

FLECKVIEH – the breed of the future in economy and ecology

Scientific studies have shown that:

“Dual-purpose breeds like Fleckvieh generates higher profits per kg of energy-corrected milk than pure dairy breeds”

“Fleckvieh is able to achieve the best fattening and carcass results, combined with high feed efficiency”

“According to current knowledge, dual-purpose breeds like Fleckvieh have an advantage over dairy breeds in terms of robustness and resilience”

Spiekens et al. (2022): Züchtungskunde 94-4, German study

“If milk and meat are considered together, the advantage in the CO₂-footprint lies in dual-purpose use with Fleckvieh”

“Fleckvieh causes lower greenhouse gas emissions than using dairy breeds for milk production and making up for shortfalls in meat production with suckler cows”

Spiekens et al. (2022): Züchtungskunde 94-4, German study

“Thanks to its high percentage of Fleckvieh cattle, the CO₂-footprint of Austria's dairy and meat industry is among the lowest in Europe”

EU JRC Evaluation of the Livestock sector's contribution to the EU greenhouse gas emissions (GGELS)

From Austria to the whole world!

Austria is not only one of the countries of origin of Fleckvieh breeding, but also leads the way when it comes to livestock exports as a share of the total cattle population. Fleckvieh semen and embryos from Austria are sold to almost all parts of the world, contributing to the continuous growth of the breed's global market share.



Get more details now!

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www.fleckvieh.at

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FLECKVIEH FROM AUSTRIA

robust – efficient – sustainable

A breed is changing the world of cattle



FLECKVIEH FROM AUSTRIA

A breed with many compelling advantages

Excellent food quality

The milk of Fleckvieh cows is characterised by above-average fat and protein content and low cell counts. This is also the reason why Austria ranks first in Europe in terms of raw milk quality. Just as outstanding are the juicy Fleckvieh steaks, which always come out on top at international tastings.



Maximum resource efficiency

The economic advantages of dual-purpose cattle are also reflected in the way that increasingly scarce resources are managed: valuable fodder is not used for single-purpose – The methane emissions per kilogram of food produced are significantly reduced. It is therefore no surprise that Austria is also among the leaders in Europe when it comes to reducing the climate impact of cattle breeding.



Excellent fertility – strong resilience

Fleckvieh is a multifaceted breed with animals that are genetically predisposed to high basic fertility and excellent metabolic stability. Fleckvieh is characterised by strong resilience. That means the ability to adapt to changing environmental conditions related to husbandry systems and feed supply – even under extreme conditions.



A turnaround in global cattle breeding!

In Austria, the consistent breeding of Fleckvieh started more than 40 years ago as a countertrend to single-purpose cattle. The result? An excellent dairy breed that also produces outstanding beef in amount and quality.

For the first time, it became possible to produce high-quality meat using calves from dairy production. In contrast to single-purpose dairy breeds, Fleckvieh calves are ideally suited for high-quality beef production.

Small country – great breeding competence!

Despite its relatively small size, Austria is one of the birthplaces of modern cattle breeding. In terms of the country-specific share of breeds, Austria is the country with the most Fleckvieh cattle in the world. Both the genetics of the Austrian animals and the know-how of their breeders are successfully marketed all over the world.



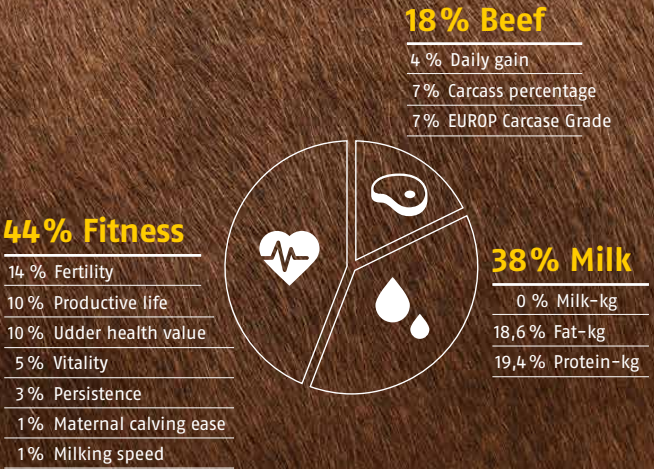
High animal welfare

More and more consumers are focusing on ethical aspects when buying dairy and meat products. Fleckvieh also offers compelling advantages in this regard. Many of the traits described as fitness support animal welfare. The breeding focus on naturalness leads to robust and healthy cows.



