

Media release

KlimaStaR Milk draws positive conclusions and lays the foundation for the future

Lucerne, 8 October 2026 – Further progress has been made four years after the launch of the “KlimaStaR Milk” resource project. The participating dairy farms reduced their reliance on concentrate feed and increasingly made use of by-products from food production. Animal feed that is in direct competition with human nutrition is being used less. As a result, resources are used more efficiently whilst the environmental impact is simultaneously reduced. The project findings can now pave the way for implementation across the entire Swiss dairy sector.

KlimaStaR Milk is a cross-industry initiative launched by Emmi, Nestlé, aaremilch, ZMP and AgroCleanTech in 2022 with the support of the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture. The project to promote climate protection, adaptation to local conditions and resource efficiency in milk production aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and competition for feed-food and land by 20% in both cases by 2027. At the end of 2025, 219 dairy farms with an annual production of around 73 million kilograms of milk took part.

Positive development continues

The results of the project's fourth year validate the path taken. Farms are increasingly relying on animal feed that does not compete with human nutrition, reducing feed-food competition by around 23% since the start of the project. The original target of 20% has thus already been exceeded. Competition for land also continued to decline and is now 15% below the baseline figure, a development that is clearly a step in the right direction. Today, farms produce more milk and animal protein in the same area or in one that is only slightly larger. Progress has been particularly marked at farms in the valley zone.

Greenhouse gas emissions per kilogram of milk have been reduced by around 8% on a relative basis since the start of the project. However, achieving further reductions is challenging for farms, as they involve high investments and long planning horizons, amongst other things. In addition, the baseline values for greenhouse gas emissions in Switzerland were lower than originally assumed and are also lower than the international average, making further progress more difficult to achieve.

By adjusting their milk production systems, farms were able to reduce emissions per kilogram of milk by 66 grams of CO₂ equivalents in 2025. While absolute emissions increased slightly due to higher overall milk production since the start of the project, emissions remained lower than they would have been without the measures implemented. Extrapolated to the 73 million kilograms of milk produced, this corresponds to a reduction of almost 5,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent compared with the original production system.

In the remaining two years of the project, the farms will be supported by individual guidance and tailored advice on exploiting further potential for reduction. To this end, those farms that have already succeeded in significantly lowering their greenhouse gas emissions whilst at the same time reducing competition for feed-food and land are sharing their experiences with the other participants.



Dairy industry prepares application throughout Switzerland

The positive results of the KlimaStaR Milk project are encouraging the industry to further expand its commitment to climate protection, adaptation to local conditions and resource efficiency in milk production. Based on the project findings, the industry organisation Milch (BOM) has developed a climate calculator that has been available to all milk producers in Switzerland since July 2026. This allows farms to calculate their greenhouse gas emissions as well as the feed-food competition of their milk production and to determine optimisation measures.

By using the methods developed in the project, the dairy industry is laying the foundation for applying the progress achieved at national level, beyond the project farms. It is thus making a tangible contribution to the objectives for Swiss agriculture up to 2050 that have been adopted by the Federal Council. These include more climate-friendly production as well as the increased use of grass and by-products from food production.

Download material and further information

- [KlimaStaR Milk website \(in German\)](#)
- [Various KlimaStaR Milk documents: images, video testimonials and animated infographics](#)
- [Emmi Media Corner](#)

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About KlimaStaR Milk

KlimaStaR Milk is an industry initiative launched by Nestlé, Emmi, aaremilch AG, ZMP and AgroCleanTech in 2022 with the support of the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) through the Resource Programme for Agriculture. The learning project will run for a total of eight years: measures will be implemented on farms for six years, after which the data collected, experiences and findings will be scientifically evaluated over a further two years. The aim of the project is to gain practical insights supported by science that can be applied to make the Swiss dairy industry more climate-friendly and resource-efficient. The target is a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and food-to-feed and land competition. Find out more here: www.klimastar-milch.ch

About Emmi

The Emmi Group is a Swiss company with a long tradition, headquartered in Lucerne. Founded in 1907 by dairy farmers' cooperatives, it is now at home around the world while remaining closely connected to its roots. Innovation and responsibility drive Emmi. With deep craftsmanship and expertise, the company produces high-quality dairy products and desserts, and holds strong



positions in ready-to-drink coffee with Emmi Caffè Latte, functional nutrition, specialty cheese and premium desserts. In its strategic niches, Emmi is a pioneer, creating moments that matter.

