



## The Swiss Galloway Society

B. von Fischer

*Presented at Calgary by Ole Grubbe*

The Swiss Galloway Society was founded in January 1996. The first group of black Galloways consisting of three animals was imported to Switzerland by one of the founding members only in May 1994. Around that time the Swiss Ministry of Agriculture had finally changed the import regulations for cattle due to the recent developments of GATT.

The last survey in spring 1997 has shown that the Swiss Galloway Herd Book consists of around 500 heads. Mostly black, but also a fair amount of Dun and Belted Galloways. The white line is, as everywhere our pride, but quite small. Our main import area is Germany, a few animals come from Denmark, Canada and recently also from Austria. We are very sorry that because of the BSE based EU import ban to the continent no animals have been bought directly in Scotland. Nonetheless many breeders have visited the homeland of this sturdy animal with great interest and enthusiasm..

Our Society consists of around 50 members, all pioneers in a country where traditionally other brands like Simmental have been more dominant. It is needless to say, that the Galloways have adapted well to the rough conditions of the Swiss alpine and prealpine climate and are very popular.

We are now starting our marketing strategies with the main emphasis on Quality and Health Meat production. We are certainly aware of the fact, that we will always have but a small segment of the meat production in our country. This is why we set our hopes in the Galloway Gourmet Beef in the near future. We believe that the combination of breeding and selling

meat mostly marketed directly by the individual farmers should provide their existence.

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***VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME***