



Status and future of grazing in Germany

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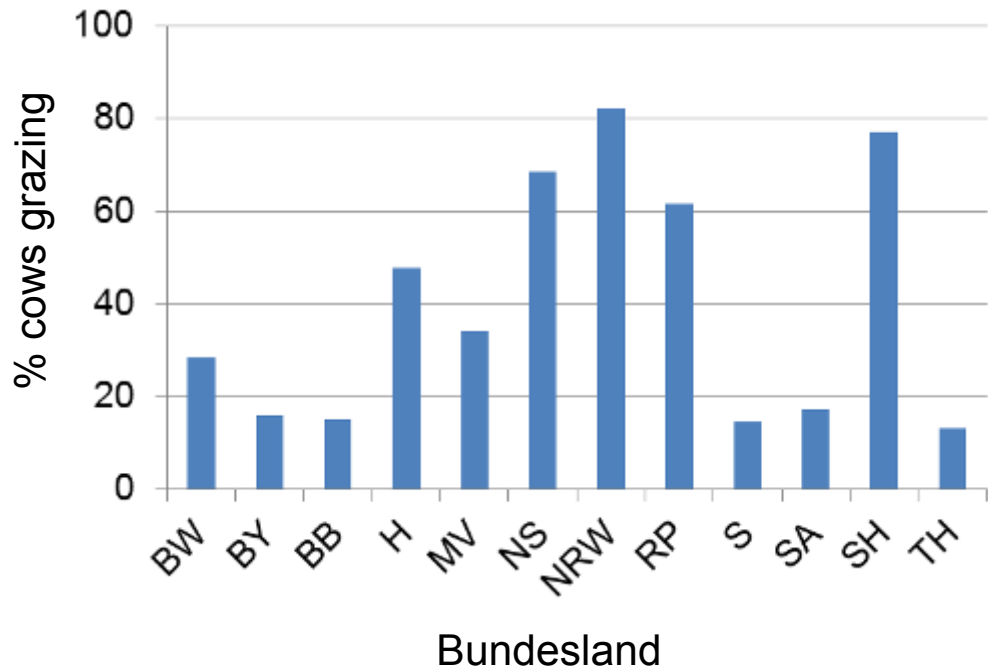
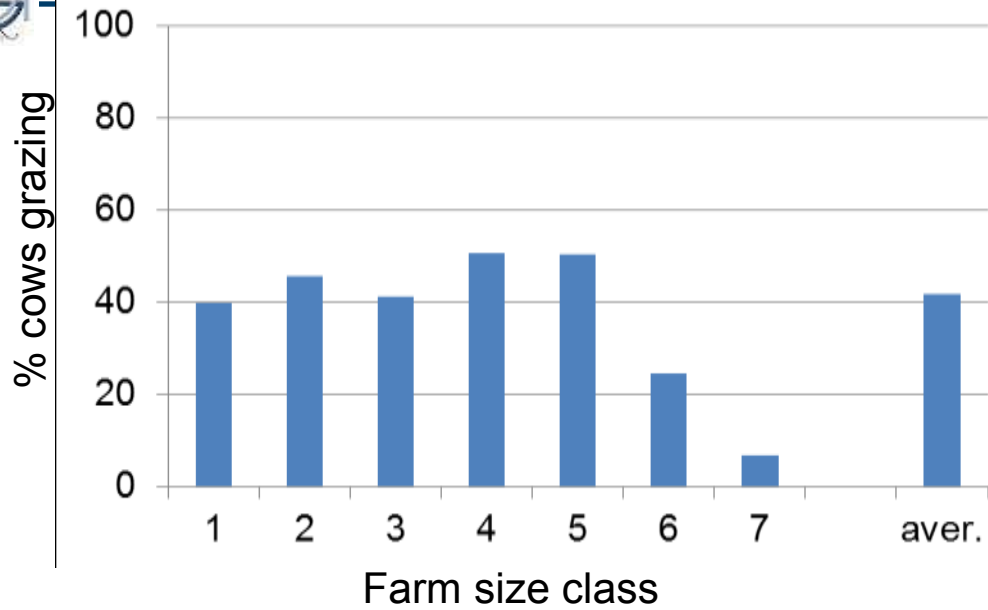




