

Reference figures for organic farming inspections

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Foreword

Consumers have confidence in the quality of products from organic farming and pay more for organically produced foods. All the more important, therefore, are inspections to ensure that legal standards required by the EC Organic Farming Regulation are obeyed.

The responsible and complex task of carrying out such inspections is conducted by inspectors of state certified inspectorates. The reference figures in this paper have been prepared to help them check plausibility of farming data and offer reliable estimation of production and wastage and calculation of product flows. For instance what production inputs can be expected e.g. seed, plants, fertilisers, feed or raw materials for further processing? And how much can normally be produced from these inputs in terms of yield, performance or sold products? The reference figures in this paper can always be applied when the required information is not available on farms being inspected or where farmers' answers have to be verified. The reference figures in this compilation for helping in organic farming inspections are naturally only based on the results calculated during time of collection and everyone using these figures are thus asked to assist in their updating and pass on any suggestions and advice to the KTBL.

In the first instance this KTBL paper is addressed to inspectors carrying out on-farm inspections or for those wishing to learn more about any sector new to them. But it can also be a valuable information source for farmers or advisers preparing for inspections. Our aim is to ensure, as far as possible, that all inspectorates apply the same figures and that methodology in farm inspections is made more uniform. Numerous inspectorates in Austria and Germany support these aims.

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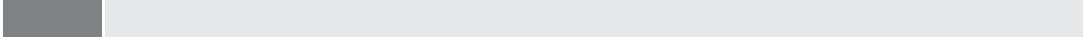
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2.2.2 Cattle

Performance data cattle

Table 44: Performance data dairy cow

Factor	Unit	Production system		
		restrictive ¹⁾ concentrate rationing	quality-oriented ²⁾ concentrate rationing	Performance- oriented ³⁾ concentrate rationing
Milk production	kg/(cow • year)	5 500–6 500	5 500–6 000	7 000–9 000
On basic forage	kg/(cow • year)	4 000–5 000	4 500–5 000	3 500–4 000
Milk from basic ration	%	> 65–85	> 70–90	> 50–60
Livweight	kg	650	600	650
Slaughterweight	kg	357	288	325
Killing-out	%	55	48	50
Production life	years	4	5	3.5
Replacement rate	heifer/year	0.25	0.2	0.29
Calving-to-calving period ⁴⁾	days	375–400	375–400	375–400

1) Especially Fleckvieh herds attempt a high performance from grass silage as rough forage through restricting concentrates.

2) Farms that aim for a high feed quality – mostly milking Swiss Brown without silage feeding, Production is mostly for direct marketing of cheese, non-pasteurised milk, etc.

3) Farms with performance-oriented concentrate rationing, mostly with Holstein-Friesians, aim for high production, They have a large milk quota and limited housing space. Aimed for is maximum milk production per unit forage area or cow place.

4) KTBL (2006): Betriebsplanung Landwirtschaft 2006/07. KTBL-Datensammlung, Darmstadt. Figures from conventional farming.

Redelberger, H. (2004): Management-Handbuch für die ökologische Landwirtschaft: Verfahren – Kostenrechnungen – Baulösungen, Darmstadt. KTBL-Paper 426.

Table 45: Rearing performance, replacement calves

Factor	Unit	Amount
Daily liveweight gain	kg	0.8
Liveweight at 16 weeks	kg	129
Mortality	%	1–20

KTBL (2006): Betriebsplanung Landwirtschaft 2006/07. KTBL-Datensammlung, Darmstadt. Figures from conventional farming.

Table 46: Performance data beef cattle

Factor	Unit	Intensive feeding housed			Medium feeding intensity grazing	
		Bull ¹⁾	Bullock ²⁾	Heifer ²⁾	Bullock ²⁾	Heifer ²⁾
Daily liveweight gain	kg	1.2–1.5	0.9–1.1	0.7–0.9	0.8–0.9	0.6–0.7
Feeding period	ays	380–420	350	< 333	450	< 457
Start weight	kg	125–150	250–280	220–250	250–280	200–230
Endweight	kg	550–700	570–630	520–600	540–610	520–600
Slaughterweight	kg	300–385	320–350	280–320	300–340	280–320
Killing-out	%	57	56	54	56	54
Mortality ¹⁾	%	2	2	2	2	2

¹⁾ KTBL (2006): Betriebsplanung Landwirtschaft 2006/07. KTBL-Datensammlung, Darmstadt. Figures from conventional farming.

²⁾ Redelberger, H. (2004): Management-Handbuch für die ökologische Landwirtschaft: Verfahren – Kostenrechnungen – Baulösungen, Darmstadt.

Table 47: Performance data, weaners from suckler herds

Factor	Unit	Young bulls	Young heifers
Birth weight ¹⁾	kg	37–43	35–40
Weaning age ¹⁾	months	8–12	8–12
Weaning weight ¹⁾	kg	280–350	260–310
Slaughterweight ²⁾	kg	155–195	140–165
Killing-out ²⁾	%	56	54
Mortality ³⁾	%	2	2

¹⁾ KTBL (2002): Ökologischer Landbau, Kalkulationsdaten. Sonderveröffentlichung 043, Darmstadt. Figures from conventional farming.

²⁾ Hartmann, W. (2006): Oral communication.

³⁾ KTBL (2006): Betriebsplanung Landwirtschaft 2006/07. KTBL-Datensammlung, Darmstadt. Figures from conventional farming.