Emmi thinks long term and acts with care towards people, animals, and nature. The company is committed to making sustainable dairy the norm, creates value in rural regions and helps strengthen family-owned structures. At the heart of its activities are people who take responsibility and shape the future together across generations.

The Emmi Group is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange (EMMN) and is majority-owned by ZMP Invest AG, which represents approximately 2,800 dairy farmers. Through this structure, a significant portion of profits flows back to these milk suppliers in the form of dividends. The company operates 73 production sites in 13 countries and its products are available in about 90 markets. In 2025, approximately 12,800 employees generated sales of CHF 4.7 billion. For more than 100 years, Emmi has taken responsibility – and has the courage to keep innovating.

About Nestlé in Switzerland

Nestlé Suisse SA is the Swiss subsidiary of the Nestlé Group, which is the world's largest food and beverages company with sales of CHF 89 billion in 2025. Headquartered in Vevey in the Swiss canton of Vaud, the Group's mission is to improve quality of life and contribute to a healthier future.

Nestlé operates nine production sites in Switzerland and markets innovative products for consumers and their pets under around 40 different brands. The portfolio ranges from globally renowned brand icons such as *Nescafé*, *Nespresso*, *Maggi* and *Purina* to cult Swiss brands such as *Thomy*, *Cailler*, *Leisi* and *Henniez*. Nestlé has five research institutes and five Nestlé Product Technology Centres (NPTC) in Switzerland and is also a founding partner of the Swiss Food and Nutrition Valley. With around 8,500 employees in Switzerland, Nestlé makes a major contribution to the Swiss economy and is committed to society and protecting the environment.

About ZMP

In 1907, the individual milk processing and cheese-making cooperatives around Lucerne joined together to form the Lucerne and Regional Milk Producers Association. Their main objective was to create a self-help organisation. The association entered the milk processing business during the first and second half of the 20th century, with self-help still the purpose driving the association. Its production facilities were among the most modern and innovative in Switzerland. In 1993, the Central Switzerland Milk Association (MVL) restructured its companies and founded Emmi AG. By separating its association activities from its commercial activities and by forming divisional companies, the association organised itself in a more flexible and market-oriented way. This is how MVL laid the foundations for the Emmi Group, which is now a listed corporation operating internationally. During the course of the 1990s and in response to the new agricultural policy, the association transferred all operational responsibility for milk processing to the Emmi Group and restructured to become ZMP, the Central Switzerland Milk Producers Cooperative, which holds the majority of shares in Emmi AG. In addition to its majority stake in Emmi, ZMP (via its wholly owned subsidiary ZMP Invest AG) holds further interests in major and/or regional milk processing companies. Today, ZMP is a professionally organised cooperative with departments for milk marketing and services, milk advocacy, marketing and communication, human resources management and finance. With around 2,800 members and a milk volume in excess of 500 million kilograms, ZMP is one of the leading producer organisations in the Swiss dairy industry.

About aaremilch AG

aaremilch AG is a market-oriented milk producers' organisation. Around 1,700 milk producers, 60 cheese factories and dairies in the canton of Berne are members, forming the solid foundation. Founded on 23 February 2013, aaremilch AG consists of a highly motivated and dedicated team of professionals with in-depth agricultural knowledge and a thorough understanding of the dairy industry. Satisfied producers and customers, a high-quality product and a competitive milk price are the principles guiding aaremilch AG. The regional milk rings are at the heart of aaremilch AG. They are the shareholders of the company and each member has a say. aaremilch AG entered into a joint venture with the ELSA Group in 2022. Both partners have a 50% stake in aaremilch AG now. Besides the KlimaStaR project, aaremilch AG is heavily involved in other added-value programmes, including Wiesenmilch IP SUISSE, Dientigtaler Bergmilch and A2-Urmilch, so that the added value of high-quality Swiss milk can be upheld.

About AgroCleanTech

AgroCleanTech is a platform for knowledge transfer as well as a contact and information point for energy efficiency, renewable energies and climate protection in agriculture. The association develops projects and funding programmes in the areas of energy efficiency and climate protection.