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# **The Agricultural Situation in Tyrol**

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# Agriculture in Tyrol - Facts

- Total surface area of Tyrol is split up in 1/3 forestry, 1/3 agriculture, 1/3 non-productive, mountainous area
- Total of agricultural area of about 429.000 hectares splits up in: 120.000 hectares of grassland, 287.000 hectares of mountain pasture and 12.000 hectares of arable land
- Cattle breeding has a long tradition in Tyrol: 14.000 breeders, 11.000 of them taking cattle to the alpine regions, 2.600 are agriculturally in use with only a small decline
- 180.000 cattle, 10.000 horses, 77.000 sheep, 11.000 goats

# Agriculture in Tyrol - Facts

In general, Tyrol is dominated by small structured farming: 25 % of tyrolean farms cultivate less than 5 hectares





# Agriculture in Tyrol - Facts

Production of food is still one of the key functions; apart from that - due to close relations to tourism – Tyrolean farmers take care of a fascinating cultivated landscape







# Agriculture in Tyrol - Facts

Due to the small agricultural structures, regional and short food supply chains is one of the main aims in our policy

# Consciousness / value of local agricultural products to the consumer

- Over 60 well-established farmer's markets and farmer's shops in Tyrol
- Consistent marketing activities, public relations and branding as „Qualität Tirol“
- Regional quality branding under „Genussregion“ by the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture: 12 clearly defined regions in Tyrol
- Strong cooperation with local food chains





# Challenges for Tyrolean Farmers

- Increasing the consciousness and value of local agricultural products to the consumer - quality production instead of quantity
- Effects of ongoing climate changes
- Competitiveness and stability after 2014, and lobbying for an appropriate milk regulating system – milk quota system will be past

# Climate Changes / Global warming

Sensible ecosystem of the alpine regions is especially affected by changing climate: winter storms, appearance of new animal and plant diseases, major impact on the forests, arid areas

# Climate Changes / Global warming

## Agricultural adaptations

- Resistent and assimilated crop growing
- Irrigation
- Biomass energy: 300.000 solid cubic meters annually in Tyrol  
(corresponds to 45 billion liters of fuel oil + saves 126 thousand tons CO<sub>2</sub>)
- Organic agriculture: 2.600 farmers, ¼ of total Tyrolean agricultural area is cultivated organically; professional branding as „Bio vom Berg“  
– owned by a farmers union, for an increasing consciousness of consumers for biological products

# Future Political Challenges

Competitiveness and stability after 2013 / 2014:

- Tyrol with its mostly alpine agriculture is reliant on subsidies from the European Union and national government in order to sustain its small structured agriculture
- Future competitiveness of regional farmers need an appropriate milk quantity regulating system





**Thanks for  
your attention**