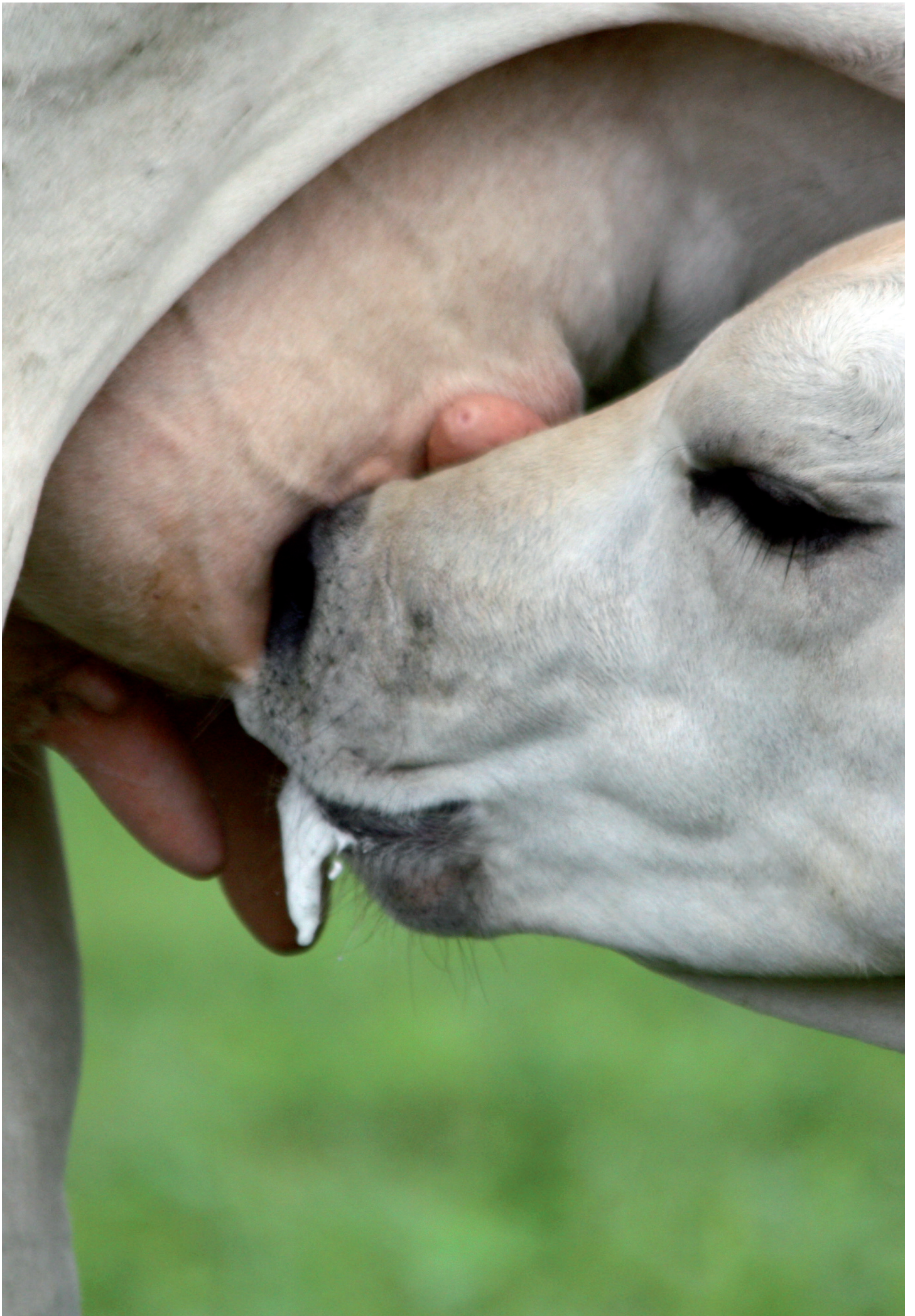




Baltic Grassland-Beef

PLEASURE WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

beef from the grasslands of the Baltic States
Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.