The role of grazing today

- **Grazing practice**
- **Pasture performance**





Percentage of dairy cows with regular grazing in relation to farm size and region (2010)

(Destatis 2011)



The role of grazing in ruminant and horse husbandry assessed by regional experts, 2014

Dairy cows

70–80 % of the dairy cows are kept indoors, no grazing (confined systems)

10–15 % of the cows that graze on pasture is allowed only ‚siesta‘ (i.e. ‚jogging‘-) grazing

Raising heifers

30 (Bavaria) to 100 % of heifers graze on pasture, average some 80-90%

Beef / meat production (10 – 30% from beef cattle)

- fattening steers (from dairy farming) < 10% grazing

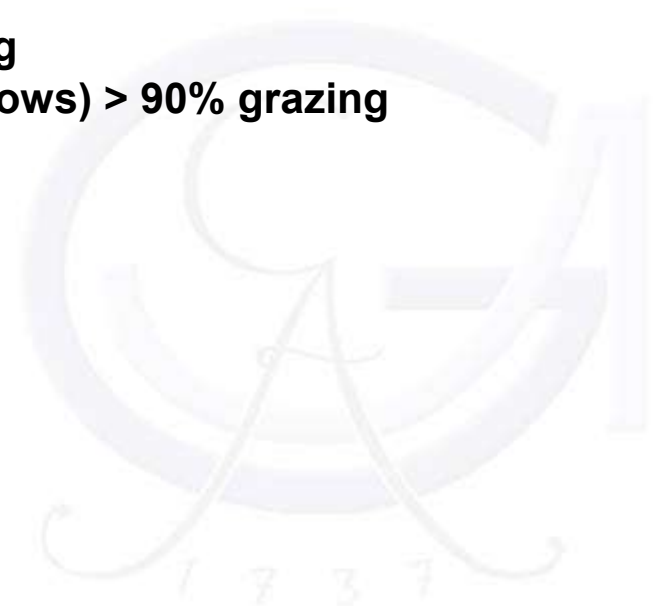
- specialised beef production (beef cattle, suckler cows) > 90% grazing

