

Dear dairy farmers, dear interested parties,



Another eventful year is drawing to a close. Together with the European Milk Board, dairy farmers across Europe have engaged in countless activities, defending the interests of dairy producers, drawing attention to our political demands and presenting our proposals for sustainable farming conditions.

We at EMB wish to take this opportunity to thank all milk producers for their commitment and steadfast work in 2022! We would also like to thank consumers who have supported farmers, among others by purchasing Fair Milk products, and policy-makers who have advocated for a sustainable agricultural sector!

Alongside new contributions, the last edition of our newsletter in 2022 contains a selection of articles published over the past twelve months as we would like to take stock of key events at this time of year. In 2022, too, farmers have produced high-quality food day in day out, while at the same time defending their profession, engaging in political work and fighting for the survival of their farms and families' livelihoods. While the atrocious war in Ukraine has caused higher farm-gate prices in some countries, it has also driven up production costs, which is why the fight for stable and fair remuneration of dairy farmers continues.

We look forward to moving further down this important path in the coming year with you, toward a stable dairy sector in Europe. But now, it is time to enjoy a well-deserved break and get some good rest to gear up for another year of strong political work.

Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy year 2023!

Warm regards,

Your EMB colleagues

Kjartan Poulsen elected as new EMB Chair by European dairy producers



© EMB

Brussels: The European Milk Board (EMB) will now be headed by its new Chair, Danish milk producer Kjartan Poulsen. At the EMB's recent General Assembly, German BDM representative

Elmar Hannen was also elected Deputy Chair. The previous Executive Committee members Boris Gondouin from APLI (France), Belgian MIG representative Guy Francq, his Irish colleague Pat McCormack from the ICMSA and Roberto Cavaliere from the APL (Italy) were re-elected to the Executive Committee.

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No more sacred cows!



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Despite recent dairy price increases, a capricious system governed by speculators and unpredictable market swings remains unchanged. To guarantee food safety and security, as well as a fair income for farmers, the Fair Milk alternative should become the norm.

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Milk production has lost over a quarter of its farms in a decade



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The agricultural census conducted by the French Ministry of Agriculture every ten years gives us an overview of the French farming landscape and the trends inherent to ten-yearly developments across the country. Its latest publication on 10 December 2021 shows a 21% fall in the number of farms across all types of production.

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What are the start-up costs for young farmers in Denmark?



© LDM

The job of a dairy farmer is multifaceted and demanding, and – as old hands in the business never tire of saying – can be very fulfilling. Yet anyone wanting to start producing milk faces huge challenges in every EU member state. Besides the intense price pressure and low or sometimes inexistent income for farmers and family members helping on the farm – a challenge every milk producer is confronted with – young farmers in particular also have to deal with the investment capital required.

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Fair Milk in Belgium: quality in harmony with fair production and marketing



© Fairebel, Antoine Melis

East Belgium: In recent years, the Fairebel label has become synonymous with fair agricultural products of the highest quality. What began as a reaction to the milk crisis in 2009, developed into a real success story. “At a time when farmers feared for their livelihoods due to rock-bottom milk prices, they received no solutions from policy-makers and decided that it was time to take things into their own hands”, remembers Faircoop President, Erwin Schöpges.

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Rising costs put pressure on milk production



© Deborah Cordwell, wikimedia

Skyrocketing energy prices are leading to far-reaching consequences. For many months now, milk products have become steadily more expensive around the world. This could be because many food corporations are capitalising on the situation and are using the excuse of rising energy prices to expand their margins. At the same time, milk production worldwide is either stagnating or decreasing. Rising costs and milk prices that do not cover these costs are leading to more farms going out of business and a reduction in production volumes. Since the

phase-out of quotas in 2009, the number of dairy farms in Switzerland has reduced by one third. Today, only about 18,000 remain.

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Make your own yoghurt, quark and Ziger cheese from Fair Milk



© Di fair Milch, Säuliamt

Through our cooperative "Faire Milch Säuliamt", we sell two types of pasteurised milk in the eleven branches of the VOLG chain of stores. Unfortunately, it is not possible for us to sell more dairy products via this channel.

