

Brown Swiss News

The European Brown Swiss journal



2025 World Brown Swiss Conference



Save the date for the next World Brown Swiss conference who will stand from July 13th to 21st, 2025 in Bogota, Colombia, South America.

The program will include farms visit, touristic activities in Bogota city, conference day, show and visits at AgroExpo.

More information and registrations: <https://asopardocolombia.co/>


Summary


Breed
Ambassador

France

Germany

Switzerland

 European Brown Swiss
Federation

 ebsf_brownswiss

 www.brown-swiss.org

Breed Ambassador

Andraž Podpečan, Galicia, Žalec, Slovenia



Milk from Brown Swiss cows provides the best yield in processing

The Podpečan family farm is a traditional cattle farm with a long tradition of cow breeding. Today, the farm is run by a young farmer Andraž, who inherited it from his father Andrej 5 years ago. When the farm was transferred to the young farmer Andraž, the Podpečans decided to thoroughly modernize the farm by building a modern barn with the latest technological standards, with a milking robot. In addition to cows they also breed offspring.

Like many other cattle farms in Slovenia, Andraž's ancestors recognized the good qualities of the brown swiss breed and brought the first animals to the farm. Andraž continues to breed the brown swiss breed on the farm - about 90% of animals is brown swiss cows and heifers. Most of the milk is processed into various types of products, mostly cheese, as much as 60% of the milk produced. Some of the milk that they fail to process is sold to the buyer on the market.

At the Podpečans, they carried out a practical test of milk processing between the milk of the Brown Swiss and the Holstein breeds. *"When processing 100l of milk of Brown Swiss and 100l of milk of Holstein for the production of grilled cheese, the difference is more than 20% in favor of Brown swiss"*, says Andraž's father Andrej, who also says that this difference is higher than what he has traced in professional journals.

All cows and heifers are artificially inseminated. They use about 30% sexed semen, 60% conventional and 10% beef breed semen.

All fodders are grown on the farm own and rented lands. They cultivate 44 ha of agricultural land, 16 ha of absolute meadows, 28 ha of arable land with 14 ha of maize for silage and grain, 7 ha of clover grass mixtures and 7 ha of grain (barley, wheat, and triticale). All areas after corn are sown with a mixture of peas and barley in the fall, and in the spring they are sown along with clover grass mixes and grass from perennial meadows.

In the feed ration they have about half of corn silage and half of grass silage, as well as 1 kg of barley straw. Depending on the dry matter of the meal, they add some water if necessary. Cows are given concentrate when milking on a robot, depending on the amount of milk from 1 kg to a maximum of 5 kg per day.

Dry cows and high-pregnant heifers, are fed with the same basic feed as dairy cows, except that 50 % of the dry matter is barley straw.



They breed calves in individual pens up to the age of 4 weeks. They are fed with milk. After this period, they go to group stalls at the milk vending machine for calves. On the vending machine they are fed with milk replacer, where they are until the age of 12 months.

After weaning, heifers are fed the same ration as cows, except that it includes about 25 % hay and barley straw.

Half of the bull calves are sold by 2 months old. The other half are fattened up to a weight of 600-650 kg, or at the age of 20-22 months.

20 years ago, Andraž's sister Martina started processing milk in her own cheese factory. She became fascinated with milk processing during her studies at the Biotechnical Faculty. Today, Martina runs milk processing and tourism activities on the farm.

They make different types of cheeses from soft to hard according to the classic method from whole milk. They try to produce as many flavors as possible, so they also make cheeses with additives – flavors, mostly on customers wishes. Martina points out that they need to offer at least one new processed milk product each year. They swear by the variety of items offered to provide customers with a choice. In addition to their own products, consumers can buy products produced by neighboring farms in family store at Podpečan farm.

The members of Podpečan Farm are known as progressive, hardworking and not satisfied with simple, easy challenges in life. They want something more, which is the biggest challenge for them for the future.



