear Udder Length**
  - 102
  - 99%
- **Att. of Fore Udder**
  - 107
  - 99%
- **Suspensory Ligament**
  - 94
  - 99%
- **Udder Height**
  - 100
  - 99%
- **Teat Length**
  - 81
  - 99%
- **Teat Thickness**
  - 108
  - 99%
- **Teat Placement**
  - 96
  - 99%
- **Rear Teat Placement**
  - 107
  - 99%
- **Udder Purity**
  - 105
  - 99%
Dual purpose sires

**WOLGASAND**

10/177286  
Born: 2011/02/01  
Breeder: Weiss, Kirchberg  
S: WONDERFULL 175366  
D: WENUS DE 09.43012913  
DS: RUREX 178755  
DDS: SAFIR 184538

- **Targeted coupling**
- **Top exterior**
- **Perfect double attitude**

**Wolgasand progeny in Osterhofen.**  
Photo: Marconato

**260. Purebred/Germany.**  
Photo: Menop

**Ufo. Miss Osterhofen 2016 from the Birgmeir GbR.**  
Photo: Menop

**WOLGASAND**

10/177286  
AMS = BIO = PASTURE +

**Total Merit Index**  
126  
83%

**Milk Index**  
112  
92%

- **Daughters:** 8
- **Milk-kg:** 6365 +354
- **Butterfat-%:** 3.97 +0.08
- **Butterfat-kg:** 252 +20
- **Protein-%:** 3.58 +0.04
- **Protein-kg:** 228 +15

**Beef Index**  
104  
94%

- **Net Gain:** 104  
- **Dressing Percentage:** 112  
- **Carcass Conf. Score:** 109

**Fitness**  
118  
79%

- **Fertility:** +2%
- **Calving Ease:** 97  
- **Vitality:** 100  
- **Productive Life:** 119  
- **Somatic Cell Count:** 121  
- **Milking Speed:** 96  
- **Persistence:** 107  

**Pigmentation Body**  
33% darkred  
37% red  
54% spotted  
19% covered

**Pigmentation Eyes**  
11% both eyes  
6% one eye

**96 % Fleckvieh, 4 % Red Holstein**

- **Body:** 104  
- **Muscularity:** 113  
- **Feet & Legs:** 113

- **Cross Height:** 102  
- **Hip Width:** 110  
- **Body Depth:** 105  
- **Pelvic Angle:** 104

- **Rear Udder Length:** 112  
- **Att. of Fore Udder:** 116  
- **Suspensory Ligament:** 96  
- **Udder Height:** 100

- **Teat Length:** 97  
- **Teat Thickness:** 95  
- **Teat Placement:** 101  
- **Udder Purity:** 99

**Evaluation of the progeny**  
relative figures for each trait

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**FLECKVIEH WORLD 2016**

33
Dual purpose sires

FLECKVIEH WORLD 2016

BFG ZAUBER

Top milk production
Super fitness
Sexed semen obtained

Barbara. Purebred/Germany. Photo: Menop

Photo: Menop

96% Fleckvieh, 4% Red Holstein

Gracia. Purebred/Germany. Mother of Zauber.

Gitte. Purebred/Germany. Grandmother of Zauber.
II. Conference Fleckvieh-Simmental of the Americas

Dr. Thomas Grupp

The II. Conference Fleckvieh-Simmental of the Americas was held in the tropical part of México from April 28 - May 8, 2016. Villahermosa in the province of Tabasco hosted a big group of Fleckvieh-Simmental and Simbra-breeders from all over the American continent but also from Europe and Australia. About 200 guests attended the educational program with well-known speakers from 5 different countries. The conference and the local exposition of cattle at the Villahermosa show grounds was a smashing success.

The organizing committee with Alberto Banuet at the top did a tremendous job for the growing Fleckvieh and Simbra family. Therefore Alberto got an award from the World Simmental Fleckvieh Federation handed over by Fred Schuetze, well-known pioneer Fleckvieh breeder from Texas/U.S.A. One of the highlights was the invitation to the Governor’s mansion in Villahermosa. Governor Arturo Nunez Jimenez welcomed all delegates, speakers and breeders. He spoke about the high value of the cattle industry for his province Tabasco and encouraged the farmers to invest in the growing demand of milk & beef. The Governor honored some people with the Olmec award.

