



## The German Hereford Association's annual report.

By Carsten Schmidt

This year the weather was something, everybody was talking about, A long hot summer with a lack of rain in most parts of Germany, leads to something, the most farmers have not seen for decades. Especially the areas in Northern Germany did not get many rains between June and the End of September, so in some areas there was only the chance, to do one cut for hay.

This situation brought out hay-prices in level, we have not seen before. Some producers asking around € 100,-- per



Round-Bale hay, in normal years the prices were around € 45,-- per bale. The year 2018 was for the Hereford-breed very interesting, due to weather-conditions. So the breed could show, how she performs under these conditions.

At the bull-auctions in February and March the bulls were sold for an average of € 2.600,--. Not that good as the year before, but quite acceptable.

At the federal- heifer-auction in April the Hereford-heifers were sold for an average of € 3.1000,--, what we feel is a very good price.

At the second weekend of June we had our annual general meeting, together with our annual breeder meeting. This year the farm "Hof Rajoch" of Thomas and Janet Wick in the near of Magdeburg were our host. The Wick family manages their farm ecologically. In addition to breeding cattle, a foothold is direct marketing of Hereford beef to customers. After a sight seeing tour through the historic city of Bernburg, we looked to the herd of the Wick-family. Besides the herd visit we had a talk about the construction of a wolf safe fence. The return of the wolf to Germany has become a serious problem in recent years. We will see if these fences help to keep the wolf away from cattle.



In November the Eurotier in Hannover closes the year for the Hereford-breed in Germany. Together with societies from the Denmark and the Netherlands we were represented there with a community stand. We displayed the ET Bull Outcross B (Outcross Golden Oak 18U x Apollonia) from the farm ELBAUE Wiegand/Schubart. We had a lot of interest in the breed, so we are really looking forward for the next year and we are hoping for some good exports.