

Perspectives of Beef Production with Suckler Cows

1.1 Conclusions – Policies, Economics

- Beef production highly influenced by EU subsidy policies
 - Without not economical
 - Between states highly variable
 - NMS have different starting conditions
 - Sustainability of EU support policy and strength of national options very uncertain
- Different subsidy policies in MS
 - lead to large differences in Cost, Returns and Profitability between EU member states

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1.2 Conclusions – Policies, Economics

- Beef market supply dominated by beef from the dairy herd
 - lower number in future
 - reduction of dairy herd, lower final weights
 - market price increases:
 - insufficient for quality beef production within EU
 - incentives for beef importation
 - high quality at lower price
 - sustainability hampered by disease

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1.3 Conclusions - Policies, Economics

- External trade relations and WTO arrangements will expand pressure on EU beef prices,
- Imports should satisfy equal standards
- Special chances for specific regional demands within the EU (from Dairy or Fattening towards Beef suckler operation)
 - depend on large scale and low cost
(or beef production as hobby?)
- Chances for larger farm operations in NMS and in OMS depend on land cost, effectiveness of subsidy systems, competitiveness of producers, effectiveness of marketing system

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1.4 Conclusions – Policies, Economics

- Continuous economic analysis of existing and alternative cattle production systems in MS required
- Intensive dialog with National and European policy makers on support policies essential
- Currently EU-Policies lead to re-nationalisation of sector policies
- Clarity on national policy options affecting grassland and beef farming demanded

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2.1 Conclusions – Production and Markets

- Beef production in EU not economical without public support
- Production survival strategy:
 - low production factor input,
 - intensive management – high productivity
 - high production quality
- Societal importance for landscape maintenance
 - Support often uncertain
 - Who benefits from subsidies

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2.2 Conclusions – Production and Markets

- Proven technical strategies for grassland management available to secure low production cost and to maintain biodiversity
- All year out-door husbandry systems agree with animal-welfare and increase productivity
- Management perspective requires high management flexibility and optimisation of farm organisation (regional, eco and other niche market opportunities)
- Diversification of farm organisation improves economic stability
- Further extensification

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2.3 Conclusions – Production and Markets

- Beef breeds are available for different eco-systems/grassland intensities, market demands
!watch for negative interactions!
- Choice of beef breed with respect to meat quality
 - only important in direct marketing systems (D)
 - and for Within EU-export trade
- Export of (heavy) weaner beef calves to Southern EU-countries by northern EU- countries ,
 - but heavy competition demanding
 - best quality,
 - continuous supply
 - production and market services

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3.1 Conclusions – NMS situation

- Poland :
 - opportunities affected by past transformation process and current national policies related to CAP
 - Land and labour availability provide prospects for suckler cows,
 - Economic sustainability may be different for large and small scale farms,
 - Large productivity reserves especially in large farms
 - Continuous linkage to different export markets

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3.2 Conclusions – NMS situation

- Czech Republic:
 - Transformation of cattle sector
 - Drastic reduction of dairy cattle
 - Gradual increase of suckler cow population
 - Active beef breeding scheme
 - Use of specialised beef breeds for crossbreeding
 - National market opportunities limited
 - Export of weaners to southern EU

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3.3 Conclusions – NMS situation

- Hungary:
 - Low beef consumption but good production conditions
 - Increased interest in suckler cows for extensive systems after transformation
 - Importance of crossbreeding with beef bulls
 - Supported by extensive subsidy scheme
 - Profitability in suckler cows even in smaller herds, but not in fattening

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3.4 Conclusions – NMS situation

- Slovenia and other former Yugoslav rep.
 - Long tradition with suckler and foster cows on marginal lands, despite small farms
 - Exports to Italy
 - Winter costs critical
 - For landscape maintenance more suckler cows are required
 - Dual purpose cows crossbred with beef breeds

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Conclusions - NMS situation

- All NMS have
 - limited EU subsidy support
 - a dynamic transformation of the cattle sector with decreases in the dairy herd and growing beef suckler cow herds
 - differing support policies between countries
 - different farm structures, proportion of small farms, rural policies and landscape maintenance schemes
 - should benefit from continuous analysis of production economics, marketing, support policies, and productivity improvements

**Perspectives of Beef Production with
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3.5 Conclusions**

Thank you

and

lets continue to compile information

on beef cattle production

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