Farm profile

Farmhouse Podpečan,
Galicija 51, Žalec, Slovenia

Location: 331 meters above sea level

Farm size: 44ha agricultural land, of which
22 ha are owned
16 ha of natural grassland
28 ha of arable land, of which 14 ha of maize
for silage and grain
5 ha of clover grass mixtures, 2 ha of alfalfa
7 ha of grain (barley, wheat or triticale)

Livestock: : 70 cows, 75 young cattle (calves,
heifers and fattening bulls)

Insemination of cows and heifers: 100%
artificial insemination, 80% with Slovenian
bulls (50% are classically tested and 50%
genomically tested), 10% with bulls from
other countries (mostly from Germany) and
10% with beef bulls

Housing system: Dairy cows and heifers –
free-range with bunk boxes, calves Igloo,
deep litter pens,

Breeding bulls: pressed manure pens

Milking: robotic milking, Lely astronaut

Milk production: 420,000 kg – 90% of milk is
processed in their own cheese factory, the
rest is sold to the buyer on the market.

Performance data: 6877 kg milk, 4,40% fat,
3,89% protein, 225 somatic cell counts, 420
day period between calvings

Workforce: Full-time: Andraž and Martina,
help: father Andrej and mother Danica -
both retired,
additional employees: two employees,
additional hiring during peak season



FRANCE



Aristo REMISE, UDERZO P mother

UDERZO P, new polled worldwide leader

Tamboy P x Aristo x Hercule

Born at Gaec Colson (Côte d'Or), here is a polled bull from a new family that shows promise. Among the best polled bulls in the world, he brings a unique and modern profile that combines a lot of milk with a measured format and enormous width. His mother Remise G+ 83 (Aristo) produced in first lactation 305 days 9,759 kg at 3.9 % F and 3.5 % P. His grandmother by Hercules achieved 6 lactations and then we find a cow imported from Germany with the pedigree Joschka x Vinner who achieved 8 lactations and 77,479 kg. Patrouille (Namur) VG 86, Remise's half-sister is also a strong producer at 48 kg in 3rd lactation ! The exceptional milk index of UDERZO P is therefore only a half-surprise, what is more surprising is the ability to associate it with udder health, fertility and longevity indexes of top level too. Its size/ power ratio is ideal, the top line strong and the udders very wide. BB and A1A2, available in sexed.

TOMY P, new polled loaded with milk

Vivek P x Barca x Sinatra

Born at Mickaël Drouet (Orne), this polled bull comes from the family that has already produced RASTAROKET and ROCKY. He is ranked at a very high level in Italy, USA and Switzerland. His mother is among the best cows in France in ISU and rated VG 87 in 1st lactation with a peak at 37.4 kg and already in 230 days 7650 kg produced at 5.5 %F and 4.0 %P ! The family confirms its potential with each generation, his mother Ombrelle G+ 83 (84 udder) had already produced 9255 kg in 348 days in 1st lactation and produced 45 kg in 2nd lactation before being injured. Then we find Majesté VG 86 (Blooming) the mother of ROCKY. TOMY P is a polled bull that will boost the rates but also all the functional indexes. Although his father Vivek P is not a type specialist, TOMY P inherits the type of his maternal family: high and well-attached udders, well-sized rump and solid feet and legs.



TOMY P



Together into the future - Future Alliance Brown Swiss

Rinderunion Baden-Wuerttemberg e.V (RBW), the Greifenberg A.I. center (BSG) and Genostar Rinderbesamung from Austria are moving together into the future. The new alliance strives to take Brown Swiss breeding to a new level through innovative approaches and close collaboration, thereby strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of the Brown Swiss breed. This was announced at the bull presentation on August 21st, 2024, in Greifenberg.

With the founding of the Future Alliance Brown Swiss, the organizations that see the future of the Brown Swiss cow in a competitive, economical breed are coming together. The partners of Future Alliance Brown Swiss have been operating efficient breeding programs in the spirit of a modern breeding orientation for years. The dominance in the top lists confirms this approach. The even more intensive collaboration that is now being sought will make breeding success even more directly available to the dairy farmers and customers of the industry, says Dr. Weidele from RBW.