„Elder Breedman“ Peter Massmann took part at the conference from his home in Bloemfontein/South Africa via Skype. His video presentation was about the selection of cattle on physical traits and how visual inspection could be of value for the cattlemen in his daily decisions. Bruce Holmquist, the General Manager of the Canadian Simmental Association took the chance to reflect about the history of the Simmental breed in North America and the progress during the last 50 years. Dr. Brad Stroud, embryologist from Fort Worth/ Texas made a stunning speech about his research in improving conception rates via artificial insemination. Dr. Wade Shafer, the Vice President of the American Sim-
mental Association reported about the collaboration of 12 progressive US breed associations in order to get the largest beef genetic evaluation system in the world for the benefit of beef producers, which will have a user-friendly tool in the end. Don Fernando Carmine, the President of the Breeders of Bovine Association in Chile, an enthusiastic Fleckvieh breeder, reported about the progress of the breed in milk & beef production in his country. Dr. Thomas Grupp from Germany took the chance to invite the audience for the „Fleckvieh Vision“, a view into the future of our „Universal Breed“, which could bring additional benefits for all parties, the breeders, the associations but especially the growing group of Fleckvieh farmers.

The Conference of the Americas was a great opportunity for all participants to improve their knowledge and they got plenty ideas how to create more economic benefits in the future. Everybody appreciated the efforts of our Mexican friends and their overwhelming hospitality.
The first farm we visited was that of Wirrabilla Fleckvieh, owned by Duncan Makieg and Andrea Strong and managed by Guy and Sylvia Martin. We saw some wonderful cattle here and set the tone for a great trip to come. (Picture 1, 2)

We then travelled to the Baldry Family’s Tennysonvale Simmental-Fleckvieh, as always, wonderful to catch up with them, see their great cattle on display and enjoy their hospitality! (Picture 3, 4)

It was a 42° C day with a hot dry wind; Dr. Grupp commented that he had never experienced such a heat and that it felt like a blast furnace! Off to Russell and Ruth McKelvey’s Koorinook Fleckvieh stud, we had a great welcome here and great cattle as well. (Picture 5, 6)

Venison on the menu! Afterwards we travelled the scenic road to Peter and Rhonda Serpell’s Fleckvieh at the beautiful Kiewa Valley. Beautiful cattle in a beautiful location. (Picture 7, 8)

Mavrock Fleckvieh and the Schembri Family were our hosts for farm 5. As always a wonderful welcome and wonderful cattle. (Picture 9, 10, 11)

Agnes and the family provided with a hearty lunch and included some traditional Maltese dishes! Off to Speed Breed the Embryo transfer and IVF facility of Dr Richard and Kerry Fry. (Picture 12, 13)

Dr Fry was in the process of collecting Fleckvieh embryos for a major breeding project by Gait Co.
We then travelled to Beechforest to visit Veterinarian and Dairy farmers Richard and Christine Humphris. (Picture 14)

Richard uses Fleckvieh semen from Bayern Genetik for 6 years now and is more enthusiastic with every new Fleckvieh joining.

Then it was off to Drysdale, Victoria and Don Mathiesons Brenair Park. (Picture 15, 16)

Don put on a great display of cattle with some unique and interesting bloodlines. Dr Grupp was quite interested in the rare lines and selected four bulls for semen collection for export, being Brenair Park Sumo, Graf, Hawk-Eye and Formby. This was followed by our AGM with our return to home base the following day.

In February, we had the Canberra show with a great exhibition of Fleckvieh. A major highlight was the McColls Daraabah stud taking out interbreed champion bull of the Royal Canberra Show with Daraabah Kapow. (Picture 17)

In April, it was time for the Dubbo Show with Fleckvieh being the feature breed. We had the pleasure of inviting Llewellyn Angus of Wisp-Will Simmerlers South Africa to officiate as judge.

This was a great event with over 45 Fleckvieh cattle on exhibition. The FSA also held a 2 day Visual Assessment and Breeding Technology Workshop in conjunction with Mr Angus’s visit to Australia. The event was held at the McColl family’s Daraabah Farm and was well attended with almost 50 participants gaining new skills for a more efficient and profitable beef production. (Picture 18, 19)

May also saw our president, Mr George Cassar of Karova Fleckvieh travel to Villahermosa, Mexico, to receive the Olmec award for his dedication and promotion of the Fleckvieh breed in Australia. Other notable recipients of the award were Dr Thomas Grupp, Bayern Genetik, Germany. Dr Wade Shafer, American Simmental Association, Mr Bruce Holmquist, Canadian Simmental Association and Dr Brad Stoud, world renowned in Embryo transfer.

July saw the Tennysonvale Fleckvieh-Simmental sale with registered Fleckvieh heifers selling to $10,600.

