

DAIRY CATTLE: Remo Büsser took over a farm and brought dairy cattle management up to date

From 28 to 38 kg Milk in 10 months

Young farmer, Remo Büsser, „fed the cows healthy“ and offers them more animal welfare. Thanks to the Concept Dairy Pro, he reports progress in dairy farming. The same applies to farmer Daniel Hunziker.

ADRIAN HALDIMANN

«I've always wanted to run a farm.» These are the words of farmer's son and now farmer Remo Büsser. However, there were two hurdles to overcome. First, he had to find a farm outside his family, as his older brother had taken over his parents' farm in Linthebene. Secondly, he wanted a partner who would pull in the same direction and enjoy dairy farming. Today he has both: a leased farm in Hefenhofen TG with 55 Holstein cows and a girlfriend who is motivated to work on the

farm as an employee. Her name is Lorena Gut, a trained cook and farmer with a professional certificate. He himself still works part-time for the company Hokovit

More Milk and Quality

On July 1, 2021, the time had come. Büsser also took over the dairy herd from his predecessor when he took over the lease. For the young farmer, animal welfare and profitability were top priorities right from the start. And fulfilling both is not a contradiction, rather the opposite

«To produce milk profitably, the cows have to be healthy, they have to be comfortable», says the

34-year-old, who is visibly pleased with the progress made after ten months as farm manager. He shows the full milk tank. «Today, we milk an average of 38 kg of milk per cow. When I took over the herd ten months ago, it was 28 kg.» Quality and contents are as follows in the tank: 155000 cells; 3.96% fat and 3.51% protein. Last August it was double the cell count with lower contents. He wanted to reach an average herd output of 12,000 kg of milk by five years from now. «The way things are going so far, we will reach that goal much sooner.» Feeding is optimized, and he is aware that the main way he can get performance up now is with even better genetics. «We already have Hokovit Genetics in the barn, which are working very well,» he says.

«Healthy feeding»

A look inside the barn: Büsser points to the cubicles. First, he replaced the rigid cubicle bars with animal-friendly plastic bars, removed walls for cross-ventilation and installed valve gates. The coat of the cows' shines, lean cows are not found, despite the high performance.

«The cows are about 100 kg heavier now than they were ten months ago.»

Remo Büsser

«The cows are now about 100 kg heavier than they were ten months ago,» says Büsser.

As for feeding, he says, «We've been feeding the cows healthy.»



Remo Büsser with Kaeser Up-right Sina (currently 58 kg) and his girlfriend Lorena Gut with Stockhorn's Jacot Uganda (currently 44 kg, 1st lact.) are happy about their healthy dairy herd, which produces a lot of milk. They have made progress thanks to Concept Dairy Pro. (Photos: Adrian Haldimann)



After the start of the lease, animal-friendly cubicle bars were installed and the stables were flooded with air and light.



A spacious annex was created for the dried off cows, where the animals feel comfortable.

He relies on impeccable basic feed, which he supplements with performance-rich concentrates and micronutrients from Hokovit. Christian Geisseler, also a Hokovit feeding consultant, stresses the importance of timely cutting of dry forage and silage: «Basic forage should have few cell walls, as this increases feed intake.» He advises that the second cut should be made no later than 28 days after the first cut, and the third and subsequent cuts could well be 30 to 35 days old.

Veterinary expenses

In the first two months after taking over the lease, Büsser had to pay 5,000 francs in veterinary costs. «The last two it was 850 francs,»

The veterinary costs decreased from 5'000 to 850 swiss francs.

he says happily. «The healthier the cows are, the more they can develop their potential and the lower the veterinary costs are.» One calf per year is not the goal for him.

Insemination is never done before the 90th day of lactation. The biggest investment Büsser has made is in the breeding of dried off cows. «The husbandry must be a paradise for the dried off cows,» he emphasizes and shows the spacious extension. The dried off cows rest in the whitewashed, soft lying bed. After drying off, however, the dried off cows remain in the dairy herd for another three weeks. «The dry period phase determines whether a cow makes milk fever after calving,» Büsser says, pointing to studies. He attaches particular importance to a stress-free calving phase, as well as the use of acid salts.

Precise feed analyses

In feeding, Büsser relies on Dairy Pro, the micronutrient complex contained in Hokovit concentrates and minerals. According to Jürg Hofmann, Chairman of the Board of Hofmann Nutrition AG, Dairy Pro ensures better health and, above all, better performance through better overall feed value. Hofmann speaks of a ten percent improvement in feed conversion.

FARM PROFILE

Remo Büsser's leased farm in Hefenhofen TG covers 17.5 ha of land. Corn is cultivated on 4.5 hectares, 4 hectares are artificial meadow, the remaining area consists of natural meadow and biodiversity promotion area. There are currently 55 cows in the barn, 40 of which are lactating cows. Büsser has a contract volume of 600,000 kg of milk with Züger Frischkäse AG and is still fattening calves with cow's milk and supplements.

Remo Büsser not only relies on Dairy Pro, but also on the Concept Dairy Pro (see box). «As my experience shows, the support, which is tailored to my farm, has proven itself. He also appreciates, among other things, the feed analyses, which are extremely precise based on the NDF (neutral detergent fiber) parameter. «In this way, we also know exactly how high the digestibility of the various feeds is.»

CONCEPT DAIRY PRO

In order to achieve progress in dairy cattle farming, the Concept Dairy Pro at Remo Büsser has made a significant contribution. With the Concept Dairy Pro, initiated a year ago by Hofmann Nutrition AG, the feed company is opening a new chapter in the support and advice of dairy farms. The project is accompanied by the Austrian specialist veterinarian Michael Neumayer, who is making his in-depth knowledge exclusively available. According to Alexander Hofmann, Managing Director of Hofmann Nutrition AG, Hokovit, the aim is to respond to the dairy farmer and make the most of his situation, possibilities and management. «The progress observed on several farms motivates us to push the Concept Dairy Pro further,» says Hofmann. *hal*

DANIEL HUNZIKER: «IN ADDITION TO MORE MILK, THINGS HAVE BECOME CONTROLLABLE»

Daniel Hunziker runs a dairy aware of the new Concept farm in Walde AG with 23.5 Dairy Pro last summer. What ha LN and 60 Holstein cows he particularly appreciated: kept in a loose housing system. He talks about the big milking technician, Hokovit challenges: «We had a herd feeding consultant and specialist veterinarian Dr. Michael Neumayer, who helped shape the Concept Dairy Pro this input. The calculation did not work out. Even the milking robot did not bring any improvement. Above all, the cell counts were very high. «Thanks to Hokovit feeding consultant Christian Geisseler, was improved. Other measures were implemented

immediately, including: reprocessing cubicles with a lime straw mattress; additional drinking basin directly after the milking robot exit; replacing bad cows more consistently. The main point, however, was the feeding system, which was rebuilt with the feed company Hokovit. «A big advantage is offered by the exact feed analyses. I noticed immediately if something is wrong with the feeding and can react. In addition to much more milk today, things have become controllable,» says Hunziker.

Today, he has first-lactation heifers that give up to 40 kg of milk; before, over 30 kg was a rarity. However, the total amount of concentrated feed has not increased. Although there is still room for improvement, Hunziker is pleased with the progress made. Has made a breakthrough. He is particularly relieved about the significantly lower cell counts. «I wasn't aware that high cell counts were eating away so much energy from the cows and making them so unprofitable.» *hal*