

Organic agriculture – a main topic of the EU-project NEPROVALTER

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This seminar is organized within the Interreg 3b-project NEPROVALTER – Network of the local agricultural production for the valorisation and the knowledge of the Alpine area (homepage: www.neprovalter.org). The project NEPROVALTER aims the development of a network by involving public institutions and farmers in the Alpine Space at a transnational level. The activities of the project enhance the social and economical conditions of the local population, preserve the environment of marginal mountain lands and valorise Alpine cultural heritage and traditions by sustainable models. The partnership consists of project partners from regions in Italy (Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Prov. Autonoma Bozen, Valle d'Aosta and Liguria), Slovenia (University of Ljubljana) and Austria (Land Kärnten and HBLFA Raumberg-Gumpenstein).

Within this project HBLFA Raumberg-Gumpenstein is involved in the workpackages about organic meat and milk production, didactic farms and local quality production in the Alpine Space. The main activities of HBLFA Raumberg-Gumpenstein in the workpackages „Organic Meat“ and „Milk Production“ aim to increase the knowledge and awareness about organic agriculture of farmers and consumers as well. Therefore several seminars, conferences and information events are organized.

Agricultural production in mountain areas is characterised by high production costs with low income. In the process for improving competitiveness, farmers can intensify production by increasing external inputs and maximising outputs. In most cases this process would surpass the ecological bearing capacity of mountain ecosystems, increase the work load of the farmer families and the pressure on animal health and welfare. The seminar discusses alternative low input dairy cattle production strategies.

Since 24.05.2005 new regulations of the European Union concerning the purchase of conventional feeding stuff became effective thus it's allowed to feed ruminants with 5 % conventional feeding stuff only until 31.12.2008. For monogastrics this share will be gradually reduced from 15 % (until 31.12.2007) to 0 % (from 2012). The reduction of the permitted share of conventional feeding stuff and the reduced number of allowed components show new challenges for organic farmers in animal production especially in the supply of crude protein and amino acids. The presentations and papers of this seminar show possibilities for feeding rations for cattle, pigs, poultry and strategies in plant production.

References:

Homepage of the EU-project NEPROVALTER: www.neprovalter.org