INDEX OF CONTENT

OVERVIEW

4	INITIAL POSITION OBJECTIVE PHILOSOPHY BALTIC STATES
5	SUCKLER COW HUSBANDRY BALTIC GRASSLAND-BEEF

PRODUCTION REGULATIONS

6	1. GENERAL 2. LEGAL TERMS
7	3. ANIMALS
9	4. HUSBANDRY
12	5. FEED 6. CERTIFICATES 7. SALE
13	8. INSPECTION 9. VALIDATION

INITIAL POSITION

- Worldwide climate change influences the production of food- and agricultural commodities
- Increasing demand for bio ethanol-products (oil and gas price)
- Reduction of CO² emissions
- Worldwide increase of food prices
- Beef produced on basis of concentrated feed competes human nutrition "feed no food"
- Demand of Foods based on ecological and animal friendly production is increasing
- Decline of the self-sufficiency level of beef meat in Western Europe
- Increasing demand (wealth in China, India and Eastern Europe) > raising of prices in South America

OBJECTIVE

- Production suitable to habitat (meat from roughage feed)
- Foods based on ecological and animal friendly production
- Promotion of high quality products (carcass and consumption)
- Consolidation of mother cow husbandry (beef production)
- Promotion of climate-balance of imported beef

PHILOSOPHY

- Basis: natural feed
- Roughage feed: grass, hay and silage
- Calves: milk from mothers
- No additional feeding of milk
- No GMO
- No chemical-synthetic performance additives
- No feed-urea
- No animal based protein or fat
- No imported soy



BALTIC STATES

The Baltic is a well-wooded landscape characterised by dunes and moraines. About 40 % of its surface is forested and a further 40 % is used for farming. A large part of the grassland is not suited to cultivation for climatic reasons. Beef cattle breeding is the ideal form of grassland use.



SUCKLER COW HUSBANDRY

Baltic Grassland Beef stands for quality meat from 20-month old cows and oxen from suckler cows. Beef cattle breeds guarantee excellent meat quality.

Baltic Grassland Beef is characterised by comprehensive husbandry and feeding regulations in the sense of animal-friendly cattle farming as close as possible to nature. The calves stay in the cowshed or on the meadow together with their mothers. Free-range husbandry with summer pastures and winter runs is a prerequisite. The animals make extensive use of meadows and pastureland.

The feed consists mainly of mother's milk, complemented later by grass and hay. After weaning at 8-10 months free-range barns are compulsory. During the vegetation period the animals can go further on the pasture. The use of growth-stimulating additives, animal proteins or fats, and genetically modified feedstuffs is prohibited.

BALTIC GRASSLAND-BEEF

To be enjoyed with a clear conscience. Meat from the Baltic Grassland Beef Project respects ecological, economic and sustainable development. The rational and considerate treatment of natural resources and the environment is the declared aim of the project. Animal welfare combined with outstanding meat quality is first and foremost.

We promise fine tasty meat and guarantee...

ANIMAL-FRIENDLY CATTLE FARMING AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO NATURE on the lush green meadows of the Baltic.

HIGH QUALITY GUIDELINES according to Swiss standards.

SUSTAINED GRAZING during vegetation periods.

GRASS AND HAY -based feeding of the animals.

AVOIDANCE OF SOYA as animal feedstuff.

TASTY MEAT thanks to natural growth of the animals.

BEST MEAT QUALITY guaranteed exclusively through heifers and oxen.

OPTIMUM MEAT MARBLEIZATION through selected beef cattle breeds.

TOP QUALITY AND TRACEABILITY on the farms and in transport.

CONTROLLED SLAUGHTERING in the Baltic's most modern facilities.

PRODUCTION REGULATIONS

1. GENERAL

- A Baltic Grassland-Beef:** Baltic Grassland-Beef (hereinafter BGB) is quality meat from beef cattle breeds raised in mother cow husbandry and fed on a roughage basis.
- B Beef cattle genetics:**
- The sires are beef breeding bulls recognized by an official beef cattle herd-book.
 - project start: the mother animals are F1-beef cattle cross breeds.
 - final production: the mother animals are F1-beef cattle cross breeds and the pedigree is registered.
- C Mother Cow Husbandry:** Mother cow husbandry is compulsive for the production of Baltic Grassland-Beef. In mother cow husbandry the calf suckles from its mother until weaning. After weaning the animals are fattened based on roughage feed.
- D Animal friendly housing:**
- project start: Animal friendly housing according to article 4.a.-c. is desired.
 - final production: Animal friendly housing according to article 4.a.-c. is compulsive.
- E Pastures:** During the growing season defined in article 4. it is compulsive that cows and calves are kept on pastures.

2. LEGAL TERMS

The BGB-farms comply with the laws, regulations, and directives in their current versions according to the EU legislation and the associated country-specific legislation related to the following terms:

- A** Animal welfare
- B** Water protection
- C** Animal identification / animal traffic control
- D** Veterinary pharmaceuticals and treatments
- E** Food and feed safety
- F** Animal transport

3. ANIMALS

A. PROVENANCE

- **Project start:** The animals have to be kept for minimum 6 months on an approved BGB-farm. All animals kept on the BGB-farm 6 months before the date of recognition are eligible for BGB.
- **Final production:** The animals have to be continuously kept on an approved BGB-farm or on an approved BGB-fattening-farm; meaning from birth to slaughtering. Animals may be moved between approved BGB-farms.
- **Mother Cow Husbandry:** Mother cow husbandry is compulsive for the production of Baltic Grassland-Beef. In mother cow husbandry the calf suckles from its mother until weaning. After weaning the animals are fattened based on roughage feed.
- **Replacement of a deceased calf:** The replacement-calf must be a beef cattle cross breed descending from an officially recognized beef-breeding bull. The replacement-calf must not be older than 8 weeks when bought from another farm.

