

A. Steinwider, W. Starz, L. Podstatzky, L. Kirner, E.M. Pötsch, R. Pfister and M. Gallenböck (2010): **Low-input dairy production pastoral systems in mountainous regions of Austria – results from pilot farms during the reorganisation period** (in German). Züchtungskunde, 82, (3), 241-252.

### **Summary**

Regions with seasonal dairy production from pastoral systems realise low production costs. The increasing costs in energy, supplemental feeds and labour increase the interest in low input grazing strategies also in regions with disadvantaged pastoral conditions. To get novel informations on pastoral milk production in mountainous regions a research project with six pilot dairy farms (five organic, one low input) was conducted and they were supervised during the reorganisation period.

Within an observation period of three years a strict annual cycle in milk production and reproduction could be implemented on two farms only. In average a pasture proportion of 42% (26–61%) of the total feeding ration per year could be determined, depending on the farm specific conditions and the implementation level of this low input strategy. On four farms, which fed low amounts of supplemental feeds, a pasture proportion of 50% of the total feeding ration was realized. With an input of only 470 kg DM concentrate (8% of DM intake) per cow and year a milk performance of 5.542 kg with 4.02% fat and 3.34% protein was achieved. Despite the lower milk yield the data based on a federal extension program reveal lower marginal costs and higher production efficiency per unit milk for the four pilot farms in comparison to the average results of the organic and conventional farms. The results clearly indicate that the full grazing strategy with seasonal calving is feasible in Austria for animal health reasons .

**Keywords:** pastoral dairy farming, low-input, mountainous regions, grazing systems

### **Zitat (Deutsch):**

A. Steinwider, W. Starz, L. Podstatzky, L. Kirner, E.M. Pötsch, R. Pfister und M. Gallenböck (2010): Mid-Infrarot-Ergebnisse zum Fettsäuremuster der Kuhmilch von Praxisbetrieben. Züchtungskunde, 82, (3), 241-252.