

5th SAFO Workshop 29th May - 1st June 2006



Improving animal health and welfare in Germany

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Structure

- **Animal health and welfare, a topic of interest in organic farming**
- **Federal program for organic farming in Germany**
- **Deficits in animal welfare in Germany**
- **Project: Implementing animal health and welfare in organic husbandry**
- **Project: Implementing animal health plans by Bioland^o advisers and certification body**

Animal health and welfare, a topic of interest in organic farming

- **Low attention to animal welfare in the beginning of organic farming.**
- **Believe in animal health following EU organic-welfare standards automatically, failed.**
- **Improvement of animal welfare in conventional farming in some cases better than in organic farming.**
- **Increasing animal health problems caused by increasing intensity of organic farming.**
- **Professional care with a closer look on health problems.**
- **No high quality standards without high health standards.**

Federal program for organic farming in Germany

- Program of the former German government.
- Promotion of organic farming heading for the goal of 20% share of market.
- Projects of the program promoting:
 - Organic production.
 - Collecting and processing organic products.
 - Marketing and consumption of organic products.
 - Technology of organic farming.
- Measures in the projects:
 - Work for information material.
 - Lessons and workshops for farmers, advisors and veterinarians.

Deficits in animal welfare in Germany

- **Evaluation of animal health and welfare in organic husbandry was disillusionating:**
 - Comparable problems as in conventional husbandry, slightly differing.
 - High percentages of affected animals.
 - Low awareness in farmers of having a welfare problem in the herd.
 - Systemic faults difficult to correct.

Special Health Deficiencies within the Species

- **Cattle:**

- Lameness
- Mastitis
- Scours
- Parasitic Problems

- **Poultry:**

- Scours
- Lung Disease
- Featherpicking
- Parasitic Problems

- **Swine:**

- Scours
- Lung Disease
- Parasitic Problems

Project: Implementing animal health and welfare in organic husbandry

- **Recent project in the federal program for organic farming:**
 - Development and testing of checklists to evaluate animal health and animal welfare.
 - Development and testing of health plans to improve animal welfare on farms.
 - Four scientific institutions and Bioland° involved.
 - Subjects: Dairy cows, breeding sows, laying hens and sociological acceptance of the health plans.

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Project: Implementing checklist and manual of animal health into farms of Bioland°

Main subjects of the project:

- **Short checklist of animal health for certification body**
 - Report to Bioland in case of main deficiencies

Betrieb, Adresse oder Firmenstempel	Checkliste Tierhaltung		Bioland ÖKOLOGISCHER LANDBAU
	Datum:		

Tierhaltung <u>ohne</u> offensichtliche Auffälligkeiten			<input type="checkbox"/>
Tierhaltung <u>mit</u> offensichtlichen Auffälligkeiten und notwendigem Verbesserungsbedarf			<input type="checkbox"/>
Bereiche	Tierart / Stall	Bemerkung	
Äußerl. Eindruck Tiere (Ernährungszustand, Haar-, Federkleid)			
Technopathien, Verletzungen			
Lahmheiten, Deformationen, Eingriffe (Schwänze, Schnäbel, Zähne)			
Parasiten, Tierverluste, Umgang kranke/tote Tiere			
Stalleinrichtung (Aufstallung, Tränken, Abkalbebereich, Sitzstangen)			

Project: Implementing checklist and manual of animal health into farms of Bioland°

Main subjects of the project:

- **Short checklist of animal health for certification body**
 - Report to Bioland in case of main deficiencies
- **Manual of health management for advisors and farmers**
 - Manual of health management for evaluation of animal health and welfare on the farm.
 - Detection of weak spots in health and welfare.
 - Education of the farmers.

1. Rinder

Prüfpunkte Rinder	Einstufung des Ergebnisses		
	Grün	Gelb	Rot <i>(dringender Verbesserungsbedarf)</i>

1.1 Äußerlicher Eindruck Tiere:

Der äußerliche Eindruck der Rinder liefert einen ersten Hinweis auf den Gesundheitszustand der Tiere. Um einen Überblick über alle Rinder zu bekommen, sollten für jeden Unterpunkt wenigstens 30 % der Tiere beurteilt werden.

Haarkleid	<input type="checkbox"/> < 5 % struppig, verschmutzt	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 - 20 % struppig, verschmutzt	<input type="checkbox"/> > 20 % struppig, verschmutzt
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Der Zustand des Haarkleides der Rinder spiegelt den Gesundheitszustand der Tiere wieder. Das gesunde Rind hat ein glattes und glänzendes Fell, hierbei liegen die Haare dicht am Körper an und das Fell hat einen glänzenden Schimmer. Wenn in der Grundration nur Graskonserven und kein Silomais gefüttert werden, schimmert das Fell weniger. Teilweise wird der Schimmer auch durch Staub aus dem Futter oder der Einstreu gemindert. Bei Rindern, die im Herbst von der Weide kommen, ist ein längeres Fell normal. Ansonsten deutet ein längeres, struppiges Fell bei Jungrindern oft auf Mangelernährung oder Parasitenbefall hin.



sauberes Fell



struppiges, schmutziges Fell



lebensbedrohlich schlechter Zustand

Summary

- **Since animal health and animal welfare is a topic of interest in Germany, the deficits became more obvious.**
- **Animal health and welfare problems are mainly management-born.**
- **Education and support for farmers in cooperation with advisors and vets has begun.**
- **Easy to handle parameters for animal health and welfare are evaluated.**
- **Certification bodies include animal health and welfare parameters into their inspections.**
- **Manual of animal health and welfare in progress**

Thank You for listening

