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Appenzell Innerrhoden

With a population of just over 15,000 and an area of 172 km², Appenzell Innerrhoden is the smallest canton of Switzerland by population and the second smallest by area; only Basel-City is even smaller.

constitution of its own. Repeated attempts of the abbots to bring Appenzell under a stricter rule were defeated in the battles of Vögelinsegg (1403), and of the Stoss (1405). In 1411 Appenzell was placed under the protection

(general assembly) in a square in Appenzell, vote on laws and elect the Governing Council.

In 1991, following a decision by the Federal Supreme Court of Switzerland, Appenzell Innerrhoden became the last Swiss canton to grant women the vote on local issues.

Due to the split of Appenzell into two half cantons along religious lines in 1595, the population is still nearly all Roman Catholic (81%), with a small Protestant minority (10%).

Cattle breeding and dairy farming are the main agricultural activities. Appenzeller cheese is widely available throughout Switzerland.

By the early 2000s, the idyllic countryside of Appenzell Innerrhoden apparently became popular with nudists, but at the 2009 Landsgemeinde the canton's residents voted to prohibit naked hiking. Violators will be fined.

from Wikipedia



Pastoral landscape of Appenzell Innerrhoden

The name Appenzell means "cell (i.e. estate) of the abbot". This refers to the Abbey of St. Gall, which exerted a great influence on the area. By the middle of the 11th century the abbots of St Gall had established their power in the land later called Appenzell, which, too, became thoroughly germanized; its earlier inhabitants were probably romanized Raetians.

As early as 1377, this portion of the abbots' domains formed an alliance with the Swabian free imperial cities and adopted a

of the Swiss Confederation, of which, in 1452, it became an allied member, and in 1513 a full member.

Most of the canton is pastoral, this despite being mountainous. The Säntis peak in the Appenzell Alps is one of the main attractions of the canton. There are three small mountain lakes in the canton: Seealpsee, Sämtisersee and Fälensee.

Appenzell is the capital of Appenzell Innerrhoden. Its citizens assemble every last Sunday of April for the Landsgemeinde

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