



HALL 13, STAND D35

BECAUSE EACH CALF COUNTS.



FÖRSTER
 **TECHNIK**[®]

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50+ years of innovations in the calf barn.

Engen, 24.09.2024

Förster-Technik. Innovator in calf rearing. Because each calf counts.

Förster-Technik has been automating calf feeding since 1971. The company stands for growth. For the healthy growth of calves, for the economic growth of dairy farmers and for the sustainable growth of the company. The company's strong innovative performance is once again underpinned by a DLG gold medal for **CalfGPT** in 2024, a unique result in the industry after a gold medal in 2016 and two silver medals in 2018 and 2022.

Market-defining innovations - now also with AI.

The continuous development of market-defining innovations to make work easier and increase efficiency in the calf barn is the recipe for success of the calf specialists from Engen in Hegau. The aim is to achieve sustainably more productive animals through adapted feeding methods. Modern calf feeding is based on the **VARIO** and **COMPACT automatic feeders**, which cover a wide range of farm sizes. There is a wide range of options and retrofitting options.

Expansion options in order to offer the right machine for the job and to remain at the cutting edge of technology as the business grows.

However, in addition to performance, simple operation, preferably from any device and any location, is increasingly in demand today. Förster-Technik has been a leader in this field for years with the **CalfApp GO!** and the **CalfCloud**. And now also with the brand new AI-controlled **CalfGPT** program, which was awarded a gold medal by the DLG this year. How can daily work in the calf barn be made easier? Förster-Technik investigated this question and the answer is simple: through speech, the simplest user interface available. Thus **CalfGPT** was born. Using Bluetooth earplugs connected to a smartphone, it enables hands-free access to all information about the calves and the triggering of commands.

In line with the philosophy of clearly transferring scientific findings into practice, Förster-Technik also operates a high-caliber calf blog in Germany and the USA at www.kaelberblogger.de and www.calfblog.com respectively.

The "hidden champion" of calf rearing.

Förster-Technik products can be found in thousands of calf barns worldwide. Most dairy farmers know them under the brand names of the sales partners. In cooperation with the leading manufacturers of milking systems, the global markets are also completely covered in terms of service. The acceptance of the cooperation partners is the best proof of the advantages of Förster-Technik products.

High-tech "Made in Germany".

At Förster-Technik, more than 150 highly trained employees work on 9,500 m² to develop and produce the "future of calf rearing". As recently as 2020, the company premises were expanded by 3,000 m² with a new production hall.

The high level of vertical integration in mechanical, electrical and electronic engineering guarantees quality and reliability. State-of-the-art machines and processes are used in production, while the latest CAD software and programming systems are used in development. Prototypes are manufactured on intelligent machines and 3D printers. The company's agricultural department always focuses on customer requirements and customer benefits.

The future counts and so does every calf.

The structural change in agriculture continues unabated and calls for ever more efficient and powerful technology - while at the same time improving ecology and animal welfare. Förster-Technik is doing everything in its power to expand its leading position for the benefit of calves and farmers. Through further investment in the latest development and production technologies and in intensive dialog with customers, sales partners and universities, Förster-Technik will provide first-class support to farms today and in the future, true to the philosophy "because every calf counts".



Fig. 1: Förster-Technik Because each calf counts.



Fig. 2: CalfGPT. DLG EuroTier Gold Medal 2024.

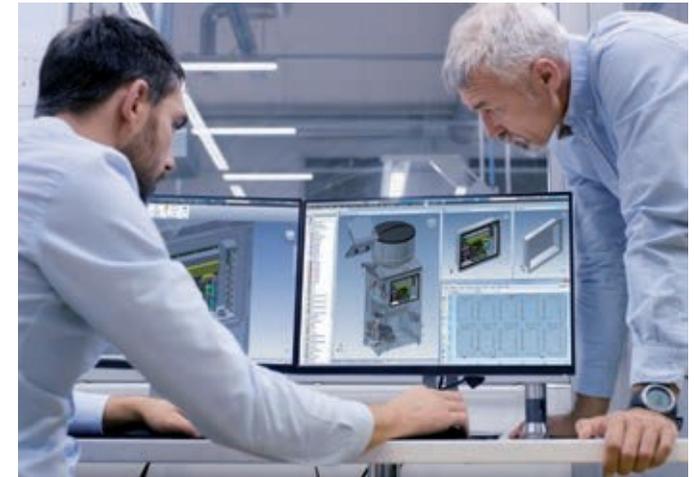


Fig. 3: Development.



Fig. 4: Production.



Fig. 5: The new production hall in Engen.



Fig. 6: Calf farmer.



VARIO and COMPACT CONNECT



The digital calf barn.

VARIO and COMPACT CONNECT. Automatic feeders with the best connections.

