

Press release, March 31, 2017

Switch to responsible soy

Over the past year, Switzerland has imported 271,571 tons of soybean meal for animal feed. Of this amount, 99% was produced in accordance with a responsible standard.

The Swiss meat, milk and egg sector has used almost 100% responsibly produced animal soy over the past year. This is noteworthy because worldwide only some 2% of soy fields are farmed in accordance with minimum environmental and social criteria.

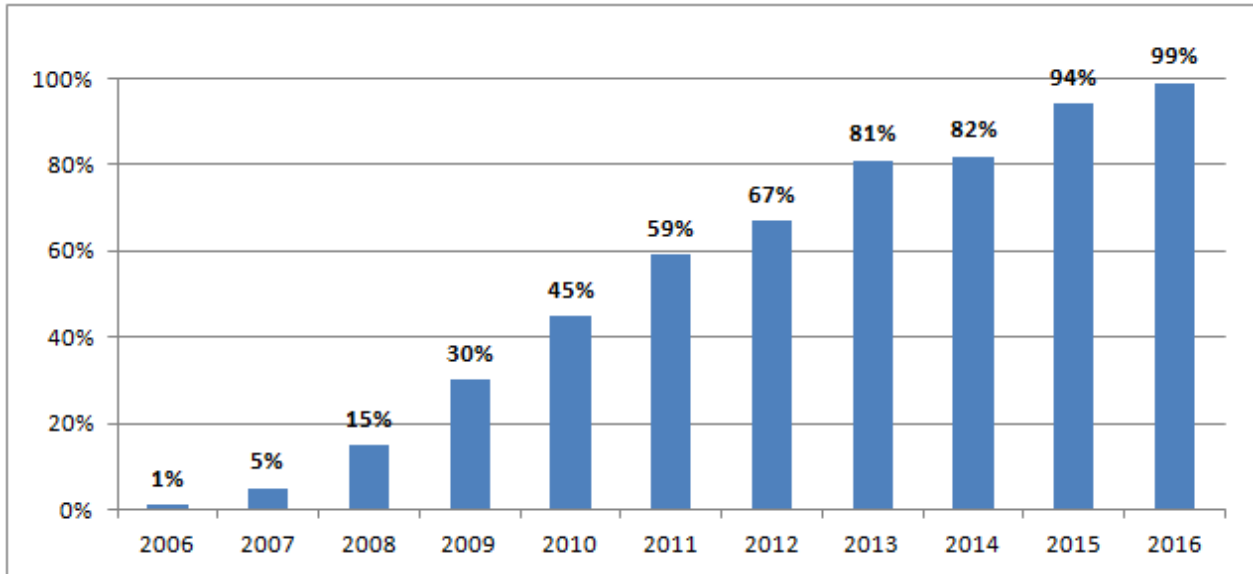
The Soy Network resolved, the year it was established, that by 2014 at least 90% of the soy it imported for animal feed would have to be grown in accordance with responsible criteria. Since then, the share of soy used for feed imported from certified sources has risen from 45% to 99%. The share has reached this high level because all of the relevant labeling programs, such as Bio Suisse, Coop Naturafarm, IP-SUISSE, Optigal and QM Schweizer Fleisch, have established binding requirements for soy in their feed guidelines.

Purchasers in the Soy Network have not only pushed their suppliers to provide responsible and certified soy, they have also built new relationships throughout Europe. As a result, the share of soy from Europe has grown to more than 20% in six years. The growth of soy at our latitude is thanks in part to Swiss seed cultivation. So European soy production and the Swiss contribution to seed breeding will be at the center of the Soy Network member meeting and media event to be held in Delley on September 5, 2017. On this date, we will welcome three new members to the Soy Network: Bell, Lidl Schweiz and the Verband des Schweizerischen Getreide- und Futtermittelhandels (Association of the Swiss Grain and Animal Feed Trade).

Members

Agrokommerz AG, ALDI SUISSE AG, Bell Schweiz AG, Bio Suisse, Coop Genossenschaft, Egli Mühlen AG, Fenaco Genossenschaft, Fuga Getreide AG, Heinz & Co. AG, IP-SUISSE, KM Commodities AG, Lidl Schweiz, Federation of Migros Cooperatives, Provimi Kliba AG, Schweizer Bauerverband (SBV), Schweizer Milchproduzenten (SMP), Suisseporcs, Transgourmet Schweiz AG, UFA AG, Verband des Schweizerischen Getreide- und Futtermittelhandels (VSGF), Vereinigung Schweizerischer Futtermittelfabrikanten (VSF), WWF Switzerland

Chart: Share of imported soy used for animal feed from certified sources, 2006-2016



Source: Soy Network Switzerland

Soy Network Switzerland

The collaboration of key stakeholders from the Swiss agriculture and food industries is having an impact. Since its founding in 2011, the members of the Soy Network have increased the share of responsibly produced soy from around 45% to 99%. Responsible means: Old-growth forests and important ecosystems are protected, social aspects are taken into account and GMO-free soy production is increased. This is guaranteed by the standards organizations ProTerra, RTRS, Donau Soja and Bio Suisse.

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