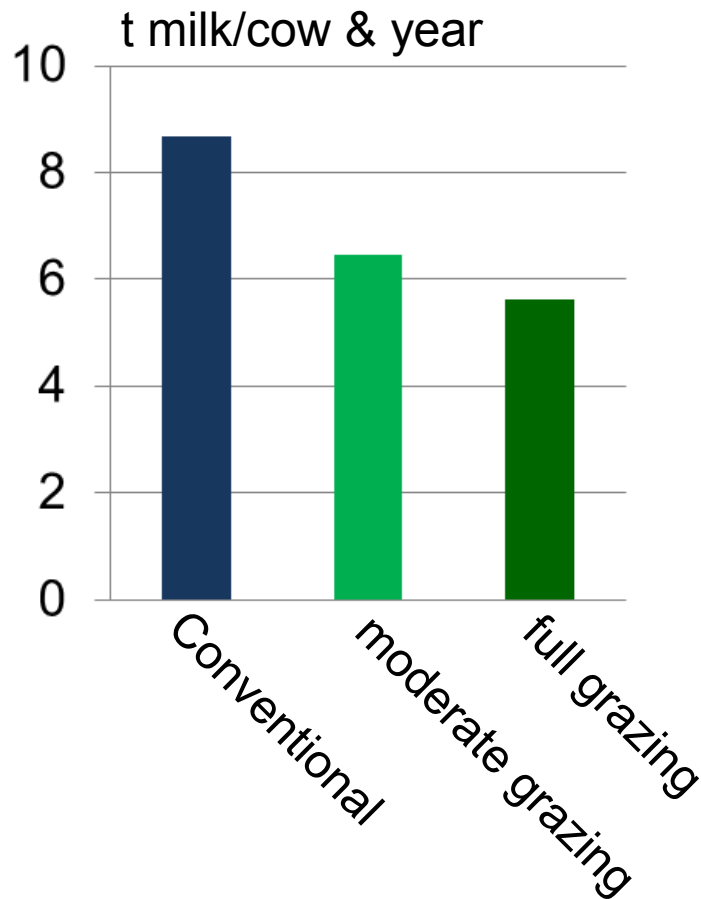
Sheep / goats

> 95% grazing

Horses

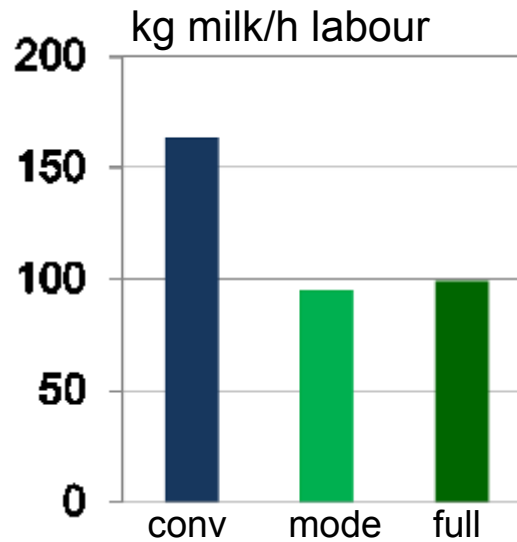
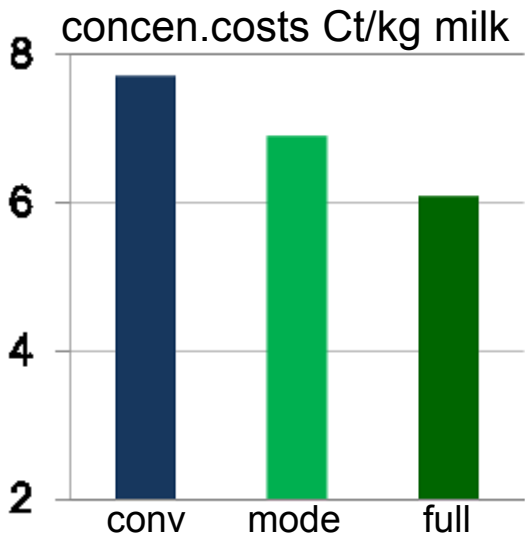
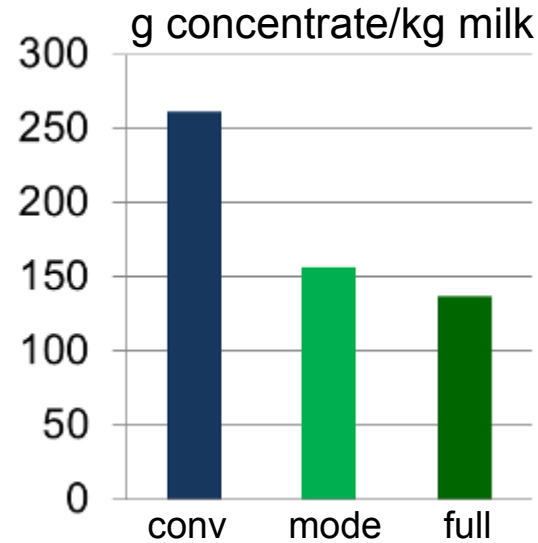
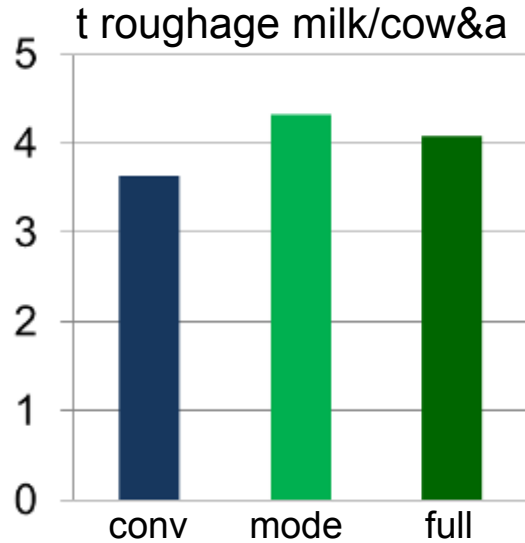
Grazing 50 – 80%