Breeding goal based on economic and science

The success story of this very special breed from the Simmental valley began as early as the middle of the 19th century, with fantastic milk and beef yields due to its outstanding feed conversion ratio, fitness and fertility. Fleckvieh breeding is based on both economic and scientific principles. As the breed has never been subjected to single-purpose selection, it was able to reach its profile as a dual-purpose breed.



Outstanding health scores

Fleckvieh is a robust breed with a high resistance to mastitis. This is not only great for the animal themselves: The milk has a significantly lower cell count, which in turn reduces the cost of antibiotics and treatment for breeders. This has been proven by Austria's nationwide health monitoring.



Efficient breeding programme brings progress

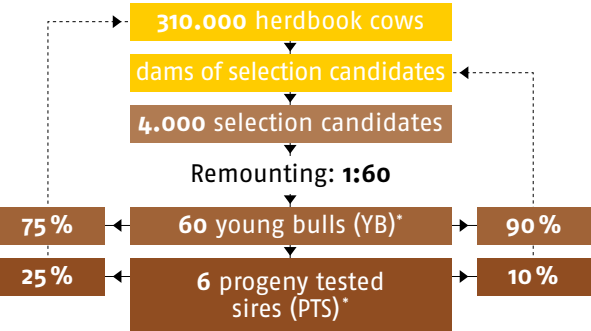
The tremendous success of Fleckvieh genetics is based on a highly professional breeding programme with over 1 million herdbook cows. It includes nationwide performance- and quality controls and the collection of data on animal and hoof health, metabolic stability, feed efficiency and environmental impact. All these data are incorporated into the breeding value estimation, which is carried out jointly in Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic.

Austria was one of the first countries to introduce a overall economic value as the main index for selection. It records all animal traits so that they can be taken into account in the selection process.

Development of selected phenotypic traits of Austrian Fleckvieh cattle						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Milk (kg) – herd book, all lact.	7.370	7.393	7.713	7.790	7.893	7.801
F+P kg – herd book, all lact.	558	560	584	590	599	594
Carcass percentage	57,4	57,2	57,2	57,3	57,3	57,1
No. of calves	3,98	3,97	4,02	4,04	4,03	4,09
Longevity (years)	3,80	3,81	3,86	3,89	3,90	3,99
Calving interval (days)	391,0	388,3	388,3	388,5	390,1	391,2
Insemination index	2,0	2,0	2,1	2,2	2,2	2,2
Som. cell count (in thousands)	177	176	181	183	187	187
Lifetime yield (kg)	28.533	28.846	29.825	30.689	31.220	32.112

Breeding based on most modern technology

Fleckvieh breeding relies on state-of-the-art technology to determine breeding values already in calves, which are much more accurate than pure pedigree information. Due to genetic variance and low inbreeding, genomic selection offers unprecedented potential in terms of functional traits. Thanks to strict remating rules, only the very best bulls are used for insemination. Fleckvieh breeding is based on the single-step method, which is recognised around the world as the best methodology for estimating the genomic breeding values.



* additional use of foreign genetics

Universal use

Independent of its advantages as a dual-purpose breed, Fleckvieh genetics can also be used in pure suckler cow husbandry. Fleckvieh cattle are characterised by reliable milk yields and a strong maternal instinct. As a result, Fleckvieh suckler cows are able to nurse a second calf, further improving their resource efficiency. The use of Fleckvieh cattle for crossbreeding is also on the rise due to their superior fitness.



Polled genetics is on the rise

The intensive use of genomics also enables targeted selection for genetic traits such as natural polledness. Genetically polled animals increasingly excel in all traits targeted for breeding. It is therefore not surprising that the share of genetically polled animals has risen sharply in recent years. A trend that is set to continue in the future.



Absolute transparency

Despite its high level of professionalism, Austrian Fleckvieh farming has managed to preserve its rural structures. It is not managed by international corporations, but by regional organisations for which transparent communication with regard to breeding progress is a matter of course.

Therefore, a bull database has been set up that contains the relevant information on all bulls used for insemination in Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic. It is open to breeders and buyers alike:
http://cgi.zar.at/cgi-bin/zw_default.pl

In addition, FleckScore, an objective system for exterior evaluation was created. It is now being used worldwide:
<https://www.fleckscore.com>