

Press Release Donau Soja
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Donau Soja: German egg producers can almost halve CO₂ emissions With certified soya from Europe for a climate-friendly egg

German laying hen farms can massively reduce their carbon footprint. This shows a new study by the renowned Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) in Austria, which was presented today at the EuroTier trade fair. Feeding laying hens with certified „Donau Soja“-feed can reduce their CO₂ emissions by 41 percent, as the example of the Aigner laying hen farm in Lower Bavaria shows. *"Through Donau Soja we can completely supply us without soya from overseas"*, says Gerhard Aigner, Managing Director of Thanninger Freiheit. *"By switching feeding to Donau Soja, not only environment and climate benefit, but also farmers and consumers"*, says Susanne Fromwald, Executive Director of Donau Soja.

Preventing the destruction of valuable natural resources

According to the calculations of FiBL, 1.18 kg of CO₂ out of 2.90 kg of total emissions per kg of egg can be avoided by feeding regional, certified soya from Europe. This corresponds to an overall reduction of 41 percent. The better carbon footprint is mainly due to a ban on converting forests or green areas into arable land, but also to the reduction in transport routes. In Brazil alone, between 2000 and 2016, 5.3 million hectares of natural areas in the Amazon and the Cerrado savannas were destroyed for soya cultivation. That corresponds to a third of the total arable land in Germany.

Better footprint for Germany's consumers

While laying hens in Austria are already largely fed with Donau Soja, there is still huge potential in Germany for reducing the carbon footprint of laying hen farms, but also in chicken and pig fattening. Of the 3.6 million tons of soya consumed in Germany each year, only about a fifth are deforestation-free. The majority comes from non-transparent production from overseas. *"The shift to certified European Donau Soja not only improves the individual climate balance sheet of German consumers but also reduces the use of pesticides and diminishes the dependency on imports from overseas"*, says Susanne Fromwald.

The model farm in Bavaria

The laying hen farm Aigner ("Thanninger Freiheit") in Hebertsfelden/Bavaria has been feeding Donau Soja-certified feed to its laying hens since 2014. For Managing Director Gerhard Aigner, the sustainable and climate-conscious feeding of his chickens and the reduction of the carbon footprint are very important. *"Through Donau Soja, the supply chains are completely traceable, controlled and also transparent for our customers. Thanks to a consistent production process, we also have the guarantee of consistently high quality feed"*, says Aigner.

Regional Climate Partnerships

There is great potential for growing soybeans not only in the Danube countries and in Eastern Europe but also in Germany. Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg are German pioneers here. Donau Soja therefore also proposes regional Climate Partnerships in which farmers, processors and consumers are involved. That could further increase the market opportunities in Germany. *"Germany has enormous potential in soya cultivation and in improving the carbon footprint in animal husbandry. Regional and GMO-free value chains are becoming more and more important and should soon also be part of the standard in Germany"*, concluded Fromwald.

More information, factsheets and pictures for download: www.donausoja.eu

Link to [Thanninger Freiheit](http://www.thanningerfreiheit.de)

About Donau Soja

Donau Soja is headquartered in Vienna and has offices in three other European countries. The association has been working for the cultivation of soya in Europe for nine years. The organisation is active in 25 countries. In Austria, 1.7 out of two billion eggs sold annually at retailers are Donau Soja certified. Austria therefore has a pioneering role in climate protection in egg production, which is now becoming more and more interesting in Germany in the retail markets and for laying hen companies equally.

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