

The Swiss Soy Network guarantees the responsible cultivation and sustainable supply of soy for animal feed. The network comprises 33 member organisations, including producers, procurement and milling companies, label and environmental organisations, and retailers. They have decided that, from 2021 onwards, also the sustainable procurement of feed grain, broken rice, maize gluten or dextrose will fall within the network's area of responsibility.

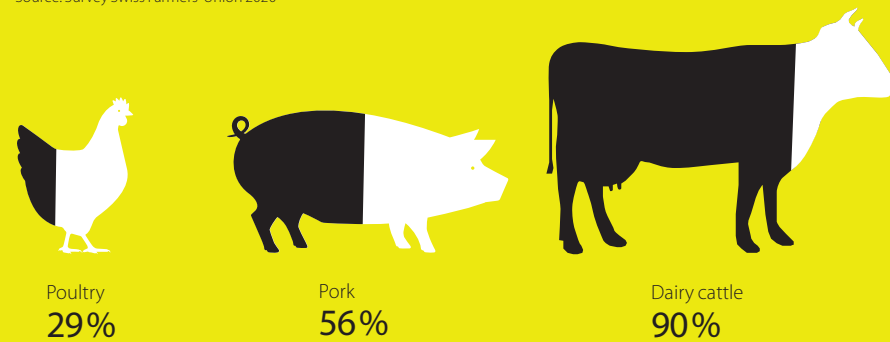
Optimising our livestock feed

84% domestic

Thanks to coarse fodder such as grass, hay and silage, Switzerland produces 84% of the animal feed it needs itself. Of the almost 8 million tonnes (DM) of fodder fed each year, 1.3 million tonnes are imported. Cows and cattle mainly consume Swiss roughage. Dairy cows are fed 90%, Pigs 56% and poultry 29% of their feed with Swiss fodder.

Feed rations with Swiss origin by animal species

Source: Survey Swiss Farmers' Union 2020



Imports 92% from Europe

Over 80% of imported animal feed comes from Europe. Feed supplies from South America and Asia are losing importance. As for soy cake, almost 92% now comes from Europe, overtaking Brazil as the leading producer.

Diverse import requirements

In total, more than 50 feed components are imported. The main components are, in order of quantity, soy, soft wheat, hay, alfalfa, fodder beet and maize. For sensitive products such as soy, wheat, barley, oats, broken rice, corn gluten and dextrose, the soy network supports sustainable sourcing.

Avoiding food waste

Swiss livestock consume around 365,000 tonnes of by-products from the food industry every year. Milling by-products, rapeseed cake, sugar beet molasses, dried potatoes, skimmed-milk powder, whey, fats, malt germs and dried grain remain in the nutrient cycle and food waste is reduced.

Feed of the future

For reasons of food hygiene, waste from abattoirs and catering currently ends up in incineration or biogas plants. One solution could be to use insects. These are fed on the waste and, once they have reached the larval stage, they are fed to farm animals as a source of protein and energy. Research institutes and companies are working to close the nutrient and feed cycles using insects. Since 2017, seven different insect species have been authorised in the EU for feeding to fish.

The soldier fly larva is particularly well suited to transforming waste into valuable animal feed. Its proteins are an alternative to soy and fishmeal and reduce dependence on imports.

Responsible animal feed imports

Switzerland has unique requirements when it comes to importing animal feed. Swiss agriculture has always avoided genetically modified feed. The addition of hormones and performance enhancers has been banned since 1999, and since 2010 soy has only been imported if it comes from deforestation-free production. From 2021, the industry went a step further. From the 2021 harvest onwards, it only buys feed grain produced without synthetic acceleration of ripening. Since 2022, only broken rice with a sustainability certificate has been used as livestock feed, from 2024 onwards, maize gluten and from 2025 onwards, dextrose will gradually be sourced from certified cultivation.

Label requirements

Source: Soy Network Switzerland 2021

Label / Marque	GMO free	Certified soy	Siccation-free cereals (wheat, oats, barley)	Certified broken rice	European corn gluten / dextrose*	Soy renunciation	Palm oil ban	Limitation of fodder imports
Suisse Garantie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
IP-SUISSE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓**	✓	
Bio Suisse	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Natura Beef	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Industry standard sustainable milk	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Naturafarm	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Optigal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Schweizer Ei	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	

* from 1.1.2024 (50%) from 1.1.2025 (100%)

** for pasture fattening, SwissBlackAngus, meadow milk

Three areas for action

A sustainable supply of animal feed for the Swiss egg, milk and meat industry is of the utmost importance. To achieve this, improvements are being made in three different areas.

1

Increasing domestic production

Applying sustainability standards to imports

3

Promoting alternative feed