



FELICITAS Pp - born 31/10/18, S: BP FORMBY, DS's: BG HEARTBREAKER PS, BG STEINADLER PP, BG ELDORADO, BG ZIMBO Pp. Consistency in breeding with top performance. 200 d: 1.576 g, 365 d: 1.340 g. Expected Calving: 09/11/20 from BP HAWK EYE PS. Photo: Clemens Grünewald

Without Milk – No future in extensive Beef-Production

For almost 30 years there has been intensive contact between Bayern-Genetik and a farm in the Federal State of Brandenburg, which after the political change in 1989 became a pioneer of the Fleckvieh breed and a visionary in the field of „extensive beef production with changing climatic conditions“.

The Fleckviehhof Hansel has become an integral part of the German beef cattle breeding industry, since sires from this farm have caused a furor, not only in Germany but also internationally.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN!

In 1993 Dr. Ulrich Hansel, at that time deputy official veterinarian

and hobby cattle breeder, today an active pensioner, started to build up a Fleckvieh herd from Bavarian studs „step by step“ as a sideline. In these difficult times of change, he could not afford any breeding mistakes if he wanted to be and remain competitive with the large farms as a so-called re-introducer stud. Many visits to Bavaria, com-

bined with the meticulous search for suitable breeding stock, careful, but at that time already consequent mating of polled bulls to the purchased „dual purpose types“ were the start of his own agricultural future, which started as a pure pasture based stud farm and was constantly extended in the 27 years of its existence by crop farming, forestry

and direct marketing of farm products. In 2003, his son Christoph Hansel took over the business as a full-time job and he expanded it continuously. Christoph, the passionate agricultural engineer and Fleckvieh breeder, today manages the 342 ha organic farm property according to the guidelines of the eco association Naturlandverband (DE-ÖKO-006).

Sandy soils and summer drought dominate the agriculture in Alt-Madlitz, the farm location in Brandenburg - only hardy and well adapted genetics can survive under these harsh conditions and the lack of concentrates. Due to natural limitations, selection is focused on type, maternal traits (milk yield, maternity), longevity, udder quality and adaptability (body and eye pigmentation, hair quality).

BREEDING RESULTS

From the beginning, in addition to the selection of classic dual purpose cows, the emphasis was placed on the superiority of artificial insemination for selective matings. With a cow from BG HUSALDO (Prefect x Bayer) the basis was

laid, semen from BG EISENHERZ PP produced the first polled genetics in the herd, BG ELDORADO, a 5 times trait-leader in southern Africa, Honer, Humid, Solo, BG MR. BEAN and BG WINNIPEG were milestones for the fixation of beef and milk traits in the growing Fleckvieh herd.

Already in the year 2000, the BG EISENHERZ PP son Echo became Champion bull in Karow. This title was also won by the bulls BG HERALDIK PP (2002) and BG BOMBALA PP (2019) respectively. At the

BraLa, the most important Show in Brandenburg 2015 Master PS was declared Interbreed Champion. There was also a lot of success on the female side - Rosemarie Pp (2012), a BG BRANDBERG PS x BG ZIMBO Pp daughter, was elected the Superchampion heifer and Fortuna as Breed Champion (2014), a Marlon PP x BG WINNIPEG daughter. In 2016 the international press reported in great detail about the impressive bull BG HALLAS PP, who represented the Fleckvieh breed at the „Green Week“ in Ber-

Tab. 1:

Beef Bulls purchased from Fleckviehhof Hansel in the years (2001-2020)

Name	Year of birth	Sire	Dam's Sire	Beef Value
BG HERALDIK PP	2000	Heiner Pp	BG EISENHERZ PP	125
BG EASTLAND PS	2004	BG ELDORADO	BG EISENHERZ PP	116
BG HALLAS PP	2011	BG HERALDIK PP	ROCKY PP	112
BG HEARTBREAKER PS	2012	BP HAFKE	BG BENEDIKT PP	118
BG HARLEY PP	2015	BG HEARTBREAKER PS	POLDAU PP	122
BG MOONLIGHT PP	2015	MASTER PS	BG HERALDIK PP	120
BG EDELSTAHL PP	2016	ENZIAN PP	BG STEINADLER PP	115
BG BOMBALA PP	2017	BG BOORoola PP	BG STEINMARDER PP	114*
BG HIKING PP	2019	BP HAWK EYE PS	BG EXCALIBUR PP	106*

Beef Value*: these bulls have not finished any test, the beef values represent EPD's. BP HAWK EYE PS has almost no links to the European Fleckvieh population.



FREDERIKE PP, born 12/10/15, S: BG HEARTBREAKER PS, DS's: BG STEINADLER PP, BG ELDORADO, BG ZIMBO Pp. FCA: 24 months, ICP: 344 days. Performance: 200 d: 1,842 g, 365 d: 1,351 g, Dam of Felicitas Pp.

