

# FLECKVIEH WORLD

The magazine for Fleckvieh breeding

Can  
femininity  
breed  
masculinity?

Page 4

# N.E.W.

## Bayern-Genetik has a new look!

With this issue of the WORLD magazine, we present you the updated appearance of Bayern-Genetik. Have a look at our new style and enjoy reading the new articles from around the world.

Type Breeding **10**

Bulls information **26**

**BAYERN  
GENETIK**

Perfect Match.

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**Brenair Park FORMBY**

FORMBY is an outstanding Fleckvieh bull with roots on both sides to Namibia! He shows exactly the way to overcome the trouble with „heat & droughts“ - perfect adapted to the environment!

Photo: Mavstar Photography

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**The Fleckvieh-World is real!**

The cattle photos published in the Fleckvieh-World are not retouched. Cattle that are photographed are only allowed to be shared, washed and treated with oil, powder and gloss spray.

**Cover**

The new look of Bayern-Genetik. With the new corporate identity you will see us more often with „Flecken“ from now on.



# Dear Fleckvieh breeders, Dear customers and friends of Bayern-Genetik



Simultaneously with the printing of the Fleckvieh-World the World-Simmental/Fleckvieh-Congress takes place in Fort Worth/Texas/U.S.A. under the motto: „From Cattle Drives to Genomics“. Although this congress in Texas is dominated by beef cattle breeding topics, it is certainly of great importance and interest how genomic breeding values are used in the beef industry.

In the Fleckvieh beef industry the same mistakes should not be made as already in the dual purpose direction! Animals which have very good genomic breeding values should also have the corresponding type. If clearly visible exterior deficiencies are recognizable on the bull, which show a high heritability, the use of such a breeding animal should be avoided in the sense of the breeding work.

The employees of Bayern-Genetik have developed a breeding value for type in years of development work, which is presented in this magazine and which will make mating easier for our customers worldwide, if they work with breeding bulls of our organization.

With our Type-APP, available in late autumn 2018, every breeder can mate his stock with this tool after appropriate instruction.

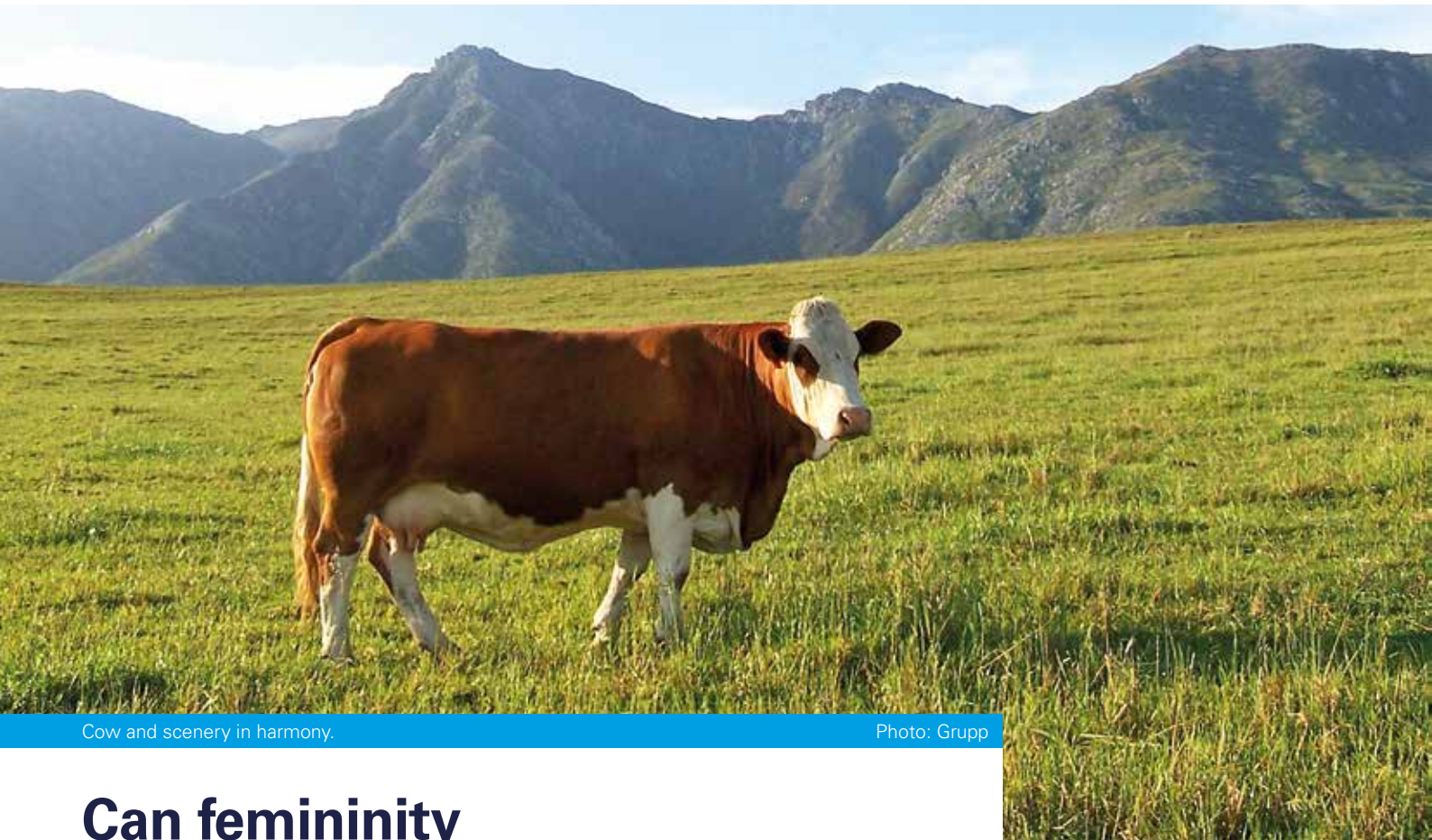
Bayern-Genetik has relaunched its corporate identity (CI) and we hope that you, dear readers, will enjoy the redesign of Fleckvieh-World.

