

Sheep-breeding

Duration: 2'11"

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Camera: Ivan Claric

Dr. Privoz Muri - veterinary and sheperd
Friedhelm Jasbinschek – umpire Kärntern and sheperd

Music: AKM The Horse Whisperer Nr. 8 Pilgrim's Progress
K: Thomas Neweman – Hollywood Records 162 137-2

Sheep-breeding

In Jezersko, in Ansel valley, there is one of the biggest flocks in Slovenia. It belongs to Dr. Primosch Muri, a veterinary doctor and farmer. He is a passionate breeder and has 40 sheep in this idyllic landscape.

The Slovene spectacle sheep differs from the Carinthian by less pigmentation. Instead of the black spectacle rims around the eyes the Slovene sheep has only one single black tear.

OT Dr. Primosch Muri

The most probable explanation is that because of the border after World War I two different types of spectacle sheep could develop. Much pigmented in Carinthia and little pigmented in Slovenia. In our region pigmentation is not dominant.

But all other characteristics of spectacle sheep can be seen in the Slovene flock: the typical form of the head and the wool which starts growing behind the ears. All together there are 1.500 sheep in Slovenia.

In the early 90s this kind of sheep was on the verge to become extinct. With perfect breeding programs the spectacle sheep was saved in Carinthia. In order to preserve this stock, appropriate animals must be found in order to prevent loss of quality because of in-breeding.

OT Friedhelm Jasbinschek, Carinthian breeding association

Well, this works by DNA-analysis, a genetic distance to the race is made. That means we find out the degree of relationship between the sheep in Slovenia and in Carinthia. And this is the basis for deciding whether we pair them.

For the Slovene farmers the breeding of spectacle sheep is becoming more and more of a profitable source of additional income. The wool and the meat are sold. Once in a month the chairmen of the breeding associations meet to exchange their experiences. And with the Slovene entry to the European Union there will be nothing to prevent contacts across the border and the preservation of the race.