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"A dramatic collapse"



Berechnung der Brutto- und
Nettomargen der
Milcherzeugung in der EU 28
von 1989-2019

Ergebnisse der Studie von Seite 10 bis Seite 11
des Dokuments: Landwirt und
Verbraucher der EU 28 (2019-2020)
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der Europäischen Kommission (EMK) (2019)

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A current study reveals the development in margins for EU milk producers and the fact that they have decreased significantly over the last 30 years, even sliding into negative figures to a large extent.

The study by the BAL (Büro für Agrarsoziologie und Landwirtschaft, Rural Sociology and Agriculture Studies Office) has calculated four types of margin for the EU for the period 1989-2019 respectively 2004-2019 with the gross and net margin and the net economic margin I and II, clearly indicating the development in dairy farming.

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France: dairy farmers unite in fairness and solidarity



© FaireFrance

It would be difficult to find a dairy farmer who was left unscathed by the milk crisis of 2009. Rozenn Angenard, dairy farmer in the Ille-et-Vilaine department in Brittany, as well as Isabelle Rouyer and Cédric Dumaine, from the Orne department in Normandy, remember this period where they poured away their milk to protest the rock-bottom milk prices.

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Quality comes at a price



© AbL, Ottmar Ilchmann

Some associations and companies keep trying to capitalise on market uncertainties to chip away at long-standing quality standards for agricultural products. The German small farmers' association AbL calls for decent producer prices in the face of higher costs.

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Fair Milk: a true sign of solidarity



© Fairebel

With the Fair Milk project, producers do not just advocate for their profession, they also take action to help people in need. As this project belongs to dairy farmers and is managed by them alone, they can react quickly and make their small contribution through Fair Milk.

Please read on for reports from different Fair Milk countries about their concrete action during crises.

[read more](#)

Fair Milk in Germany: the Ströbele family from Ehingen



© Andrea Münnekehoff, Die faire Milch

Our Fair Milk programme members introduce themselves: the Ströbele family from Ehingen in Baden-Württemberg has farmed for over 200 years. Together with his wife and his three sons Lukas, Felix and Fabian, Gernot Ströbele runs his farm with 65 dairy cows and young cattle.

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Open letter by European farmers to the European Union



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We – the European farmers of ECVC and the European Milk Board who, as agricultural producers, are at the heart of food production – regard the current state of EU production systems with great concern. Unless action is taken immediately, it will no longer be possible to guarantee food security in the EU, i.e. the supply of key foodstuffs.

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Fair, Fairer, Faironika



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During the milk strike or while spraying the European Parliament in Brussels with milk, on World Milk Day alongside Manneken Pis or at the innumerable Fair Milk tastings in or outside supermarkets, at Europe-wide protests, agricultural fairs and press conferences or in many, many fields at the heart of Europe: Faironika, the EMB's symbolic cow in different national colours has stood with farmers for 15 years and embodies their call for fair milk prices.

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Lithuanian CAP Strategic Plan



In Lithuania, farmers are disappointed at the way in which the Lithuanian CAP Strategic Plan was prepared. The Lithuanian Ministry of Agriculture worked on the Strategic Plan behind closed doors, excluding farmers from the process and not taking their input into account. As a result, dairy farmers are not happy with the outcome of the Lithuanian Strategic Plan.

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The interplay between climate change and pasture grazing



© Vanessa Langer

We farmers are committed to climate protection because we are directly affected by the fallout of climate change. There are many different ways to mitigate climate change. When looking at greenhouse gas reduction in dairy farming, case-by-case evaluation is essential as carbon emissions strongly depend on the location, structure and type of farm and use. Dairy

farming is not per se a climate killer as is often claimed.

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Fair Milk in 2022: buying local is still worth every penny



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We asked our Fair Milk producers to look back on 2022 and to give us their forecast for the coming year. Assessments differ from country to country, but all agree that Fair Milk is still necessary.

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Legal notice

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