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Why Swiss cattle?

Key advantages of the Swiss cattle:

- **LARGE GENETIC POOL FOR SELECTION.** Approximately 580 000 pedigree animals of the breeds Red Holstein, Brown Swiss, Holstein, Swiss Fleckvieh, Original Brown Cattle, Simmental, Eringer and numerous beef cattle breeds are registered in Switzerland. The estimation of the breeding value is state of the art. The genomic selection is employed in all breeding programs.
- **EMINENT KNOW-HOW OF THE SWISS EXPORT FIRMS.** They dispose of years of experience in world-wide commerce, respect individual requirements of customers, offer an excellent service and fulfill high quality standards.
- **EXCELLENT EPIDEMIC STATUS.** Switzerland is free of Foot and Mouth disease, lung disease, brucellosis, tuberculosis, enzootic leucosis and IBR-IPV in cattle. There is exhaustive vaccination against bluetongue and the program for the eradication of BVD is completed. The EU regulations are consequently complied with.
- **OUTSTANDING PASTURE SUITABILITY AND OPTIMAL RAW FODDER EXPLOITATION.** Most of the animals are sent to the alps. This production form selects a population with good feet and legs, above-average robustness and adaptability as well as high longevity, long productive life span, good fertility and as a consequence outstanding efficiency.
- **IDEAL DISPOSITION FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE PRODUCTION SYSTEMS AND LOW INPUT FARMS.** Due to the production conditions in Switzerland there are animals and genetics at disposal for all systems and all intensities.
- **COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF THE BROWN CATTLE AND SIMMENTAL.** Switzerland is the cradle of Brown Cattle and Simmental cattle.

Overview

Swiss cattle breeds and their advantages:



RED HOLSTEIN

Profitability Strong cow with high milk performance
Appearance Perfect udder and outstanding feet and legs
Production Excellent for performance, type and function



BROWN SWISS

High milk contents Very good cheese yield (K casein BB)
Profitability Longevity – very good productive life span
Functional characteristics Excellent type as well as outstanding heat resistance



HOLSTEIN

Performance reliability Reliable and high milk performance
Body capacity Very high raw fodder input capacity
Udder Excellently suspended top udders



SWISS FLECKVIEH

Longevity Larger yield due to longer life
Feet and legs Ideal for pasturing and organic farming
Functional characteristics Healthy udder and good fertility



ORIGINAL BROWN CATTLE

Profitability The Original for milk and beef
Adaptability Optimal for all climatic zones
Appearance Strong feet and legs and very robust



SIMMENTAL

Production Ideal fitness characteristics
Profitability Suitable combination of milk and beef
Functional characteristics Extremely stable metabolism



ERINGER

Double purpose breed Milk and beef in one
Adaptability Resistant, easily satisfied breed
Profitability Very easily calving with excellent beef quality



BEEF BREEDS

Meat performance Top daily growth and best fleshiness
Functional characteristics First class in fertility and calving characteristics
Diversity Large breed diversity with an ideal service

Red Holstein

Swiss Red Holstein is a clear-cut milk cow for highest economical performance on profitable production and management conditions. It originates from the best fathers of the Red Holstein and Holstein population of the world and goes back to old cow families. The strong selection program is oriented on performance, type and functionality. Due to this proven breeding program, the Swiss Red Holstein breeders dominated European championships in the last years and they won many titles with animals excellent in type, udder and performance. Red Holstein convinces above all due to the combination of excellent type and udder.

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Red Holstein
118 800 cows under
milk recording
Ø 7391 kg milk,
4.07 % fat,
3.29 % protein





«Swiss Red Holstein animals are admired in Holland and Belgium. Visits in Switzerland convinced many of our customers.»

Harry Schuiling, General Manager, SEMEX Holland



Brown Swiss

Brown Swiss animals are strong milk types. They convince furthermore by their good feet and legs and udder. They are spread all over the world and fill with pride and enthusiasm customers from around the world thanks to their longevity, adaptability, fertility, suitability for pasturing, favorable calving characteristics and contentedness. Another asset is the high protein content and good protein quality (mainly kappa-casein BB). Brown Swiss convinces again and again with their milk performance on different production conditions. Swiss animals are reputed to be top in appearance, since they practically dominated European exhibitions in the last years.

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Brown Swiss
170 100 cows under
milk recording
Ø 6819 kg milk,
4.04 % fat,
3.38 % protein





«Brown Swiss convinced me all along because of their type characteristics. Today this is completed with a strong milk performance.»

Paul Kammerer, Italy



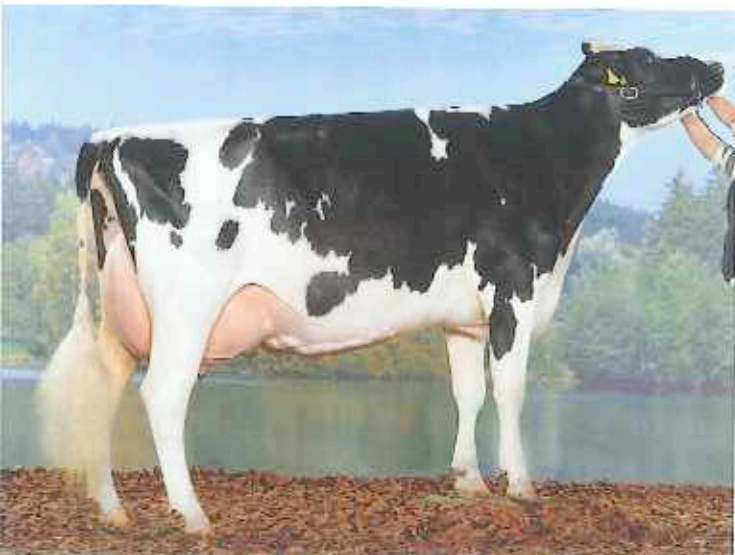
Holstein

Swiss Holstein cows convince by their high milk performance and suitable milk content. Moreover, they have ideal milking characteristics and are early-maturing. For decades a functional type is preferred in selection. The results are tight udders, correct feet and legs, big capacity and power. Therefore, Swiss Holstein animals took over the lead in Europe in the last years. They gained several triumphs and top positions at European Championships -regardless of their small population. Thank to their success they reached – despite the big competition – a high worldwide popularity.