CALVERT The #1 in Brown Swiss

CALVERT (Chagall x Huge x Piero x Verdi, TMI 152, Production 131, +1,344 kg, -0.20% F, -0.02% P, FIT 124, Type 110) is the No. 1 in the Brown Swiss breed! He traces back to an Bavarian cow family with strong conformation, which has already produced many bull mothers and produces the stylish, high productive dairy cow with good feet & legs and correct udder.

The Chagall son can also be used widely as a fitness sire - he is characterized by excellent persistence, longevity and very good fertility. Also ideal for organic farms.



Dairy Show Waldseer Braunviehtag 2024

Save the date - the 13th Waldseer Braunviehtag will take place on Sunday, October 27th, 2024, at the RBW Marketing Center in Bad Waldsee, Germany. With 100 cows, the dairy show is the largest Brown Swiss show in Germany in 2024. A young breeder competition for children up to 11 years of age is also planned. The visitors choose the seventh Brown Swiss Queen. Companies from the agricultural sector present their latest products in the trade fair area. The Brown Swiss Show starts at 9:30 a.m.

Brown Swiss bulls for organic farms

For many years, the ecological breeding value (ÖZW) developed by the organic cattle breeding working group and the associations Bioland, Naturland, Demeter and Biokreis has not only been available to organic dairy farms.

Our sires Calvert, Highlight, Barolo and Navier are among the sires with the highest ÖZW. You can find our entire organic range here: <https://www.rind-bw.de/bullen/brown-swiss/bio-betriebe-27.html>

PARSIVAL Productivity & Type

PARSIVAL (Pasadena x Volker x Cadence x Huray, TMI 147, Production 129, FIT 118, +1,113 kg, -0.03% F, -0.02% P, Type 117) comes from an up-coming cow family and is the interesting sire for performance and udder quality. We expect framed, high-performance cows with good feet and legs and best udders. The Pasadena son promises a lot of length in the fore-udder and wide rear udders. Lots of udder height and top center ligament! He optimally combines low somatic cell score and good milking speed. PARSIVAL can also be used on heifers.



Brown Swiss – high level of bull offer !

The summer breeding values have been published and Alpengenetik remains the dominant insemination station for polled Brown Swiss sires. The TOP 3 according to GZW bear the abbreviation AG.

*With the newcomers **AG Arona** (AG Ares x Piero) and **AG Dynamo** (Dior x Vassli), we are launching two young sires who are both highly positive for feet & legs. In addition, they produce well over +1,000 kg milk with almost neutral components. The new polled sire is called **AG Dakari P** (AG Dave P x AG Pukari) and ranks at the top of the polled Brown Swiss bulls with 139 points in the overall breeding value. The bull impresses in terms of fitness with a long productive life and good udder health. Another new genomic young sire is **AG Vindor** (AG Vindiesel x Dorian), who is the only AG Vindiesel son in service. He is characterized by a balanced conformation with medium milk yield and good components. **AG Vollmacht** (AG Vollmilch x Temtation), who can impress with his first daughters at the auction, will be used again among the progeny tested bulls. In addition, he shows an above-average breeding value for paternal calving ease and appealing conformation.*

Sexed semen is available from 13 of the 14 genomic young sires on offer. Currently in stock at the station is sexed semen from AG Arona, AG Volcano, AG Darwin P, AG Vektol, AG Neymar, AG Valps, AG Vasto, AG Dynamo, AG Aragon, AG Narian, AG Ampere, AG Dakari P, AG Vitobi P, AG Bacchus, Vasan PP, AG Veles P, AG Benz, AG Veltins PP, AG Vanilla, AG Calibur, AG Seven P, Hegall, AG Jakarta, AG Dubai P, AG Viral and AG Salvador.