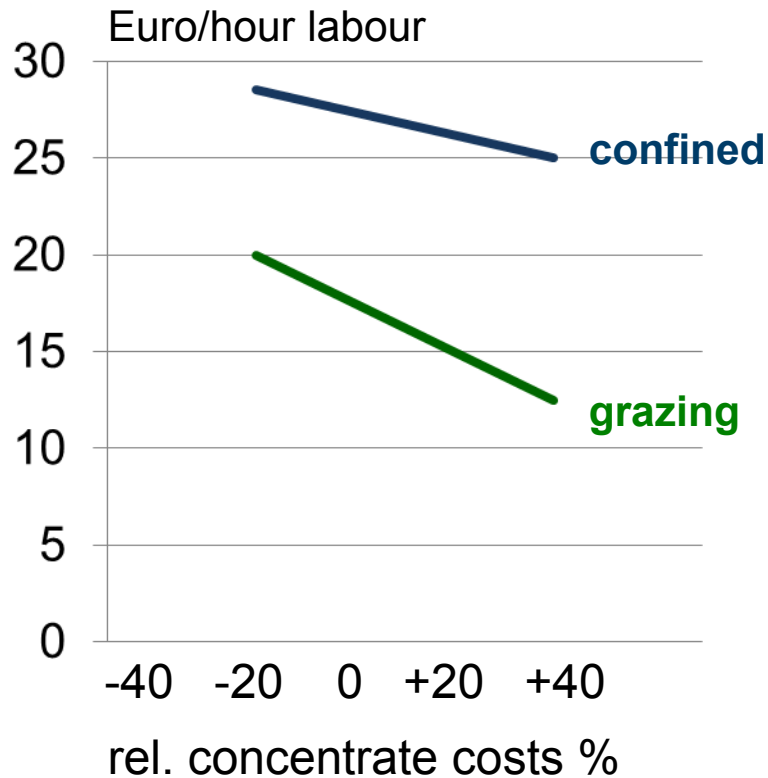
**Milk yield per cow and year
in confined systems
(conventional, n=50), with
half-day grazing
(moderate, n=16) and full
grazing (n=18)**

(Kiefer et al. 2013)



Performance of dairy cows in confined systems (conv, n=50), with half-day grazing (mode, n=16) and full grazing (full, n=18)

(Kiefer et al. 2013)



Profit per hour labour of dairy farming in confined systems (conventional) and in full grazing systems (with seasonal calving) in relation to concentrate costs

(Kiefer et al. 2013)



The farmers view on grazing dairy





Preliminary results from a survey on the perception of dairy farmers on the role of grazing in milk production (Becker et al. 2014)

Farmers were clustered according to their farming practice, i.e.

- (a) summer grazing with a considerable contribution of grazed grass to the energy supply of the cows,
- (b) 'Jogging' grazing, cows are allowed to go outside without a considerable offer of herbage at pasture
- (c) Indoor, confined dairy system, no grazing

Farmers value the benefits and drawbacks of grazing dairy quite differently, depending on the practice on their own farm

Farmers who adopt grazing consider grazing as advantageous with regard to labour costs, animal health and milk performance. Production and management risks and challenges related to grazing are much less seen as a general problem as compared to farmers who use the confined dairy system.



Thank you

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