

The best grass-fed milk in Germany

Grasmilch Brandenburg is the brainchild of Irish brothers Paul and Stephen Costello. On their farm, 60km west of Berlin, they produce 100% grass-fed milk.

Since 2014 the Costello brothers have modernized the farm and they now have over 900 New Zealand-bred dairy cows which live outside year round.

The cows are looked after by a great team of German, Irish and Polish farmers.

In November 2021 the Costello's won the Ceres Award for Sustainable Agriculture in Germany.



Kevin Kearns: farm manager

“WHEN I WAS STUDYING AGRICULTURE I SPENT SIX MONTHS OUT IN NEW ZEALAND. FROM BEING IN NEW ZEALAND WE LEARNT HOW TO MAKE OUR FARM MORE SUSTAINABLE. MORE EFFICIENT.”

- Kevin Kearns, Farm Manager

The best in agricultural technology

Grasmilch Brandenburg produces pasture-based milk for local consumers. On the farm the team are using New Zealand agricultural technology, including Gallagher fences and Waikato Milking Systems. The cows are bred using LIC genetics from New Zealand and are 50% Holstein and 50% Jersey. They are much smaller than a normal German cow and produce less milk, but with a lot more fat and protein. It is a deliciously healthy milk.

“The benefits for us are less work. The health of the animals is 100 times better,” says Kevin Kearns.

“I think there is a lot of potential here for the German farmers to set up a more New Zealand-like system but they just need the help and they need the advice on it.”

- Kevin Kearns, Farm Manager





Ceres Award winners for the environment

On the night before organisers announced the winner of the Ceres award in November 2021, the Costello team read the judges' comments outlining why they chose their farm.

The judges said:

“THE FARM HAS A VISION, DRIVE AND AN AMAZING TEAM. THEY WENT OUTSIDE THE BOX IN TERMS OF PRODUCING FOOD IN A DIFFERENT WAY. THEIR SUSTAINABLE WAY OF FARMING AND BEING THE ONLY FARM IN GERMANY PRODUCING PASTURE-BASED MILK, IT WAS A CLEAR WINNER FOR US.”

EU/NZ: STRONGER TOGETHER

New Zealand's relationship with the EU is significant. The EU is an important partner for New Zealand; we share values, perspectives and interests that make us closer than geography would suggest.

LEARN MORE ABOUT GRASMILCH BRANDENBURG AND NEW ZEALAND'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EU
www.mfat.govt.nz/closetoEU



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