



EFFAB
European Forum of
Farm Animal Breeders

FABRE • TP
Farm Animal Breeding
& Reproduction
Technology Platform

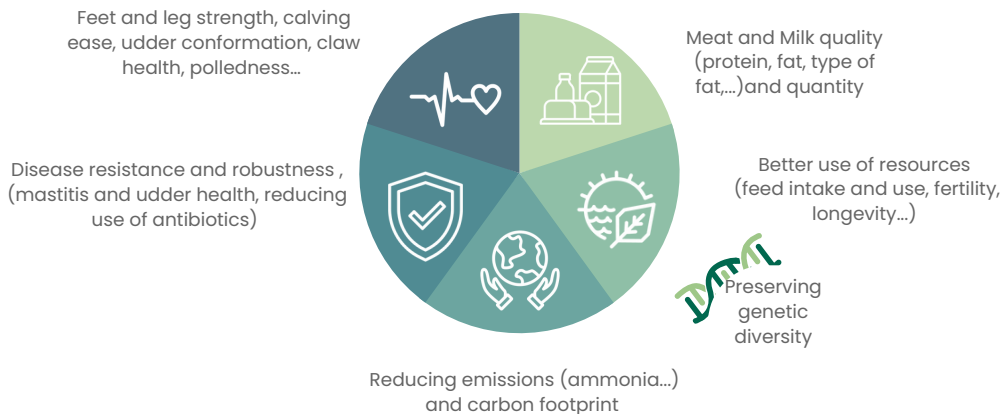


Ruminants breeding and dissemination of genetic improvement

Balanced Ruminants Breeding

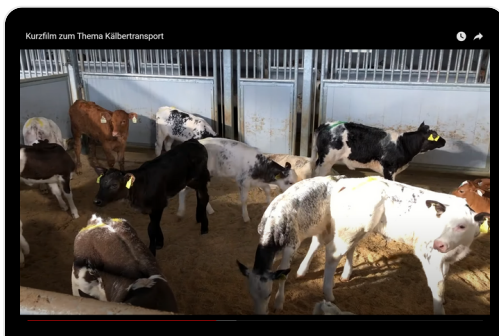
Modern Animal breeding is developed under the concept of Responsible and Balanced breeding (Code EFABAR) and aims to select desirable traits such as robustness, feed efficiency, milk and meat quality, and disease resistance. By utilizing animal breeding and genetics, it is possible to rear healthy, efficient, and productive ruminants, which in turn, promote long-term profitability, environmental sustainability, and animal welfare.

Modern Ruminant Breeding



How are Ruminants being transported?

The Members of the ANIT Committee in the European Parliament, had the chance to listen to the presentation from Dr. Simone Steiner, from the Austrian Cattle Breeding Association (ZAR), on the 15 July 2021. ZAR is one of EFFAB's cattle members. During the presentation, Dr. Steiner gave an interesting overview on how breeding cattle is transported. You can watch the supporting video of her presentation below.



SCAN ME



Why do we need transport?

Bulls and females need to be transported. Bulls to semen collection centres, this often happens locally or within a region, and females to other farms. A few exports are needed because embryos are not always workable. It need recipient cows. So it's often better to import some animals and after inseminate them with the most appropriate bulls to improve the herd. Embryo transfer is a technique that requires very skilled veterinarians and specific approval from veterinarian authorities.

It's also worth to explain that depending of the purpose, the breed and specie (cattle or small ruminants) artificial insemination is not always routine. In dairy, most of the cows are inseminated with frozen semen. Dairy animals need to be milked daily and the farmer can monitor heat and inseminate the cow at the right moment. In the case of beef cattle, sheep, and goats raised for meat, the availability of the animals close to the farmers and the availability of semen of the breed is going to limit the use of frozen semen.

Biosecurity and animal comfort

The health status of bulls at semen collection centres, the rules for collecting and transferring embryos and moving animals are very strict. Artificial insemination helps to spread animal genetics but also to preserve the health of a herd. When using frozen semen, it's the guaranteed to farmers to use semen free of a number of diseases, mentioned in the EC Regulation 2016/429 (Animal Health Regulation) and the related delegated and implementing regulations, including sexual transmissible diseases.



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