The FSA looks forward to an even busier year ahead!
New Fleckvieh Bloodlines from „Down Under“

♦ Dr. Thomas Grupp

Since many years the Fleckvieh Beef Program of BAYERN-GENETIK is searching for interesting genetics with mainly German-South African/Namibian background. Some bloodlines in Germany got extinct for different reasons, like milk yields, udder purity, calving ease, small numbers of test bulls etc. Old semen from different German bloodlines is still available in small numbers either from BAYERN-GENETIK stock, which has the largest genetic Fleckvieh pool in the world or from containers in South Africa, where breeders still have their private semen („stamps“) collection.

Progeny of these „old bulls“ are thoroughly introduced again in the gene pool not only in our local beef herds, but later on also in the dual-purpose population.

Don Mathieson, the owner of Brenair Park Stud in Melbourne, is one of our partners in this „Tri-Continental-Program“. Semen from Germany, embryos from South Africa and Namibia, herd sires from Australia producing semen for international marketing. On our last selection tour together with the Fleckvieh Society of Australia we focused on bulls with progeny on the ground (calving ease, type traits, weaning weights, pigmentation, etc.). We selected 4 bulls according to our needs for our beef program and the global market.

Brenair Park

HAWK EYE PS
SPB P H 077

Heterozygous polled Fleckvieh bull, grandson of Al-Al Morris a highly influential bull in South Africa. His pedigree traces back to the German Sire Birner. This bloodline is already extinct in Germany for many years. On the dam side BAYERN-GENETIK has great confidence in Kykso Didaka, the dam of Brenair Park Hafke and Brenair Park Sambach. Her outstanding pedigree is filled up with progeny of the Kater line, a very interesting bloodline, perfectly adapted to climate conditions in the southern hemisphere. HAWK EYE will be used in our polled program – we see him as a medium framed „beef machine“ with great potential in the big markets.

Performance Test

HAWK EYE

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<td>Birth weight</td>
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<td>Weaning weight</td>
<td>376 kg</td>
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<td>Daily gain</td>
<td>1,76 kg</td>
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Brenair Park FORMBY
SPB P F 077

For many years BAYERN-GENETIK tried to get genetics from Hauk Morei, a Namibian bull bred by Horsti & Renate Riedel from Gobabis. Hauk Morei’s progeny impressed us very much, a trait leader for direct calving ease, what he got inherited from his grandfather, the great Austrian bull Morello. Hauk Morei was sold in Namibia to Reini Rusch/Farm Lichtenstein, one of the oldest traditional Fleckvieh farms near Windhoek where he also worked exceptionally well.
New Fleckvieh Bloodlines

When Hauk Morei was sold to the Congosim stud of MC Steyn in South Africa, embryos were produced for the international market. The most dominant cow Congosim Vasti was flushed several times. Her pedigree is full of Namibian Fleckvieh genetics.

Brenair Park FORMBY is a direct offspring of Hauk Morei and Congosim Vasti. Brenair Park FORMBY, the result of 125 years Fleckvieh breeding in Namibia – adapted, smooth coated, with excellent pigmentation and stylish progeny.

Brenair Park GRAF
SPB P G 101

Brenair Park Hafke, the sire of Brenair Park GRAF, is already a legend in the Beef industry. As a descendant of one of the worst calving bulls in Germany, HAFKE, this German-South African combination turned genetics upside down. A real easy calving bull with wonderful type, tremendous length, hard muscling and excellent feet & legs. On the mother line GRAF has top German dual purpose genetics with Gusti, a direct embryo import to Australia. Gusti is a hard working mother with excellent milk and maternal traits. GRAF and his polled half brother HEARTBREAKER PS will be able to spread tremendous genetics to the Fleckvieh world and make this old German bloodline prosperous again.

Performance Test FORMBY

Born: 08/06/2010
Birth weight: 40 kg
Age at weaning: 213 days
Weaning weight: 331 kg
Daily gain: 1.37 kg

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Brenair Park HAWK EYE
SPB P J 034

The German bull Sambach, a descendant of the Salus-line, was used together with Hafke semen to flush the star cow Didaka from KYKSO stud. Brenair Park Sambach, offspring of one of the embryos was raised near Melbourne and used as herdsire. His best balanced son was Brenair Park SUMO out of a full South African dam.

Performance Test SUMO

Born: 03/03/2013
Birth weight: 41 kg
Age at weaning: 260 days
Weaning weight: 386 kg
Daily gain: 1.32 kg

Last year the first calves of SUMO were born in Australia and some outstanding calves hit the ground. We are really proud to offer this combination to the Fleckvieh world – SUMO expresses perfectly the breeding philosophy of BAYERN-GENETIK. Milk & Beef & Type – Do we need more?
Bavarian Fleckvieh Genetics
BAYERN-GENETIK GmbH

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web: www.fleckvieh.de

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fax: ++39 04 71 06 38 21
eMail: sfv@dnet.it
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