The **total merit index** for Brown Swiss is calculated as 50 % milk, 5 % meat and 45 % fitness. When selecting for this trait, the highest economic benefit should be achieved. The bulls AG Vektol (147), AG Neymar (145), AG Valps (144), AG Vasto (144), AG Dynamo (143), AG Aragon (141), AG Narian (141) and AG Arona (140) show an overall breeding value of over 140 points.

Strong **milk quantity** sires with more than +1,100 kg milk are AG Vektol (+1,448 kg milk), AG Dynamo (1,271 kg milk), AG Valps (+1,178 kg milk), AG Arona (+1,156 kg milk), AG Vasto (+1,143 kg milk) and AG Neymar (+1,132 kg milk).

High components are a characteristic of the Brown Swiss breed. With AG Ampere, AG Viral, AG Aragon, AG Volcano, AG Darwin Pp and AG Neymar, five bulls are positive for this trait. AG Vaselino and AG Vasto are positive for at least one trait.

In the Brown Swiss population, the teats tend to become shorter and thinner. For this reason, breeding values of 100 to 106 are aimed for in the traits **teat length** and **teat thickness**. In addition, these auxiliary traits are suitable for selecting bulls for farms with automatic milking systems. The bulls AG Valps, AG Ampere, AG Vitobi P and AG Vollmacht achieve at least 100 points for both traits.

A firm and highly attached **udder** is fundamental for a dairy cow. The trend shows that udders are getting better and better. In the bull program we have seven bulls with over 114 points in the udder. AG Valps (120), AG Vitobi P (119), AG Narian (117), AG Heimo (116), AG Aragon (114), AG Arona (114) and AG Vaselino (114).

Milking speed is an optimal trait, as milk flow that is too fast or too slow has negative effects. A faster milk flow is transmitted by the bulls AG Sion, AG Vektol, AG Ampere, AG Narian, AG Aragon and AG Vollmacht.



Every farmer wants a **long service life** and thus the prerequisite for high lifetime performance. It is the economically most important trait in the area of functional traits. The bulls AG Vektol (121), AG Dakari P (116), AG Aragon (114), AG Narian (114), AG Ampere (113) and AG Valps (113) stand out for longevity.

The desire for medium-framed cows is becoming increasingly clear in the Brown Swiss population. The bulls AG Heimo (100), AG Vektol (100) and AG Dakari P (100) produce small cows (**sacrum height**). The bulls AG Narian (116), AG Vindor (116) and AG Neymar (111) are taller.

Cows with a lot of **chest width** and **rump depth** are desirable. AG Vindor, AG Neymar, AG Valps, AG Vasto, AG Dynamo, AG Aragon achieve over 105 points in both traits.

The bulls AG Darwin P, AG Dakari P and AG Vitobi P are **polled** sires.

High **persistency** should prevent the lactation peak and thus a negative energy balance. The bulls AG Valps (120), AG Vasto (115), AG Vektol (113), AG Narian (112), AG Ampere (111) and AG Vollmacht (110).

The bulls AG Vektol, AG Vasto, AG Ampere, AG Volcano and AG Vollmacht show an above-average breeding value for **paternal calving ease**.

Alpengenetik wishes you a lot of fun selecting the bulls and much success with their offspring. The complete Brown Swiss offer can be found in the following table. On www.rbgmm.de under the menu item Brown Swiss you will find all important information on the current offer.



SWITZERLAND

GoldHill as a gold mine for brown cattle breeding

The August breeding value estimate produced many positive bulls. Be it for breeders who look at performance, conformation, ingredients or fitness. There is something for everyone.

