

German farms with HNV farmland

Lambs Farm



The motto of Detlef Hack on the Lamb Farm is 'more room for nature'. Therefore he created numerous habitat features on the entire farm. The biotope land is perfectly integrated into the farming routines: during summer the grassland around the moor is used for grazing cattle. In winter the cattle retreat to the adjacent arable land. The outcomes are visible: Many rare birds, such as crane, sea eagle, red-necked grebe, common snipe, quail and water rail have returned and find food and habitat on our land.

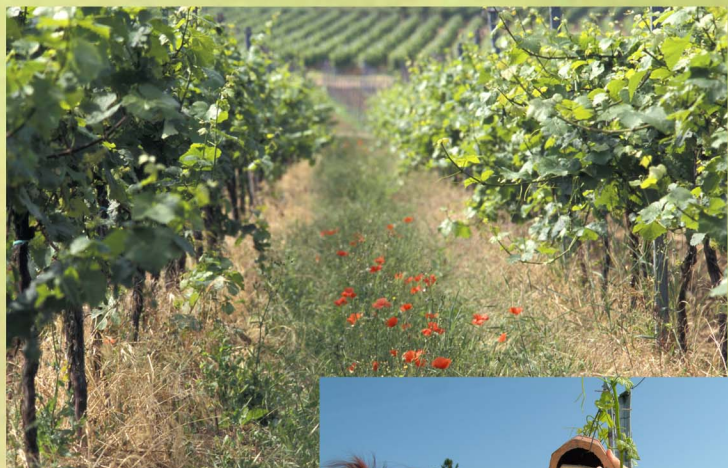
Detlef Hack of Lambs Farm in one of his grainfields

The edge of the Hellmoor on Lambs Farm



Seiler Winery

Ludwig Seilers basic management concept is an extensive soil management.

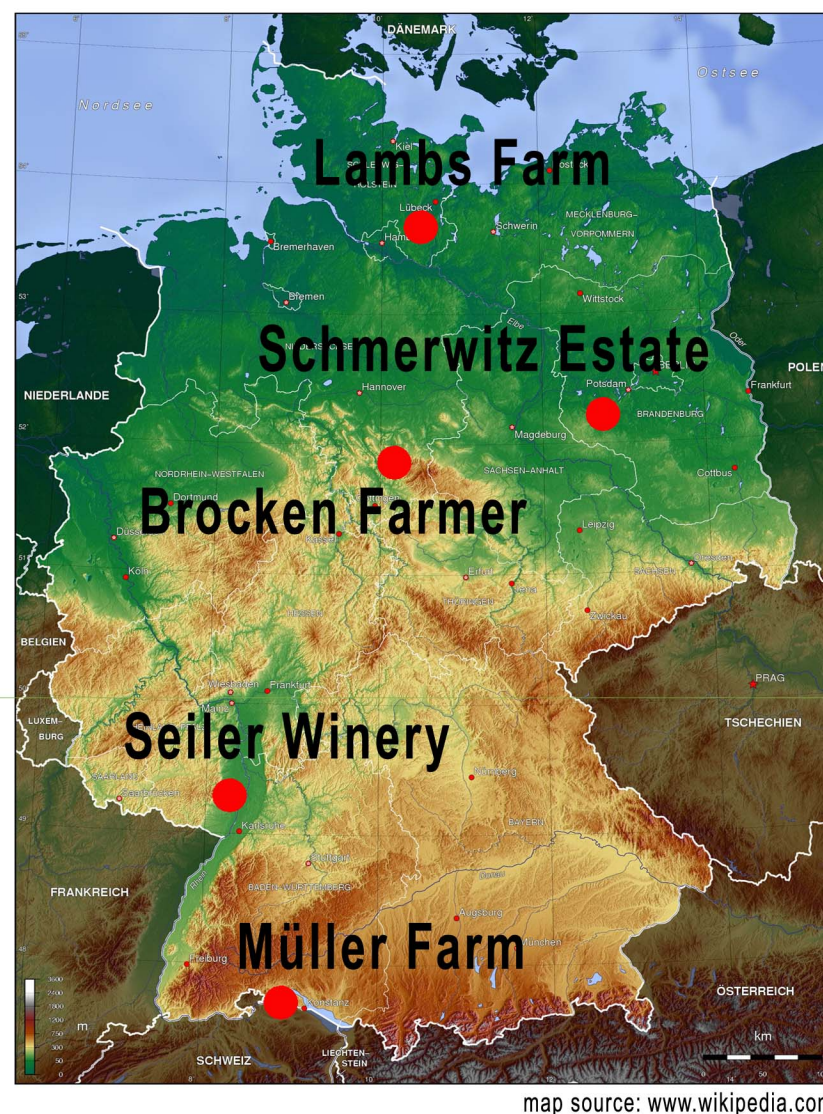


Flowering row between the vines on the Seiler Winery



Ludwig Seiler shows a nesting aid in his vineyard

A high diversity of flowering plants is attracting beneficial animals. Jumping spiders, lady bugs and ichneumon flies are helping in pest control. Accessorily the plants protect the soil from erosion and boost soil activity and humus production. Ludwig Seiler has inserted many further 'eco-niches': all across the vineyards he has installed wild bee houses and nest boxes for birds. In the vineyard margins he promotes perennial plant communities.



map source: www.wikipedia.com



Helmut Müller in one of his grainfields

Müller Farm

Helmut and Ruth Müller are dedicated to a lot more than just food production. The landscape conservation is well integrated into the 'normal' farming activities: The Müller Farm also provides several holiday flats and a 'hay hotel' for their guests to stay in.



In the midst of these manifold activities on the Müller Farm, Mr Müller often tells of quiet moments his fields and pasture provide for him: the capturing colours of the large meagre meadow - only himself, the sky and countless flowers. The sound of his mower is enough to lure the stork to come over to pick mice and frogs behind the machine. „When you hear the leaves rustle and the birds sing then you know that you don't need much to be happy“, says Mr. Müller.

The diverse landscape around the Müller Farm

Schmerwitz Estate

Schmerwitz Estate covers an area of 1550ha and is one of the largest organic farms in Germany. A network of habitat structures covers the farmland: hedges, traditional orchards, rows of trees and groves.

The habitat network on Schmerwitz Estate



Rita Neumann, manager of Schmerwitz Estate

The habitat structures pay off: „Before we had the hedges, heavy rain regularly created ditches that were up to one meter deep. Thanks to the hedges and the resulting small-scaled fields we have got around that kind of work“, describes Rita Neumann.

Brocken Farmer

The family-owned enterprise "Brockenbauer Thielecke" is specialised on an old local cattle breed. With their herd of 'Red Highland Cattle of the Harz', the Thielecke family contributes twice to the protection of the local cultural landscape: on the one hand they conserve a threatened regional breed of cattle and on the other hand they preserve the ecologically valuable mountain meadows that would otherwise be threatened by abandonment due to their remote location at high altitude.

Red Highland Cattle on the way to another mountain meadow



Susan and Uwe Thielecke

With small numbers of cattle and removable fences they can react flexibly and quickly to special ecological needs. "Often we have to deal with a small-scaled mosaic of sites and we have to adjust the fences all the time. The number of cattle on each site is small and they never stay there for long", Uwe Thielecke summarises.