With BFG MAHANGO Pp, Bayern-Genetik now offers a genetically polled breeding bull that fulfils all superlatives. Milk, meat, easy calving, polledness, fitness, outstanding exterior, united in a dream type – I personally advise you with the best conscience to use this bull also in your herd. You will feel the same enthusiasm as we do!

Feel free to follow our daily work with postings on Facebook - Bayern-Genetik Deutschland.

Yours sincerely

**DR. THOMAS GRUPP**



Cow and scenery in harmony.

Photo: Grupp

## Can femininity breed masculinity?

***This story is about breeding heavy well muscled Simmental-Fleckvieh (SF) suckler beef bulls out of a fine and slender muscled Simmentaler cow and a son of a specialised German Fleckvieh milk lineage. We often hear from SF suckler beef breeders outside Europe that „these European milk cows can't breed beef.“***

This may be true today where most SF organisations in Europe prioritize milk very much but when Southern African breeders imported large numbers of animals and semen in the 1970's and 80's from German/Austrian dual purpose Fleckvieh it was usually not the case. For more background regarding this theory refer to the Annexure.

### **THE BULL NAPOLEON**

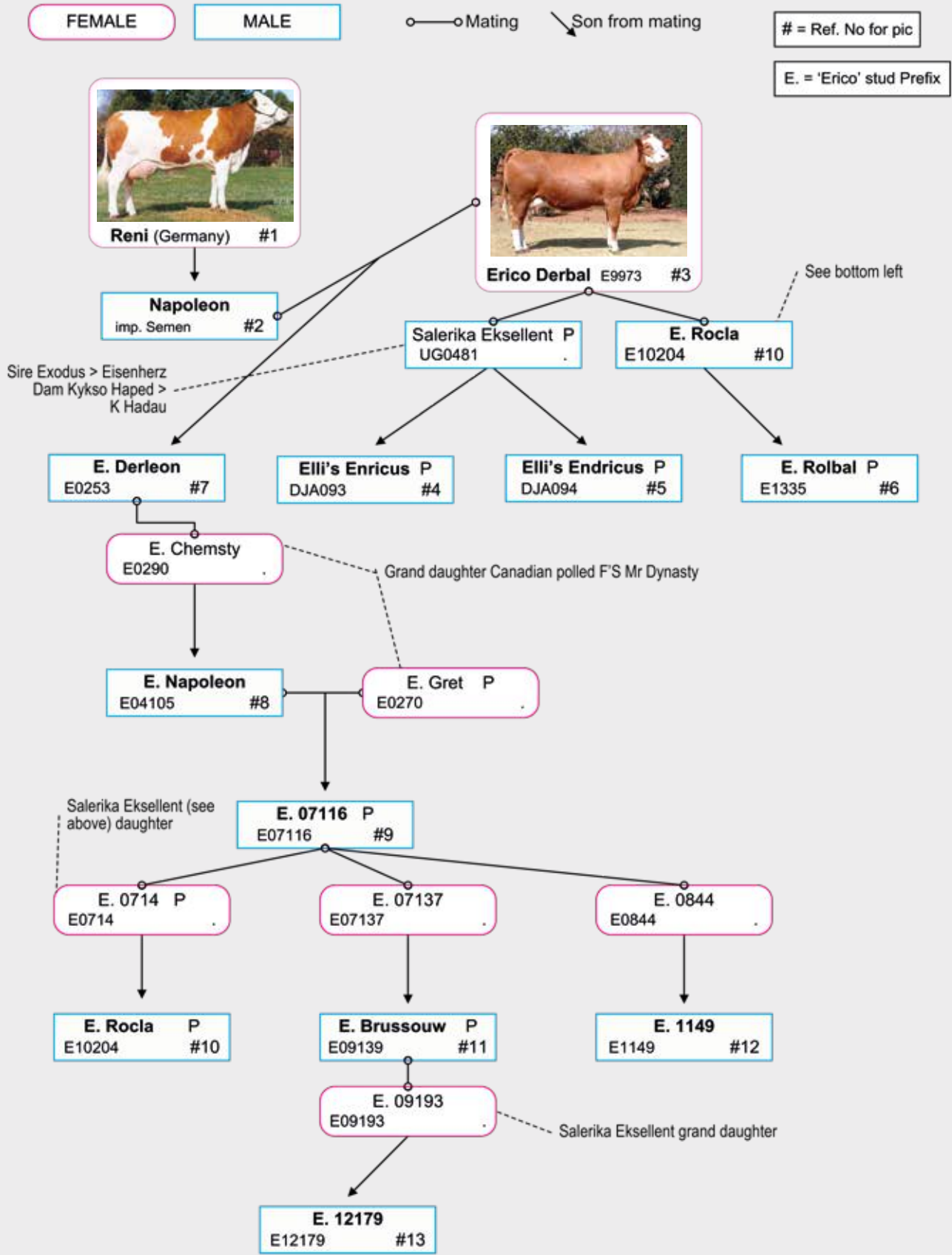
During my time as CEO of Simmentaler South Africa/Namibia we had a

