



GEH

The Wool Projects of the GEH



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**A cross-border wool project
supporting the
conservation of the 'Alpine
Steinschaf'**

www.kollektion-der-vielfalt.de



The Wool Projects of the GEH



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Society for the Conservation of old and endangered Livestock Breeds (GEH)

- Founded 1981 by a Professor of Animal Science, Cameraman, Pharmacist, Livestock Keeper
- Private Society with nationwide activities
- More than 2200 members (farmers, hobby-farmers, veterinarians, breeders, organisations, researchers, interested people, administrators)
- Publishing the „Red List of endangered Livestock Breeds“ since 1984
- About 103 local breeds are endangered in Germany
- Since the activities of GEH, no livestock breed has become extinct in Germany



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Usage of Sheep breeds in the Alps (6 countries, 60 local sheep breeds)

Sheep breeds involved in special programs to support sheep breeders					
Usage	Mutton	Wool	Inititiatives for wool	Landscape management	Milk
Number of breeds involved	57	24	5	21	15



coloured sheep in the white snow



sheep crossing a small bridge



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Society for the Conservation of old and endangered Livestock Breeds (GEH)

Actually there are wool projects with 8 different rare breeds:

Alpines Steinschaf



Krainer Steinschaf



Skudde



Braunes Bergschaf



Rauhwolliges
Pommersches
Landschaf



Waldschaf



Coburger Fuchsschaf



Weisses Bergschaf





The Wool Project of the Alpines Steinschaf



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Breeding history of the Alpines Steinschaf

- Direct descendant of the so called Zaupel or Neolithic Torfschaf and so it is one of the original breeds of the European Alps
- In 1863 about 208 000 animals existed (Mason, 1967). In some regions, the Alpine Steinschaf was the most popular breed (Kaspar, 1928).
- In Austria this breed was kept mainly in the area of Salzburg and Tirol (Führer, 1911).
- In 1964 the population was reduced to only 1000 animals (Mason 1967)
- Since 1985 some interested breeders from Germany and Austria started to collect the last individuals of the breed and found around 30 animals left

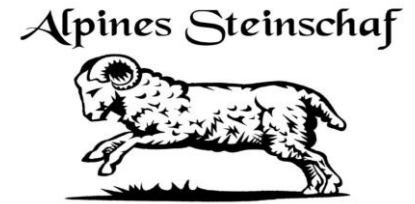
Current situation

- in 2004 the cross-border wool project of the Alpines Steinschaf began
- total stock of 123 sheep in flock books in 2004 - in 2010 390 sheep in flock books
- on 30 farms
- mostly found in the Eastern Alps of Bavaria/Germany and Salzburg/Austria





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Description of the breed

- Small to medium sized finely boned mountain breed
- Body with broad and compact framed
- Ears are lop and bent lightly forward
- Animals have a noble head with straight profile with a slightly roman nose
- Both sexes are mostly horned. The rams usually have spirally curved horns, the ewes sometimes small and lightly curved horns.
- The legs are thin but strong with hard hooves.
- Their long woollen tails reach down as far as the ankle joint and the ends are often bent



