



LKV BY - Regular assessment report for all Alpine countries

<p><b>Partner region description</b></p> <p>Dairy production is economically the most important agricultural sector in Bavaria, with about 25 % of the agricultural out value being generated by dairy production. Agricultural area in Bavaria is about 3.2 m ha, of which about 34 % is permanent grassland. The number of farms under milk performance recording has been steadily decreasing in the past decades, and is now less than half compared to 1990. At the same time, the number of cows stayed almost constant.</p>
<p><b>General statistic – number of farm, total cows, average herd size, average and typical farm size etc.</b></p> <p>About 1.12 m head of dairy cows live on about 27,000 farms in Bavaria. More than 18,000 of these farms and about 950,000 of the cows in Bavaria are under performance recording, resulting in a recording density of about 83 %. The number of farms under milk performance recording has been steadily decreasing in the past decades, and is now less than half compared to 1990. At the same time, the number of cows stayed almost constant. In the herds under performance recording, the average milk yield is 8045 kg with an average of 4.20 fat and 3.53 % protein, and an average somatic cell count of 203,000. The average age at culling is 5,6 yr and the calving interval is 397 d. The predominant breed is Fleckvieh (dual-purpose Simmental) with 77 % of all cows, followed by Brown Swiss (12 %) and Holstein (11 %). The average herd size about 52 cows.</p>
<p><b>Specific conditions of the typical Alpine farms, especially small family farms: environment, climate conditions, types of cows, seasonal changes.</b></p> <p>Alpine conditions apply predominantly to the southern part of Bavaria, in the governmental districts of Oberbayern and Schwaben, and to some extent to the highland areas (“Mittelgebirge”). Farms in these areas are often slightly smaller than average. Grassland and pasture proportion is usually greater compared to other areas. Due to the average herd size of a bit more of 50 cows and the prosperous economic situation in many regions, which makes labour expensive, a lot of farms have changed or are considering to change the milking system to automatic milking. The number of farms using automatic milking systems is now about 2,300, which is almost 15 % of all farms.</p>
<p><b>Selection criteria for the farms to participate at the Big Pilot, why did you chose those – short explanation what is the aim and how those farms represent the farms at your Alpine space region.</b></p> <p>The big pilot farms are located in the Allgäu region (southeastern Bavaria). This is a typical dairy production area both with intensive dairy farms (in the lower parts) and extensive dairying in the more mountainous parts. Grassland and pasture use is above the Bavarian average. Therefore, this area holds farms that are representative for a variety of production conditions that apply to most of the production areas in Bavaria.</p>
<p><b>Short information for each farm at the Big Pilot – number of cows, total arable land, average milk yield, fat and protein content</b></p> <p>Farms are not finally known to me at the moment. Therefore, no information available.</p>