few artificial insemination (AI) projects with the objective to improve the breed faster, providing superior genetics to breeders at a reduced price and generate a lucrative income for the breed association. For one of these projects, which was in cooperation with Bayern Genetik, I selected German AI bulls whose semen was made available via our „advisory service“ to interested breeders who did not want to follow the difficult import procedure. I was well acquainted with Fleckvieh

genetics because of my four year involvement in selecting and promoting German Fleckvieh genetics for suckler beef production in countries outside Europe.

One of my main selection criteria for choosing bulls for our AI programmes was that the bull had to have a good mother or even better, a good mother line. I experienced this association with so many good Fleckvieh bulls and that was the only reason for selecting Napoleon, a son of Reni, for our program.

# Breeding plan







#1: RENI, milkline from both sides.



#1b: RENI „Miss Europe“ in Paris 1998.

## REFER TO BREEDING PLAN AND PHOTOS

#1 (these # refer to the photo)

**Reni:** I knew her from a few visits to breeder Herr Fragner in Northern Bavaria. She was a very correct dairy type out of a dairy mother- and father-line. Scored 9/9 for type, shape and udder; very large with a wither height of 145 cm and heart girth (breast circumference) of 218 cm; sired by a bull going back to a Swiss line known for excellent udders they got from bringing in some Red Holstein blood. She unfortunately had a lot of white and no eye-pigmentation but this can be corrected quickly as you will note from the photos. Reni's average milk production (15 years ago!) was

9500 kg milk/lactation with 4.2 % fat, 3.6 % protein – in „beef language“ 31 kg per day for every day in milk (#1a). Her slaughter weight at eleven years was 560 kg. She was Reserve Grand champion to „Miss Germany“ at their National Show and in 1998 represented Germany at the European Show in Paris where she won the „Miss Europe“ title against cows from France, Austria and Switzerland (#1b).

**#2 Napoleon** (Reni's son): As mentioned, his mother was decisive in selecting him because he was more a dairy type dual purpose bull with one unpigmented eye (other side) but structurally correct. We only imported around 200 doses because I



#1a: RENI, 31 kg milk for every day in lactation.

believed that his photo will not sell many doses. Fred Dell, one of our Technical Advisers who also believed in mother-line principles, promoted him amongst other AI bulls



#2: German AI sire NAPOLEON, son of Reni.



#3: ERICO DERBAL. Fine and medium sized three year old.

#3a: DERBAL – That „womanly look“ we strive for.



#4: ENRICUS, National Junior Champ 2011.



#5: ENDRICUS, Res. National Junior 2011.

to breeders and Mr. Erich Schulenburg (Erico stud) bought a couple of doses. I asked Erich why did he use Napoleon on his cow Derbal (#3): „Napoleon’s impressive mother Reni caught the eye and I thought that the combination with Derbal which comes from a stronger beef background may work. I also wanted to improve udders.“

Unfortunately Napoleon’s SAfr Breedplan EBVs are not impressive, however most have a low accuracy due to weak linkage.

**#3 Erico Derbal** (3 year on pic): Fine boned, very feminine with wonderful sleek haircoat, sound legs and that excellent „womanly look“ (#3a).

