

27.10.2018

“Genomics Requires Top Rearing”

A top German breeding farm relies on the Hokovit Super Heifer rearing method from Hofmann Nutrition AG.

ADRIAN HALDIMANN

When it comes to professional breeding, foreign companies rely on the know-how of a Swiss company. One example is the farm of Christoph Lükschen in Lohmar, Germany, with 250 cows and 550 breeding animals. For two years he has been using the Hokovit Super Heifer rearing method. What guided his choice?

“There are several advantages”

Mr. Lükschen was looking to boost the added value in dairy cattle farming. This is why he went into genomic breeding seven years ago and founded Colonia Cows (prefix: COL). In order to promote worldwide marketing, Mr. Lükschen has been operating Genesland together with Diamond Genetics for two years. “For several years we have been selling many calves to top auctions,” he explains. Well-developed and healthy animals are the be-all and end-all. “Calf rearing has gained a higher status than in the past,” stresses Mr. Lükschen. “This is why we were looking for a system that was as simple and as good as possible,” he says of finding the solution at the Swiss company Hofmann Nutrition AG. “Testing the Super Heifer rearing method



Christoph Lükschen (r.) relies on the Hokovit Super Heifer rearing method, developed by Jürg Hofmann (l.) (Photo: zvg)

excited us.” As reasons he cites the good health and the favorable development of young calves. He adds that the simple system also offers economic advantages.

A maximum of five liters per day

“We add the premium Calvicol colostrum and the micronized Hokostar vitamins of Hokovit to the colostrum, which is consistently checked for quality, in the first five days of life for better resilience of the calves,” explains Mr. Lükschen. Then, he switches to full-milk substitutes, to which Calvistart, also from Hokovit, is added. Pneumonia and diarrheal diseases have since decreased. “This is crucial for our valuable animals,” emphasizes the entrepreneur. The calves receive a

maximum of five liters per day. They are weaned after ten weeks. “The calves should eat as soon as possible,” he explains. The calves also receive calf-rearing feed enriched with Calvistart for six months. After six months, the calves with a weight of around 230 kilograms are very well developed, according to Mr. Lükschen. “Then we can feed more restrictively, so that the young cattle do not become obese.” He says that feeding the animals the micronutrient supplement Hokovit-Super Heifer Guard is crucial in this phase and that the optimal calving age is 23 to 24 months. “Based on my calculations, assessments and observations of all factors, I absolutely recommend the Hokovit Super Heifer rearing method,” concludes Mr. Lükschen.