

## On Farm Organic Dairy Sheep and Goat Breeding in Germany

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### Introduction

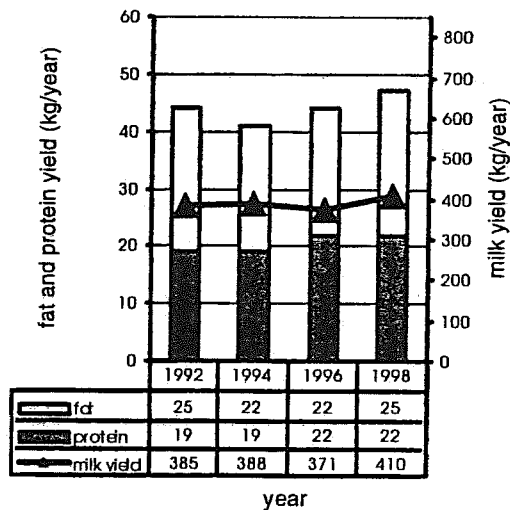
Dairy sheep and dairy goat keeping is a niche activity in Germany. Because dairy breeds of small ruminants are selected under intensive keeping conditions, breeding under the restrictions of organic farming is necessary to get adopted and high yielding flocks.

### Materials and methods

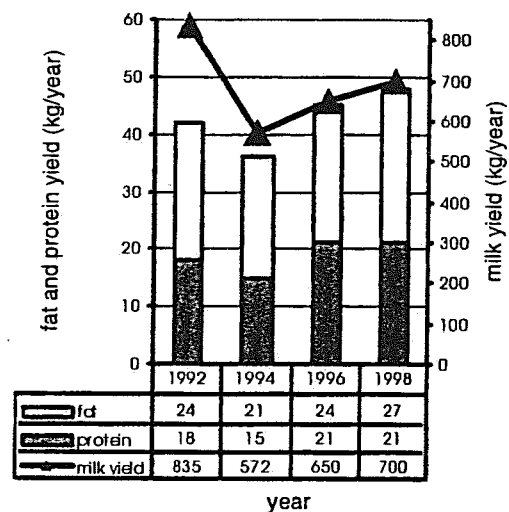
An analysis of the development of milk parameters and breeding strategy success was carried out on a full-time organic dairy goat farm (organic since 1982) in the middle of Germany from 1992 to 1998. The farm keeps about 30-35 dairy goats (Brown German Alpine) and about 30-35 dairy sheep (East-Frisian dairy sheep). All feedstuff was produced on farm, the animal were kept on pasture from May to November. Roughage was 70% of the diet. The breeding and feeding is focused on increasing the total fat and protein yield per lactation (cheese production) on the basis of independent milk control results.

### Results and discussion

Milk, fat and protein yield of organic dairy sheep (n = 30 - 35; 1992 - 1998)



Milk, fat and protein yield of organic dairy goats (n = 30 - 35; 1992 - 1998)



### Conclusions

In the period from 1992 to 1998 the fat and protein yield of both flocks could be increased. A specific breeding strategy had an important contribution to the increase but the environmental impacts on animal productivity is enormous (e.g. the very wet summer season 1994). A wrong decision in breeding bucks (dairy sheep in 1992-1994) had a negative effect on the productivity.

### References

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# IFOAM 2002

14<sup>th</sup> Organic World Congress

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**Dr. Gerold Rahmann**  
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**GERMANY**

Date: February 22, 2002

Dear Dr. Rahmann:

(P#782)

We are happy to inform you that your abstract has been accepted for the 14<sup>th</sup> IFOAM Organic World Congress, August 21-24, 2002.

Well over 600 submissions were received and have been reviewed by the program committee. We hope you will appreciate that it is not possible to offer oral presentations to all who requested them.

Sessions are planned with several different formats including panel discussions, interactive workshops, poster sessions and technical presentations. Most sessions are 90 minutes and there will be 11 different sessions running concurrently in any one time period. You may be contacted by the session organizer or moderator regarding details of your contribution to the session.

Your abstract (ID number: S#603) (*On farm organic dairy sheep and goat breeding in Germany.*) has been accepted as an oral presentation of 15 minutes in the session: **Breeding livestock for organic systems.**

Please see attach guidelines for formatting.

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Your final submission must be received by **APRIL 30, 2002** to be included in the printed proceedings. Please see the enclosed instructions.

Some sessions will be taped; the audio tapes will be made available for purchase at the congress. If you are giving an oral presentation please complete the audio tape release form.

Please confirm your participation by registering for the congress before **MAY 31, 2002**. Your submission can only be included in the proceedings if you register before this date.

You are responsible for making your own travel, lodging and congress registration arrangements. Please contact us if you have not received a registration package or look for the information on the website.

We look forward to meeting you in Victoria.

Best Regards

M-B.

Anne Macey  
Project Director, 14<sup>th</sup> IFOAM Organic World Congress

Enclosures: Format Guide for Preparing submissions  
Audio tape release form  
Preliminary Program flyer  
Tape Release Form

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