

Federal Department of Economic Affairs Education and Research EAER Agroscope

Photographs as an education tool in linear description – experiences from the Franches-Montagnes horse

Ruedi von Niederhäusern, SNSF

International Workshop on Linear Profiling in the Warmblood Horse

www.harasnational.ch

The Franches-Montagnes

- The Franches-Montagnes (FM) is the last native Swiss horse breed with multiple use and good character
- The breed has developed from a heavy draught breed used in agriculture to a light draught breed that excels in leisure riding and in international driving competitions







https://www.lenouvelliste.ch/articles/sports/autres-sports/jerome-voutaz-721679

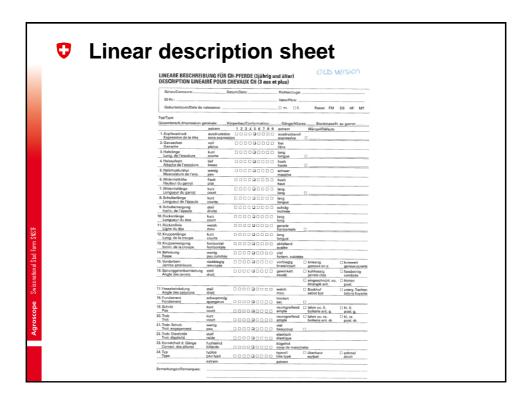
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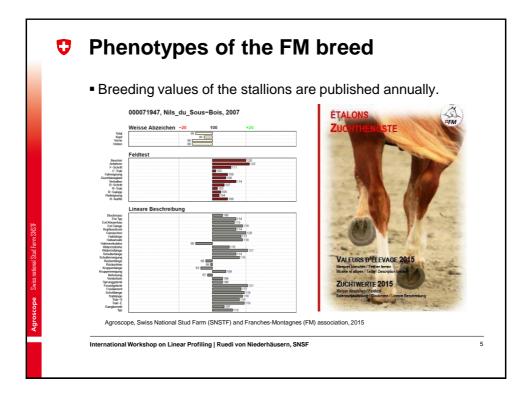
Unear description and breeding value estimation in the FM breed

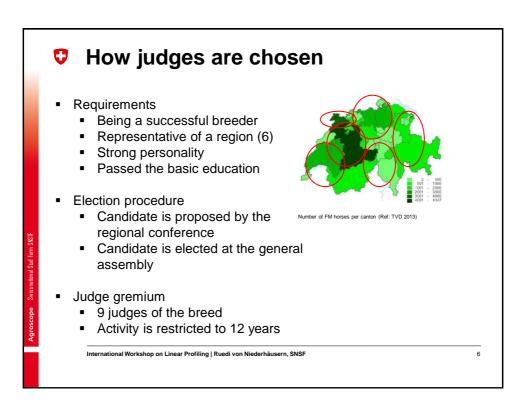
 Since 2006, breeding values are estimated for 43 traits using a multi-trait animal model ("BLUP").

| Traits (phenotypes) | Judged | Described | Measured | Total |
|--|--------|-----------|----------|-------|
| Conformation traits | 3 | 24 | 1 | 28 |
| Performance traits (Field test for driving and riding) | | 12 | | 12 |
| White markings | | 3 | | 3 |

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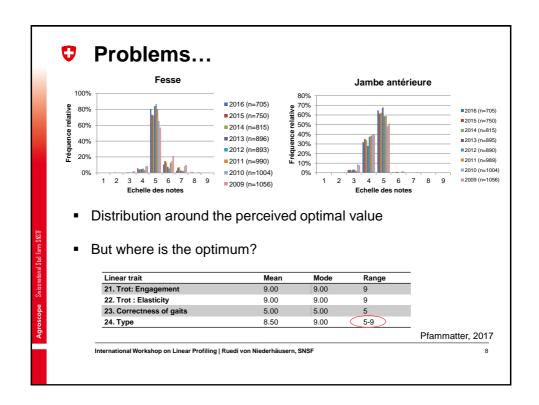
Judge training

- Ground work
 - Personal experience
 - Basic education course conformation & gaits FM (5 days)
- Continuing training (yearly)
 - ½ day on adult horses (in March)
 - ½ day on foals (in July)
 - 2h Feedback-session after the judging season (in November)



Bild: T.Tüscher 2018

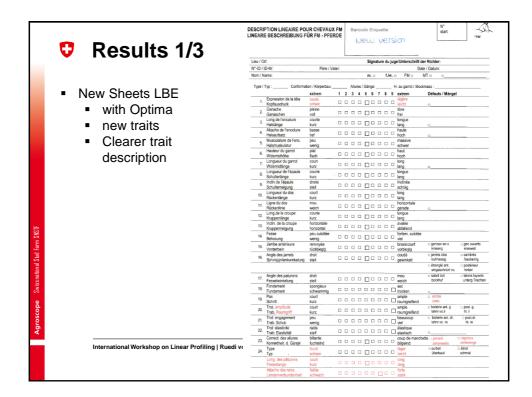
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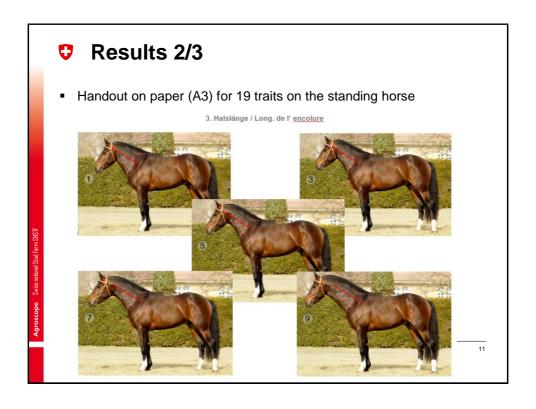