A pleasing breeding value estimation in August provides motivation for the coming breeding season. Seven new BS (Brown Swiss) and two OB (Original Braunvieh) bulls are used for second purposes. From there, three bulls have a milk breeding value of over 1000 kg. With GoldHill Huge JJ-P, a heterozygous polled bull with enormous qualities is being used again. Optimal stands out as an all-rounder. His daughters are not only high performing. They also score with enormous fitness properties. With Andi, a powerful Antonov son is available that can be used on almost any cow family. Another son from GoldHill, Simbaboy Caluna, Huge's mother, clears the hurdle for the second mission. What stands out once again in this family are the different bull sires. Very few births of Nice, a Fact son out of Calvin Jolie GP (France), were registered in Switzerland. Calano, the only son who went through the test, is proving to be an absolute fitness bull. With JJ-P and Calano, two more popular bulls bred by Goldhill have now been classified. This within a very short time. So, we can look forward to more bulls from the "Gold Hill". Also to be placed in the fitness segment is Kiba Sparky, the full brother of KibaTu.

But conformation enthusiasts are also served by this breeding value estimation. Cyrus and Ronaldo impress with their excellent udder characteristics and good milk production.

For OB (original Braunvieh cattle), Dom, an excellent fitness animal that has been proven for breeding, can be used. The winner of the bull market in Zug 2023 (Mister ZM Zug 20239, Valido Einar, will also be sent back into action.

If you're looking for bulls with lots of milk, you'll find them!

Currently, eight breeding-tested bulls in the range have a breeding value of over 1000 kg of milk. A further six are in the 900-1000kg range and an additional four are over 800 kg. So, if you want more milk phenotypically, you have the opportunity, to choose from 18 proven bulls, which not only score points in terms of performance. The new bulls Optimal, JJ-P and Andi are included in this top performance group. But Brice is also holding on remarkably well in this top group.

Fitness value (FIW) as a good selection criterion

Good fitness characteristics are an advantage, especially at high temperatures. If cows are challenged by environmental factors, it is important, that they are fit from a genetic perspective. Thanks to its adaptability, the Brown Swiss are certainly prepared. Nevertheless, there are genetic differences. Here you can find Calano, Optimal and Andi as new bulls in the top 20 of proven breeding bulls. They particularly score points when it comes to cell count and mastitis resistance. The FIW is a good selection tool to produce high-quality milk and keep healthy cows. The breeding value for mastitis resistance (MAR) is generated from the data from the health data collection. This contribution is made accessible to everyone with the MAR breeding value.

The FIW list of AI bulls is still headed by Simbaboy, who can be found in a number of valuable bull pedigrees. With Calano and Cyrus, two of the new classified bulls carry this blood as well as the good qualities and pass them on.



The second bull out of GoldHill Simbaboy Caluna is Calano. Her first son Huge is the sire of the newly classified polled sire JJ-P.



Travel Farm JJ Punta P, projected 1st lactation 2.02 6003 kg milk, 4.75 % fat, 3.27 % protein; breeder Thomas Aregger, owner Roland Lustenberger, Escholz matt, Lucerne.

Ideal as a yardstick

The Frenchman's result was eagerly awaited. We've already heard a lot of good things about Sinatra's son from neighboring countries. In Switzerland people were somewhat surprised by his first result in April. Now he is establishing himself at the top, where some expected him to be. With a GZW of 1391, which results from a high production with 1023 kg of milk, top fitness characteristics such as persistence 110, fertility 106, cell count 125 and mastitis resistance 121 and a great conformation GN 107, udder 115, he is a valuable bull for many farms. It's nice that sexed semen straws of him are also available.

At the mayor, a lot of things remain the same

Killy continues to confidently top the list. With a GZW of 1305, he fulfills the desired inheritance pattern of an OB bull in many respects. He is also free of all known genetic defects. The newly classified Bartli Dom can also rank 6th in overall breeding value and 3rd in fitness value. Here he stands behind Domino and Killy. If you are looking for the dual-purpose type, you can pay attention to the breeding value IFV (Meat Viande index). Here Killy can also be found at the top in front of Morin and Erich. When it comes to cows, Urmi continues to be the measure of all things. Urmi, which has a strong performance and conformation, has already broken the 50,000 kg mark with excellent ingredients.

Andreas Kocher,
Braunvieh Switzerland