

Animal Husbandry Techniques in Biological Agriculture: The Case of Ruminants

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Abstract

Our investigations have focused on demonstrating the benefits and limitations of various techniques to improve the breeding and rearing of ruminant animals in biological agriculture. The main principles of biological animal husbandry are the assurance of a high level of animal health through preventive maintenance and sanitation, quality of products in the marketplace, and avoidance of environmental pollution. The program emphasizes strong linkages with organic farmers who need to recycle animal wastes on land to enhance the fertility and productivity of their soils. Breeding stock are usually obtained from local sources with occasional importation of exceptional stock from outside areas. In the biological breeding and rearing of ruminant animals, prevention of disease and injury are the primary health considerations. The foundation of biological animal husbandry and its principles provide a frame of reference for accreditation through respect for the animal, the environment and the consumer.