B. BREEDS AND PARENTAGE

- **For the production of BGB** breeds are to be used which are adapted to the climate, roughage feed and a low input mother cow husbandry. The choice of the breed depends on the intensity of farming and the quality of the feed provided on each farm.
- **For the mothers of BGB animals** the following recommendations can be made:
Easy calving and a good milk yield have a high priority on the cow's side. Based on this the breeds Angus, Aubrac, Brown (Swiss meat type), Charolais, Hereford, Limousin, Salers, Simmental, and Tyrol Grey and their crossings are suitable.
The choice of the breed of the Sire depends strongly on the intensity of the farm. A high priority has to be given to the muscularity of the Sires.
BGB animals have to descend from a pure beef cattle breed sire which is recognized by an official beef cattle herd-book.
The mothers of BGB animals have to be minimum a F1-beef cattle cross breed.
final production: The pedigree of the BGB animals and their mothers is registered at the country's responsible organization (EBBA, Data Base Center or LMGAGA).
Animals bred by embryo transfer and animals descending from Belgian Blue Bulls are not eligible for BGB. Such animals cannot be marketed as BGB.

3. ANIMALS

C. SEX

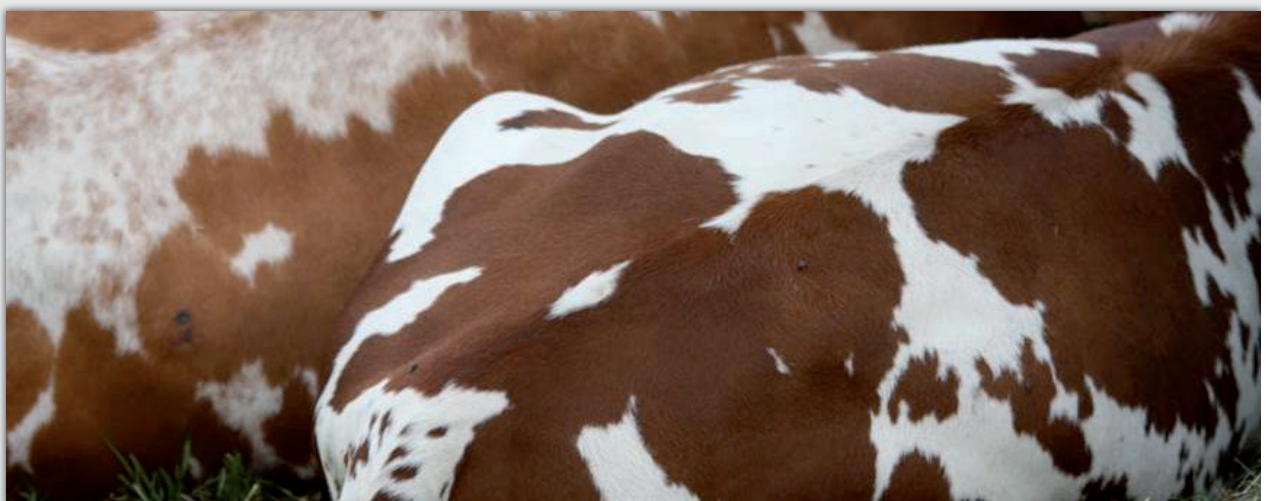
- project start: All sexes are eligible for BGB. Heifers and steers preferred.
- 01.01.2016: Only heifers and steers (castrated males) can be slaughtered as BGB.
- Bulls are not accepted as BGB.

D. AGE

- BGB animals are to be maximum 24 months of age at the day of slaughter.

E. CARCASS

- project start: The slaughter weight of BGB has to be within the limits of 240 and 330 kg. The goal is a slaughter weight of 280 kg.
- final production: The slaughter weight of BGB has to be within the limits of 260 and 300 kg. The goal is a slaughter weight of 280 kg.
- The carcass grade of BGB has to be within the limits of 0 to E according to the EUROP classification system.
- The fat grade of BGB has to be within the limits of 2 to 4 of the EUROP classification system.