She was the 2004/5 National Super Cow judged on reproduction and show achievement. Derbal and her dam are both \*\*\*cows (3-star - for reproduction and weaning weight). She has Benz (15 %) on both sides of her pedigree and in her 3-generation pedigree are three bulls from the then breed association’s national AI Programme. Why do I mention Benz? He is another bull which I selected and promoted heavily in the 1970’s because he was an average sized well muscled bull with an excellent mother (Nosta) a Bayer daughter. In my 2007 Sire-Bloodline Analysis on the active African population Benz was the second most influential Fleckvieh bull

mainly through a couple AI sons and popular daughter’s sons.

**#4, 5 and 6 Derbal sons:** These bulls bred by Elli’s (Andre Ellis) and Erico (Erich Schulenburg) demonstrate that an averaged sized, fine and light muscled cow like Derbal can breed beefy well muscled sons. That’s „sexual dimorphism“ which is described in the Annexure.

**#7 to #13** (all Erico): Napoleon X Derbal produced E. Derlion (#7) the African Napoleon-line founder who sired E.Napoleon (#8) which in turn was mated to polled cow E. Gret to produce polled son E. 07116 (#9) who sired (#10, 11, 12) and is



#6: ROLBAL, Res. National Grand Champ 2017.



#7: DERLION: Grand Champ 2014.





#8: E. NAPOLEON: Gr. Champ 2007 + Res. National Grand Champ 2008.



#9: E. 07116, Grand Champ 2011 + National Grand Champ 2011.

grandsire of (#13). The polled factor was introduced by the well known Canadian F'S Mr Dynasty and South African Association AI bull Salerika Eksellent. Note the number of show-champions and even a few National Champions.

### THE CHERRY ON TOP

For five years in a row Erico Brusouw was the most used bull in South Africa/Namibia according to calves recorded in the herdbook of the breeders association.

### ANNEXURE

**Suckler milk production: Optimum always before maximum.**

During my years on the Board of the SF World Federation I intro-

duced this slogan which was frequently used by the Federation's Promotion Committee and the European export countries (where all cows are milked) to propagate the breed as beef breed in the suckler beef producing countries: „You can produce milk without beef but you can't produce beef without milk.“ Though, this slogan must be handled with caution. For suckler beef we need optimum- and never maximum-milk. Worldwide research reflect undoubtedly that under extensive farming with limited feed quality and quantity, suckler beef cows with a moderate size and milk production outperform the larger higher milking cows because their higher nutri-

tional requirements are not met, they therefore don't maintain sufficient body condition to rebreed and reproductive efficiency and therefore income from weaner sales drops. However, this is not the case when the higher milkers receive expensive supplementation which is usually not possible.

Another aspect regarding this subject is that cattle do not perform the same in different environments i.e. genetic-environmental interaction. High milking genetics from Europe will produce significantly less milk under extensive suckler production. In fact I found no association between the German/Austrian „Milk EBV“ („MV“ - based on milk



#10: ROCLA, Senior Champ 2014.



#11: BRUSSOUW, Grand Champ 2012/14 + Res. National Grand Champ 2014.





#12: E. 1149.



#13: E.12179, Grand Champ 2016.

recording data) and the BREED-PLAN suckler beef „200-day Milk or Maternal EBV“ („WV“ - reflects how much of the calf's adjusted 200 day weaning weight is due to milk). I found a number of Fleckvieh bulls with a far below average „MV“ that are in the top 20 % in Africa for „WV“ and vice versa.

### **Sexual dimorphism like no other cattle breed**

Bulls of dairy breeds are unusable for profitable beef production and you can't milk cows from beef breeds i.e. Angus, Hereford, Charolais and Brahman. To the contrary you can successfully produce milk and quality beef with SF dual purpose cattle.

Phenotypic differences in size, muscling, growth and body shape between males and females (known as sexual dimorphism) is much more pronounced in SF than any other cattle breed. In Southern Africa we aim for fine, lightly muscled feminine females (see E. Derbal) which breed well muscled bulls with a better growth rate than specialised beef breeds as proven in official growth tests\* (\* = „Beef Breeding in South Africa“). Another example: The national averages of the Austrian/German Fleckvieh is unique in the world: Around 890 000 milk recorded cows averaged over 7 000 kg milk/lactation and their recorded sons have an average daily weight

gain of 1.4 kg/day from birth to around 15 months which is superior to the majority of specialised beef breeds in the world.

Note: Any comment is welcome at [cpeterm@iafrica](mailto:cpeterm@iafrica).

### **PETER MASSMANN**

South Africa  
January 2017

Photos: KeLeKi, V. Hussmann, RZV Franken, J. van Dyk, G. Bezuidenhout, E. Schulenburg and A. Ellis.

