

## Germany had Alderneys and Jerseys very early

Around 1880, Lawrence P. Fowler in England sent Jerseys to Hamburg in Germany and other places on the Continent. (Source: Thornton, 1880)

According to Sonntag-Büsing, at about the same time, a German breeder of Shorthorn cattle imported some Jerseys after a visit to London. And in the mid-1880s, two Jersey herds were established in Striegau, near Breslau (now Poland) belonging to the nobility Marie von Kramsta who owned the manor Muhrau and von Oheimb who owned the manor Eisdorf. (Source: Herman Hucho, 1892)

We also have knowledge of earlier imports: thus an Alderney herd existed in the 1870s at the Sophienhof by Preetz (Holstein) property. Disease (probably tuberculosis) destroyed this herd, for after 20 years the owner Adolf Johansen gave up his Alderneys. (Source: Bøggild, 1886)

### Recommended to improve local cattle

In 1887 Georg Zöpplitz from Stuttgart published a German edition of J. Coleman's *The Cattle of Great Britain* (1875) in which he strongly recommended importing Jersey cattle from England 'at low prices' to improve the native cattle.

Professor Dr. Hanssen later recorded that some experiments involving crossing Jerseys with native stock took place in Bonn Poppelsdorf as well as in Leipzig. The intention was to improve the milk fat content through better breeding. (Source: *Illustrierte Landwirtschaftliche Zeitung*, 1904)

At the same time as the first cargo of Jerseys arrived Denmark in 1896, Jacobsen, Fjelsted on the island of Als in southern Denmark (which was under German rule from 1864-1920) imported some stock from England, followed in 1898 by further imports from England via Hamburg which were destined for Germany and Austria. (Source: *Landmandsblade*, 1896)

A batch of 10 to 20 Jersey cattle also found their way to Württemberg from the Jersey Island in 1898. (Source: *RJA&HS Annual Report*, 1898). Perhaps to supply already existing herds in that area, as



in 1824, the king of Württemberg had successfully imported Alderney cattle to Weil im Schoenbuch, Stuttgart.

Between 1833 and 1865 the king conducted some experiments in cattle feeding and milking on his estates. The results show that 15 Jerseys/Alderneys produced more butter than any of the 13 other breeds participating in the trials. Six cows were directly imported from Jersey and nine from England, called 'thoroughbred Alderneys, probably pure or mixed Guernseys'. (Nørgaard, 2010)

But as a whole, it may be concluded that Jersey cattle had not yet won ground in Germany. In the *Illustrierte landwirt-*



*This Jersey cow from Silesia (now in Poland) is depicted in Herman Hucho: Das Kanalinselveh, 1892.*

Country	Germany	
First importation of purebred Jerseys	1955	
Name of the national Jersey association (in English)	Verband Deutscher Jersey Züchter (German Jersey Association)	
Year of formation (possibly end year) of association	February 18, 1961	
Date of 1 <sup>st</sup> herd book (1 <sup>st</sup> edition or earliest)	February 18, 1961	
Size of Jersey population, latest figures (registered and total)	1,500 registered 4,000 total	
Jerseys as a % of the national dairy cattle population	N/A	
Average herd size	33 cows (registered herds)	
Average production	5,761 litres milk 334 kg fat 236 kg protein	
Average 305-day production	5,761 litres milk 5.80% fat 4.10% protein	
General management	TMR is typical feeding.	
		
% of organic herds	Small percentage	
Use of sexed semen	20% of all Jersey AI	
Names of the oldest herds	Werner Kiehne since 1956	



*These Alderneys were imported in the 1820s from England, probably by the King of Württemberg.*

schaftliche Zeitung of 1904, Professor Dr. Hanssen records that no Jersey cattle were to be found in Germany as experiments at the academy of Bonn Poppelsdorf and Leipzig, showed they did not meet expectations.

### **Jerseys imported from England before WW2**

In the years 1925 to 1930 Mr. Fröhlich from Halle/Saale imported some Jerseys from England. His intention was to study the inheritance of milk fat by crossing Jerseys with the local black & white breed. A few years later, in 1937 and 1938, Mecklenburg imported Jersey bulls, cows and heifers with the same purpose of increasing milk fat content by crossing them with the local breed.

This experiment continued after World War 2, under the supervision of the GDR government and by importing more Jersey bulls from Denmark. (Source: Sonntag-Büsing, 1995) After the war, West Germany received 100 heifers from USA.

### **Imports from Denmark in 1955**

Germany began importing Jerseys from the neighbouring country of Denmark in

1955. In July 1959 the Union of Jersey Cattle Breeders of Schleswig-Holstein were accepted for membership of the WJCB with the reservation that should a national society be formed, the matter would have to be reconsidered.

Later that year, the West German Jersey breeder's association was elected a member of the bureau. The organized breeding was operated by the formation of a herd book in 1961. In 1969, WJCB was informed by the first chairman for the association of German Jersey breeders, Dr. Henning Paulsen: *"Within ten years the small Jersey cow, coming from Denmark, has spread only thinly over Germany. In these ten years 17,000 Jerseys have been imported into Germany from Denmark and the total number of Jerseys today in Germany is approximately 22,000. In 1968, the Netherlands imported over 1,000 Jersey cattle from Germany."* (*The WJCB Digest, July 1969*)

### **A lot of crossbreeds in Eastern Germany**

When the merger of East and West Germany happened in 1989 the hybrid breed SRM with Danish Jersey blood amounted to two million head of cattle and, Sonntag Büsing (1995) found these



*Josef Mayr and his wife Brigitte have a herd of 60 purebred Jerseys in Bavaria. They started in 1975 buying some animals in Denmark and since then have become serious breeders.*

'crossing animals' everywhere through the new federal states.

The herds were of different hair colours ranging from all-black, to black and white to brown animals, but by 1992 the SRM breed already had greatly reduced in numbers. (Source: Marleen Felius 1995)

In 1992, the four regional German breeder organizations were merged into the German association of Jersey breeders, and two years later the herd book contained 2,355 females and 44 males in 115 herds; in 1997 the figures were 2,461 females and 28 breeding males. (FAO, 1994)

In 1998, a total of 789 cows in 37 herds were milk recorded. The Verband Deutscher Jerseyzüchter e.V., (VDJ) the German Jersey association, has 105 members, 45 of them being active breeders.

*The Jersey breed in Germany has remained fairly static, with just a small decrease in the number of officially recorded cows in 2009, down from 1,489 the previous year to 1,471 cows averaging 5,761 kg milk, 5.80% fat (334 kg) fat and 4.10% (236 kg) protein.*