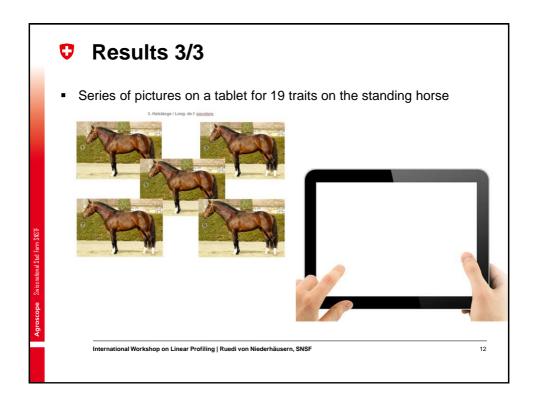
New approach, using photographs to visualize breeding standards and to calibrate linear description

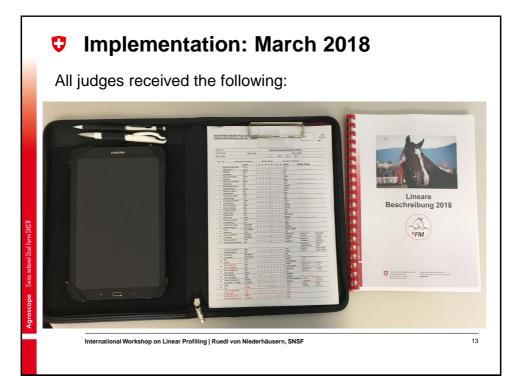
- First step; visualize the need for change (by bachelor thesis)
 - Convince the breeding commission
 - Convince executive board
- Second step; creation of a working group
 - Include concerned persons (judges) in a working group
 - Include deciders (president of the breeding commission) in the working group
- Step three; do the thing
 - As head of the working group; be a coach, not an expert!
 - Four full-day sessions to create the standards
 - Five full day sessions to build up adjust the pics (with a pro)

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Implementation march 2018 U

Difficulties:

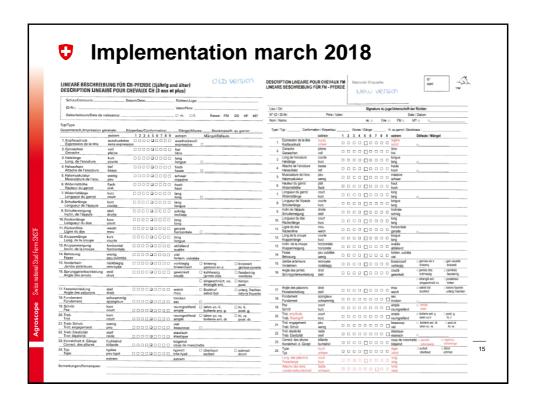
- 5 out of 9 judges had no previous experience with electronic
- Only 45 minutes for the theoretical introduction
- Only 60 minutes were available for the introduction of the new traits (2) and the discussion of the changes of the remaining traits

Positive:

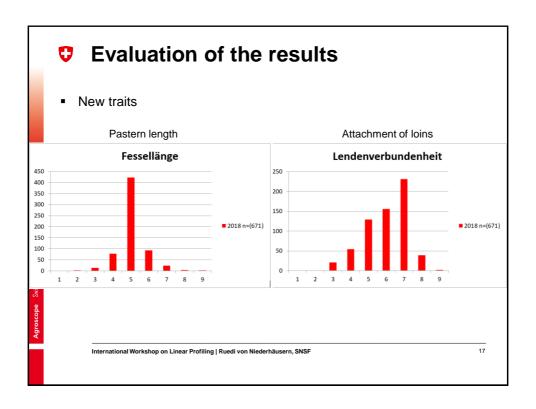
- No general opposition from the judges of the breed

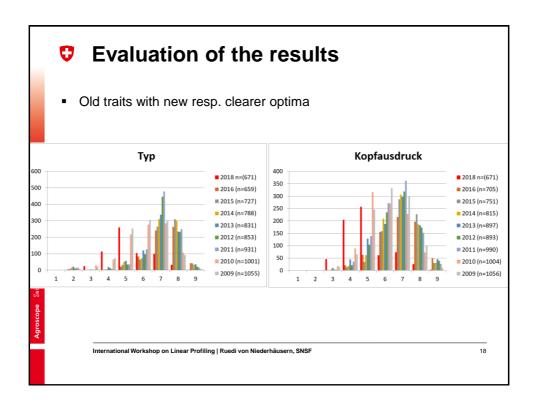
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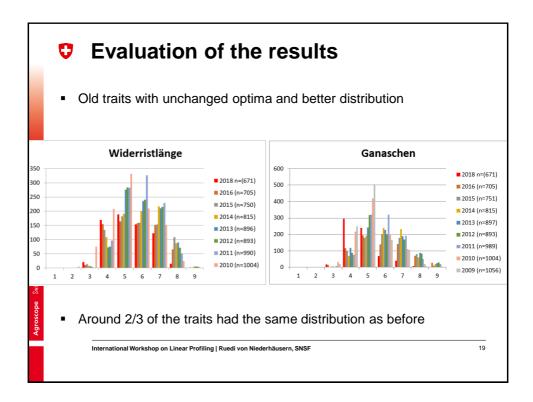
II.3 (R. von Niederhäusern)











Feedback session November 2018

- Oral Feedback
 - 4/9 judges very positive
 - 4/9 judges undecided
 - 1/9 judge was opposed on «general principle»
- Positive
 - Good instrument to recalibrate oneself during the season
 - You can explain a decision to the breeder based on the pictures
- Negative
 - Some images are not entirely «right» yet
 - No one needs a template how an LBE should be done

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