Ram of Anton Buchwieser, Garmisch 1932



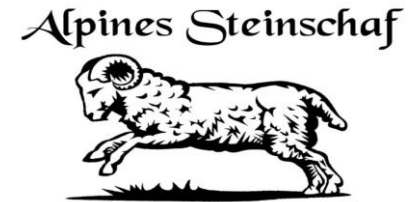
www.alpines-steinschaf.de



Ram in 2010

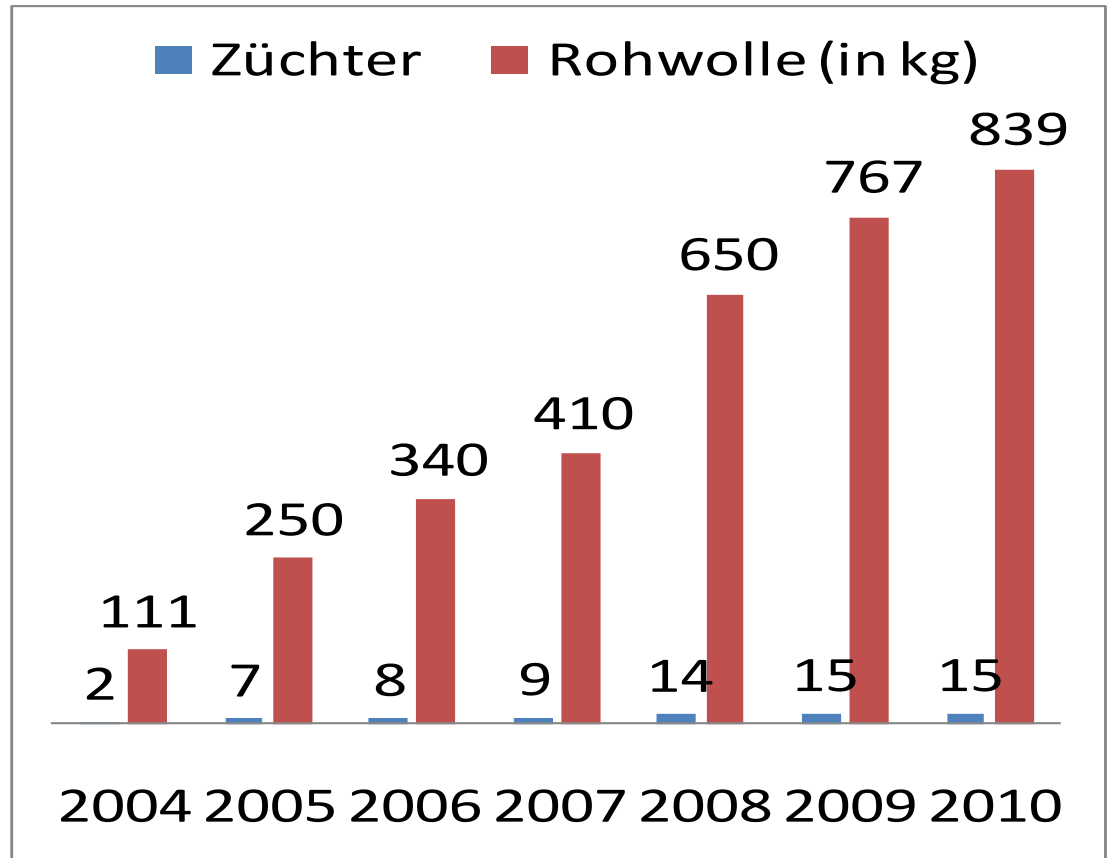


The Wool Project of the Alpines Steinschaf



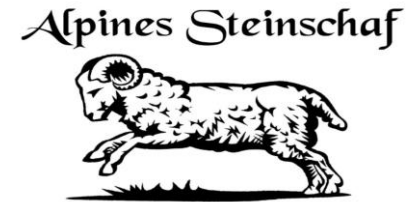
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The development of breeders and wool from the start in 2004 up to 2010





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Quality of the wool

- dual coated fleece with pithy, long coarse hair and fine wavy and short under coat
- every wool colour from white to black to browns, as well as brindled
- ewes produce about 3,0-3,5 kg of wool, rams about 4,0- 4,5 kg of wool
- very low price or even no use for the wool



For many years breeders had to send the wool to the rubbish, because there was no need for this product

-Shearing costs are about

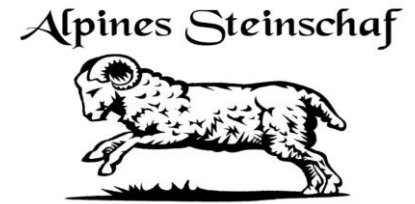
3,50-5,00 €/sheep

-Price per kg of wool is about 0,10-0,30 €

-The breeders of the Alpines Steinschaf are actually getting 2,00€/kg for their wool.



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aims of the wool project

- maintaining a rare breed for the future
- wool quality becomes a very important breeding aspect
- collecting wool together in an economic way
- raising up the economic value of the wool
- selling high quality products directly to the customers
- quality from the region for the region



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problems

- finding enterprises that are prepared to take small amounts of wool and be able to produce high quality products is not easy
- high costs of freight
- high producing costs in advance



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Selling the high quality products:

WHERE?

fairs, exhibitions,
market stalls,...

