

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 2 (1936-1937)
Heft: 1

Artikel: Farming conditions in Switzerland
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943271>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

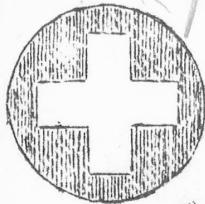
L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 21.06.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>



P99131

Tunier 10-letzte Seite ausgeschnitten

HELVETIA

Monthly Publication
of the Swiss Benevolent Society
in New Zealand.



AUCKLAND, 1st October 1936.

2nd Year --- Vol.1.

FARMING CONDITIONS IN SWITZERLAND.

Agriculture and Dairying in our homeland should be an interesting subject to our Members who gain their livelihood from the land. It may be news to many, that of the total area of Switzerland, 22.6% is barren land, 55.6% productive area, and 21.8% forest land. The Alps represent 60% of the total territory; the Jura ranges 10%, and the Plateau the remaining 30%.

Extensive parcelling and division of real estates constitute the chief characteristic of Swiss agriculture. The average farm-area is about $22\frac{1}{2}$ acres. Of a total of 233,079 estates in 1929, 102,000 measured less than $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and only 890 exceeded 175 acres. A survey of the financial situation shows a fairly sound state of affairs. In 1926, agricultural undertakings represented a capital of approximately 8.2 thousand million francs- (Farmland; land-improvement funds; buildings; cultivated land and forests) On the other hand, personal property (stock, machines, turnover, etc.) was estimated at 2.9 thousand million francs. The general balance showed assets amounting to 11,059 million francs, against 4.1 thousand million mortgages and debts.

Pasturage constitutes one of the principal features of Swiss husbandry, forming the basis of cattle-breeding and milk-production, the development of which ranks among one of the important factors of Swiss economy. Besides the production of milk and meat, pedigree cattle-breeding for exportation constitutes one of the principal items. The brown stock is chiefly bred in the Eastern cantons, whilst the central cantons -especially Schwyz - produce a breed very similar to the brown cattle, but with a slight tinge of grey, the so-called "Schwyz coloured breed". Simmenthal and Fribourg have their spotted stock. Before the world-war, the national stock consisted of 1,445,000 head, or 384 per 1000 inhabitants; Switzerland thus ranked fifth among the more important dairying countries, coming after Denmark, U.S.A., Norway & Sweden. According to the census taken 10 years ago, a total of 1,587,110 head of cattle were registered.

In 1929 the total milk-production reached approximately 3000 litres per cow, amounting altogether to 27 million litres. Domestic consumption absorbed about 40%, and the remainder was used for the manufacture of cheese, butter, condensed milk and milk chocolate. Switzerland's main exportation is cheese.