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Holstein
53,400 cows under
milk recording
Ø 8170 kg milk,
3.99 % fat,
3.26 % protein





«I'm highly satisfied with Holstein cows from Switzerland with respect to type and performance.»

F. Endres, Germany



Swiss Fleckvieh

Swiss Fleckvieh is a cow with emphasis on milk, suitable for durable, efficient production and a wide range of employment possibilities. Swiss Fleckvieh combines the strong features of both initial breeds Simmental and Red Holstein. The Swiss Fleckvieh breeding is based on long-living cow families with good fitness characteristics. Cows are perfectly suited for pasturing and organic farming. They are known for strong functional characteristics. Pedigree animals with a Red Holstein blood share of 12 to 87% are registered as Swiss Fleckvieh.

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Swiss Fleckvieh
50 500 cows under
milk recording
Ø 6686 kg milk,
4.01 % fat,
3.27 % protein





«In the Balkans, the wide range of utilization possibilities of the Swiss Fleckvieh is generally appreciated.»

Sali Golaj, Kosovo (Balkans)



Original Brown Cattle

The Original Brown Cattle is a typical double purpose breed for milk and beef. There is no Brown Swiss blood in Original Swiss Brown Cattle. It is an original Swiss breed. Convinced Original Brown Cattle breeders stick on to the pure breed and improve milk performance solely by a strict selection within the Original Brown Cattle population maintaining strictly its favorable meat performance. Swiss Original Brown Cattle can be kept everywhere thanks to its robustness, adaptability, fertility and distinct longevity. Another plus is the healthy limbs and hard claws, which are a great advantage in a topographically difficult terrain.

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Original Brown Cattle

6300 cows under
milk recording
Ø 6002 kg milk,
3.90 % fat,
3.33 % protein





«To our surprise the imported cows settled in well and many visitors wish to see them in production.»

Andreas Blank, Germany



Simmental

Simmental counts as an unproblematic, long-living double purpose breed with good milk and meat performance. It is suitable particularly for organic production.

Simmentaler convince also with its good suitability for pasturing and good performance under difficult production and management conditions. They show a rather high protein content. Simmental animals are known for their excellent metabolic stability. It is a breed from Switzerland and developed from its origin in Berner Oberland (mountainous country) thanks to strong selection into a robust double purpose breed with excellent fitness characteristics. From there it expanded already in the 18th century to the whole world.

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Simmental
22 600 cows under
milk recording
Ø 5565 kg milk,
4.91 % fat,
3.33 % protein





«We have great trust in Swiss Simmental, because it displays a tremendous potential for milk and beef.»

Anna Adamczuk, Poland



Eringer

Eringer are belligerent animals with modest demands. They became popular not least because of the traditional cow fights. They are characterized by their sturdy constitution, their suitability for mountains and their adaptability. They are furthermore recognized for their good raw fodder exploitation. Today, they are found mainly in the mountain valleys of Wallis. Most of the animals are kept by part-time farmers.

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Eringer
8000 herd book cows
5100 cows under milk
recording
Ø 3204 kg milk,
3.63 % fat,
3.46 % protein



Beef breeds

Animals of beef breeds are recorded for easy calvings, time between calvings, birth weight, weight at weaning and daily weight increase, standardized for 205 days. These values are the basis for analyses and selection. The Federation for Mother Cows is responsible for beef breeds and counts almost 5000 members with 90 000 heads of cattle. 14 000 cows are registered in the herd book. Angus and Limousin make just under 40% of the animals with 3200 heads, respectively 2400. These other beef breeds are raised in Switzerland: Aubrac, Charolais, Dexter, Galloway, Hereford, Highland Cattle, Simmental, Blonde d'Aquitaine, Grauvieh, Braunvieh, Eringer Luig, Piemontese and Salers.



Performance of the most important beef breeds

| BREED | NORMAL AND EASY CALVINGS % | DAYS BETWEEN CALVINGS Days | WEIGHT AT BIRTH kg | STANDARDIZED DAILY INCREASE g [†] |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Angus | 98 | 365 | 37 | 1215 |
| Aubrac | 98 | 372 | 38 | 1203 |
| Blonde d'Aquitaine | 99 | 381 | 44 | 1215 |
| Braunvieh | 98 | 386 | 41 | 1302 |
| Charolais | 98 | 375 | 43 | 1335 |
| Galloway | 98 | 389 | 29 | † |
| Grauvieh | 96 | 371 | 36 | 1195 |
| Hereford | 98 | 360 | 38 | 1135 |
| Highland Cattle | 98 | 417 | 26 | † |
| Limousin | 99 | 373 | 39 | 1232 |
| Salers | 99 | 374 | 38 | 1162 |
| Simmental | 98 | 381 | 42 | 1331 |

† The weight at weaning is not recorded for these breeds