The digital calf barn is already a reality on many farms. Förster-Technik has had a decisive influence on this development. At EuroTier 2024, Förster-Technik will be presenting the new **CONNECT** version of its bestsellers **VARIO** and **COMPACT**. For the first time, an optimized fly screen and a significantly more powerful control processor that can be connected even more easily to the CalfCloud and the apps will be used. The move towards operation via smartphone apps and CalfCloud also means that the handheld terminal previously installed on the automatic feeder is now only available as an option. Another improvement is the operating lamp, which uses traffic light colors to easily display the operating status even on feeders without a handheld terminal. The "Touch Display" option with a 10-inch screen suitable for the barn is still on offer, now with an even faster connection. Finally, the **VARIO Connect** feeder is being offered for the first time with the "smart flow" option, which allows two animals to drink in parallel without any other peripheral devices. This saves time, especially during training, while still recording all consumption - because each calf counts.

All the information that counts.

For fact-based decisions, **VARIO Connect** provides calf managers with complete herd and individual animal data. How many calves have already drunk the right amount? Which ones still have a right? Which calves are on alert? Which calves are currently in the stations? Is the technology running smoothly? All menus can be seen at a glance. The answers are easy to call up.

Alarm animals that have drunk too little milk are of course of particular interest. The alarm animal list appears at the touch of a finger and farmers can take targeted action. Further filter criteria can be defined via a menu and saved as a favorite.

Or the drinking behavior of an individual calf needs to be checked. Another click takes you to the calf file, which shows the calf's entire life in simple graphics. If necessary, the calf can be given individual supplements.

Farmers simply add to the individual feeding plan on the monitor. The feeding plan for an entire group of calves can also be changed by clicking on the feeding menu.

Calf-cloud.com - a network full of additional functions - now also with CalfGPT

Every **CONNECT automatic feeder** can be connected to the CalfCloud free of charge via LAN cable. All data can then be accessed from anywhere and via any device. Contactless teamwork with vets and advisors via the CalfApp VITAL becomes possible. Access for service technicians for Quick help via the network can be enabled. In the event of an alarm, push notifications are sent to the smartphone. No matter where they are, calf farmers always have their calf barn under control, wherever they are. In addition to many other professional functions, CalfCloud Premium now also includes the award-winning CalfGPT, which uses modern artificial intelligence tools to allow intuitive operation via chat or voice. This means that data can also be called up hands-free directly on the animal and, for example, health findings can be dictated.

Förster-Technik offers a complete solution for the digital calf barn with standardized user interfaces for all end devices. From the 10-inch touch display on the automatic feeder to the office PC and mobile devices such as smartphones or tablets - even with AI and voice. Because each calf counts.



Fig. 1: VARIO Connect.



Fig. 2: VARIO Connect with handheld terminal.



Fig. 3: VARIO Connect with touch display.



Fig. 4: Dashboard of the CalfCloud.

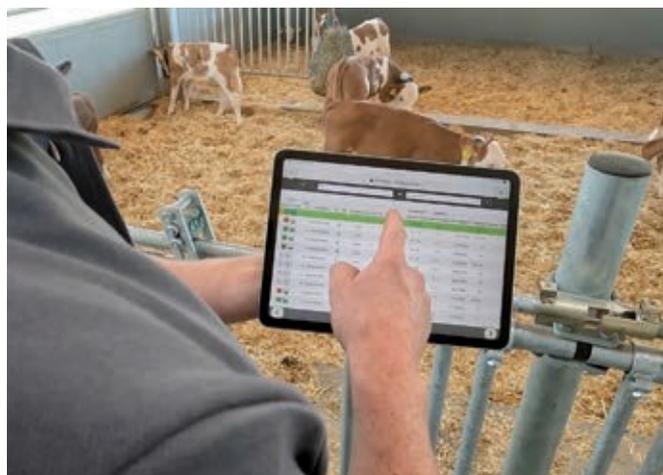


Fig. 5: CalfApp GO! Operation via tablet.



INNOVATION
AWARD

EuroTier

GOLD MEDAL

Gib mir alle
Alarmtiere.

Kalb 39.



CALFGPT

Gib mir Details
zu Kalb 39.

Hier sind die Details

- **Verzehr:**
 - Gestern: 2.8L
 - Heute: 3L
- **Relativer Verzehr:**
 - Gestern: 28%
 - Heute: 36%
- **Trinkgeschwindigkeit:** Heute: 90%
- **Abbrüche:**
 - Mit Zusatz: 0
 - Ohne Zusatz: 0
- **Besuche:**
 - Mit Anrecht: 1
 - Ohne Anrecht: 1

Möchtest du noch weitere Informationen zu diesem Kalf

AI-supported calf management.

CalfGPT - Questions and answers about calves.

CalfGPT brings artificial intelligence to calf management. It enables the simplest user interface: voice. Using Bluetooth earplugs, you can request all information about the calves and trigger commands hands-free. Simple interaction within the CalfCloud Premium makes daily work easier and forms the basis for more comprehensive documentation of e.g. health data.