4. HUSBANDRY

- The animals must be kept in groups in free range husbandry.
- During the growing season (approx. from the 15th of May to the 15th of October, depending on the geographical exposure of the farm, in continuous bad weather exceptions can be made) the animals have to be kept on pastures. Fattening cattle kept in housing of type 4.a. is excluded from this regulation.
- In the non-growing season respectively the stabling season (approx. from the 16th of October to the 14th of May, depending on the geographical exposure of the farm) there are different solutions of housing. In most cases type 4.a. is recommended.
- The housing must give the animals protection from the cold, wind and mud. The housing must ensure the animal's comfort.
- All animals must have access to the feeding area and water at any time.
- The following measures are compulsive for the final production of Baltic Grassland-Beef. During the project start the measures are desired and are to be aimed at with all possible effort.



4. HUSBANDRY

A. COMBINED HOUSING › STABLE AND OUTDOOR RUN

STABLE AND OUTDOOR RUN:

- Animals in combined housing systems need permanent access to an outdoor run or a winter pasture.

STABLING:

- **Light:** Daylight of minimum 15 Lux in the stables.
- **Litter:** In deep barns litter must be available in a sufficient quantity. The litter must not be overly soiled or wet. For boxes litter can be replaced with mattresses.

Stabling system: Deep barns		
Surface area	cows	8 m ² of which minimum 5 m ² litter
	calves (0–12 M)	4 m ² of which minimum 2.5 m ² litter
	fattening cattle (12–24 M)	5 m ² of which minimum 3 m ² litter
Stabling system: Boxes		
Boxes	cows	width 125 cm depth 260 cm
	calves (0–12 M)	width 90 cm depth 210 cm
	fattening cattle (12–24 M)	width 100 cm depth 240 cm
All stabling systems		
Surface perforation (floor)	calves (0–6 M)	maximum 30 mm
	cows and fattening cattle	gaps maximum 35 mm holes maximum 55 mm
Gangways / channels	cows	260 cm
	fattening cattle (12–24 M)	175 cm
Outdoor run		
Surface area	calves (0–12 M)	1.5 m ²
	cows	2.5 m ²
	fattening cattle (12–24 M)	2 m ²

WINTER PASTURE:

- Winter pastures are only possible on soil with a good natural drainage. For winter pastures the measures noted in article 4.c. apply.

4. HUSBANDRY

B. FULLY ROOFED HOUSING

- Fully roofed housing is only permitted if the stable has **enough light and fresh air**.
- Litter:** Litter must be available in a sufficient quantity. The litter must not be overly soiled or wet.

Fully roofed housing		
Surface area	cows	10.5 m ² of which minimum 5 m ² litter
	calves (0–12 M)	5.5 m ² of which minimum 2.5 m ² litter
	fattening cattle (12–24 M)	7 m ² of which minimum 3 m ² litter

C. ALL YEAR UNPROOFED HOUSING / PERMANENT PASTURES

- Wind protection:** The animals need sufficient protection of the wind. This can be trees, a simple open shed or a wall.
- Nature of the soil:** The soil needs to have a good natural drainage, ideally dry and sandy soil. Muddy soil is not suitable.

Permanent pastures		
Surface area	cows	0.02 ha
	calves (0–12 M)	0.01 ha
	fattening cattle (12–24 M)	0.015 ha

5. FEED

- A The feed is mainly grown on farm.** The basis for the production of BGB is roughage feed. The calves additionally feed milk off their mothers.
- B** The use of milk from dairy cattle, of milk powder, or other milk-byproducts **is forbidden**.
- C The farmer ensures the animals a balanced diet.** Minerals, micronutrients, and vitamins are only to be given as supplement. No genetically modified organisms (GMO), no chemical-synthetic performance additives, no animal based protein or fat are to be used in the animal's diet. Final production: No imported soy is to be used in the animal's diet.

6. CERTIFICATS

- A Every animal receives a BGB certification** by the country's responsible organization (EBBA, Data Base Center or LMGAGA).
- B** Animals are only eligible for certification if they **fulfil every article of the production regulations**. Not certified animals cannot be marketed as BGB.

7. SALE

All farms producing Baltic Grassland-Beef are committed to market their BGB via **Baltic VIANCO**.

8. INSPECTION

- A Inspection-authority:** The recognition of farms for the production of BGB is conducted by EBBA, ABC projekts, or LMGAGA (depending on the location of the farm). The recognition is valid for the inspected site only. The farmer grants the inspection-authority free access to the stables and documents related to his production of BGB at any time.
- B Duties of documentation:** Every farm producing BGB commits to record veterinary treatments in the designated veterinary journal. Animals are only eligible for certification if they fulfil every article of the production regulations. Not certified animals cannot be sold as BGB.

9. VALIDATION

- Valid from 18th June 2012 / updated on 20th September 2014
- The regulations for the final production are valid from the 1st January 2019.



