



■ **The relevance of cattle husbandry and utilisation of milk in the Neolithic Age – a quantitative approach**

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Forschungsprojekt (Abstract)



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The relevance of cattle husbandry and utilisation of milk in the Neolithic Age – a quantitative approach

A research project by Vanessa Heuermann

The presented project concentrates on cattle husbandry in the Neolithic in general and on the extent of using of the secondary product “milk” in the nutrition of prehistoric populations in detail.

Compared to previous qualitative approaches that focused the main use of cattle herds this project highlights the importance of milk- utilisation in the Neolithic and gives representative results for different sites. In order to obtain this aim a model in the form of an Excel-sheet had been built to calculate the ratio of milk- and beef yield of cattle herds in different periods by using the gender- and age specific cattle bones. The model also gives answers to the question, how huge cattle herds with a defined relevance had to be held to subsist a determined population. Furthermore, the required wood pasture for these herds can be derived.

The results finally lead to the evaluation of the economic potential of cattle husbandries for milk and their importance and deployment for the nutrition of the prehistoric population in the Neolithic Age.