Photo: Clemens Grünewald



MASTER PS, Interbreed Champion BraLa 2015,
S: Marlon PP, DS: BG HAXENT. Photo: Manfred Gassan/RBB



BG HIKING PP, S: BP HAWK EYE PS, DS: BG EXCALIBUR Pp.
New bull at Bayern-Genetik.
Performance: BW: 44 kg, 200 d: 1,744 g, 365 d: 1,582 g. Photo: Müller

lin. Several trade Ag journals had already reported about the Hansel stud in the previous years.

Excellent breeding work is also reflected in the appreciation by AI companies - so far 18 breeding bulls have been sold to semen collection centers, 9 of them to Bayern-Genetik GmbH.

„MAN MUST MEASURE“

Performance can be seen, but even better it should be „measured“. Prof. Jan Bonsma, the legendary animal breeding scientist from South Africa, used this motto and book title to illustrate the basis of all economic animal production. And

this message has been understood at the Hansel farm. Minimal use of concentrates, extended suckling periods, extensive pastures with increasingly frequent periods of drought, require genetics that already reflect the requirements of the future. At Fleckviehhof Hansel, animal welfare is successfully combined with the complex and increasingly difficult conditions of beef production in Germany and the strict guidelines of the organic farming association Naturland.

FROM GRASS TO MILK

The reason for producing meat in the flat country of Branden-

burg with 60 Fleckvieh cows in the „sandpit“, and for Bavarian conditions in the flat country of Brandenburg, is the dual purpose benefit of the breed, which is why so much emphasis was placed on origin and performance when creating the herd. From the grassland belt of Upper Bavaria, Fleckvieh cattle adapted to grazing, came to Alt-Madlitz via the Miesbach Breeding Association and they were also able to get acclimatised perfectly. Since the animals are out on pastures from May to November, flat lactation curves are a must - because the following still applies: „Milk

Tab. 2:

Performance Testing – First Calving Age (FCA), Intercalving Period (ICP), 200 and 365 d weights, Daily Gains in bull & heifer calves 2009 - 2018

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014*	2015	2016	2017	2018
FCA	27	24	24	24	24	25	26	25	26	30
ICP	376	361	360	363	370	374	379	374	368	376
200 day weight kg**	295	296	313	298	311	292	326	325	315	311
Daily gains bulls g	1.431	1.396	1.506	1.475	1.576	1.441	1.718	1.684	1.641	1.550
Daily gains heifers g	1.255	1.255	1.261	1.368	1.367	1.310	1.535	1.498	1.460	1.462
365 day weight kg**	510	566	548	557	557	523	546	543	514	529
Daily gains bulls g	1.522	1.671	1.637	1.618	1.590	1.525	1.605	1.598	1.578	1.531
Daily gains heifers g	1.161	1.275	1.199	1.297	1.266	1.183	1.256	1.197	1.191	1.179

2014*: Transformation to ecological farming
200 Day/365 Day weights: bulls/heifers together



BG BOMBALA PP, S: BG BOOROOOLA Pp, DS: BG STEINMARDER PP.
Breed Champion 2019 in Großkreutz.
Performance: 200 d: 1,885 g, 365 d: 1,775 g. Photo: Saskia Meier/RBB



SILKE, S: BG STEINMARDER PP, Dam of BG BOMBALA PP.
Born 31/10/2010. Performance: 7 calvings/8 calves.
ICP: BW 40 kg, 200 d: 1,433 g, 365 d: 1,472 g. Photo: Hansel

is the cheapest and most natural concentrated feed respectively” and suckling periods of up to 10 months make so-called „natural weaning” possible, i.e. separating the calves from their mothers, as is it also done in nature. Due to the weather situation in Brandenburg, winter feeding with maize is more of a phase-out model; the farm manager sees the basic feed quality as the decisive impulse for the performance development of the cattle. Fluctuations in grass silage quality are directly visible in the daily gains of the calves, which is why the greatest care is taken in silage and hay production.

THE FUTURE

When Christoph Hansel looks to the future, he can clearly foresee the challenges and they are also weighing on his shoulders. The size of the organic farm requires efficient use of manpower and costly extras for the suckler cows are not included. The animals have to adapt to the soil and climate and not the other way round. The periods of heat and drought in recent years have given food for thought and ultimately forced them to take action. Proven Fleckvieh genetics from South Africa, Namibia and Australia have found their way to the Hansel stud - heat-resistant bulls such

as BP HAFKE, BP FORMBY, BP HAWK EYE PS or BP GRAF from the 3 continents breeding program (Germany - South Africa - Australia) bring pigment, good hair quality, type and hardness to the herd and should leave a new brand on the herd in 1 to 2 years of breeding. In addition, these are bloodlines that are no longer available in Europe and therefore represent an interesting gene pool for breeders and AI stations in Europe.

Website:
www.Fleckvieh-Hof-Hansel.de

DR. THOMAS GRUPP



Pustertaler cattle - more as a hobby but this Alpine breed is doing well on poor pastures in Brandenburg. Photo: Clemens Grünewald



The Hansel family – 3 generations working together.
f.l.t.r.: Dr. Ulrich, Valerie, Alois, Dipl.-Ing. Christoph & Theresa Hansel. Photo: Hansel