HOW?

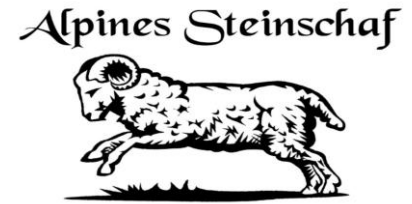
farm shops, website

WHO?

only the breeders
themselves



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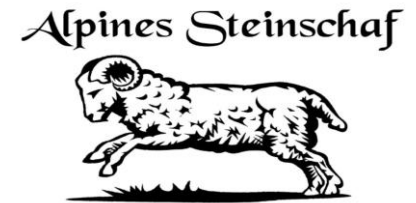
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conclusions

- buying of pre-sorted wool at a fair price
- organic processing and production of high quality wool products
- regional production which supports local trade
- processing under socially acceptable working conditions
- supporting agriculture and landscape conservation through sheep holding
- promotion of an old and endangered sheep breed
- conservation of genetic diversity and an object of culture value



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wool processing

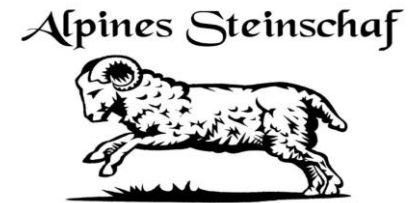
1) shearing



Every sheep breeder is shearing his own sheep, or having his sheep sheared by professional shearer.



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wool processing

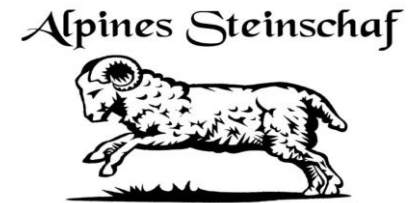
2) collecting



Wool is gathered and sorted at the annual meeting in May each year.



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wool processing

3) storage

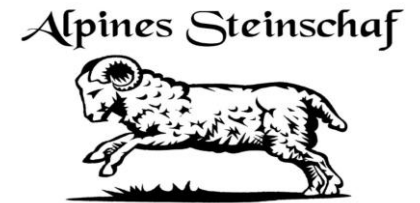


4) weighing





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wool processing

5) pressing

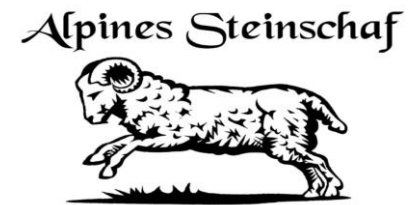


6) transporting





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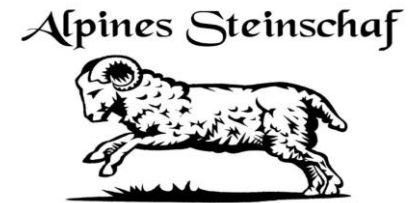
wool processing
7) washing



www.alpines-steinschaf.de



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wool processing

8) spinning

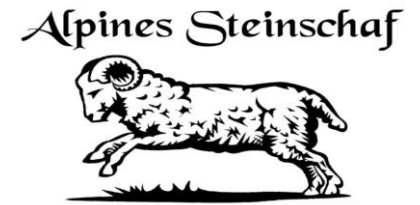


9) knitting





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wool processing

10) felting



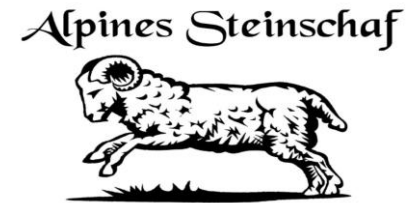
11) weaving



12) ...



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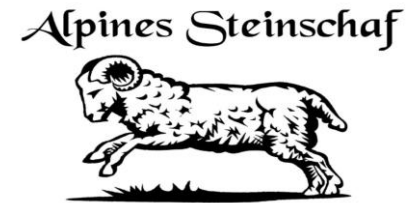
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some of our products made out of Alpiner Steinschaf wool





The Wool Project of the Alpines Steinschaf



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Thank you for your attention.

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