With **CalfGPT**, Förster-Technik offers access to the large language models (LLM) for the management of calves in the CalfCloud. The leading AI system from openAI is used, with full data protection guaranteed. For the first time, interaction with the system can take place via natural language requests in the form of a chat or via speech recognition and output. The user no longer has to memorize specific commands, but can communicate their wishes directly, e.g. "How are the calves doing now?". The system also knows the context, i.e. if, for example, you have asked for today's consumption for an animal, you can simply ask "and yesterday?". You can also ask questions about the instruction manual and jump to the relevant page.

Until now, automatic feeders have offered "classic" operating devices, e.g. handhelds with LC displays and buttons. Some also offer operation via the Cloud and smartphone apps.

The focus here is on typing and looking. However, operation with natural language commands is not provided, i.e. you always need to familiarize yourself with the respective operating concept. Where certain sub-functions is often not intuitive. If in doubt, you have to consult the operating instructions or watch videos. And every product has its own operating routine, so you have to familiarize yourself with the system again and again.

In addition, you can't really work "on the animal" because the controls are fixed to the device, or you don't want to use smartphones in the animal compartment, or even with a smartphone you no longer have a free hand to work on the animal.

For optimum management of young calves at the automatic feeder, the user needs simple, intuitive access to the system, preferably from anywhere. With **CalfGPT**, Förster-Technik has the most intelligent solution with interaction in natural language or chat bot. Existing devices such as a PC with loudspeaker/microphone or smartphone, ideally supplemented by increasingly common Bluetooth earpieces that are also used for making phone calls or listening to music, are the powerful and simple interface of choice. The low entry barriers mean that managers who have many different tasks can find their way around, as can assistants who only need simple information. Routine tasks such as health assessments are integrated into intelligent workflows with filters and can be carried out "hands-free". Better feedback into the system also enables continuous improvement of AI algorithms for health assessment. Access and data protection are of course guaranteed - AI thus immediately supports the philosophy of Förster-Technik - Because each calf counts.



Fig. 1: CalfGPT - operate with speech. DLG EuroTier Gold Medal 2024.



Fig. 2: CalfGPT logo.



Fig. 3: CalfGPT with chat bot.



MILCHMOBIL PRO



MilchMobil of the next generation from Förster-Technik. Now also in PRO.

MilchMobil PRO. Even more of everything.

Following the launch of the new generation Milchmobil NEXT with a round tank and several unique functions such as cooling small quantities of milk in 2022, Förster-Technik is now going one step further in terms of operation. The **PRO** version features a high-resolution 4.3" color display that presents information more easily and intuitively. Clear, colorful symbols like on a smartphone make operation easy, while the new size of the screen makes it easy to see the values. The buttons on the control panel are fully illuminated, making the device easy to use even in the winter months. The **MilchMobil PRO** sets new standards in ergonomics and enables additional functions such as automatic fill level detection.

One of the proven concepts is the water bath heater for heating the feed trough or optional pasteurization. The highest heating capacity in the industry of 8 kW is used here, with gentle heat transfer at the same time. This water bath heating is also the basis for the innovative, optional AMS cooling system, which can also be used to effectively cool the milk of individual cows from milking robots. Another unique feature is the battery-operated, two-stage mixer or CalfPlan, which can be used for age-dependent feeding without complicated RFID. The chassis with 4 wheels and two wheelbases combines easy and safe driving in equal measure.

The additionally available Clean & Fill Station, which cleans the **MilchMobil** fully automatically and refills it with water for the next feeding, is unique in the world. This labor saving amortizes the investment in a short time, so that the Clean & Fill Station was awarded the innovation medal in silver in 2022 by the DLG.

The **PRO** version of the **MilchMobil** from Förster-Technik once again sets new standards for mobile milk supply to calves - because each calf counts.

The **MilchMobil PRO** is available in three tank sizes: 120 l, 200 l and 300 l. The stainless steel tanks are round and enable optimum handling. The unique water bath heating system allows the use of an 8 kW heater, so that cow's milk or MP-water or MP-feed can be heated very quickly and yet evenly and gently. The mixer for stirring MP is now powered by the battery and is therefore also available for remixing on the move. It can also be used as an agitator at a lower speed as an option.

The working ergonomics have been optimized on the basis of customer surveys. All **MilchMobil** models are extremely maneuverable and equipped with 4 wheels for safe maneuvering, with a smaller wheelbase at the front of the steering. The chassis has been optimized depending on the tank size. The 120 l model is designed to be pushed, the two large tanks are offered in a towed version as standard, but the 200 l model can also be fitted with a pushing chassis. Optionally, the 200 l and 300 l models are also available with a fresh milk pasteurizer. A lockable swivel arm and a bucket holder complete the equipment options of the **MilchMobil** models.

All models can be connected to the **Clean & Fill Station**. Here, after briefly connecting after feeding, the milk tank and milk-carrying pipes are cleaned fully automatically with alkaline and acidic cleaning agents. The labor saving is even greater thanks to the Fill function, where the water required for the next feeding with milk replacer is automatically added and heated at the right time.

CalfPlan - feeding calves in individual housing with the MilchMobil according to the individual animal and age. Completely automatically.

With **CalfPlan**, calves in individual hutches can be fed automatically according to their age by simply counting through the boxes. It is a pure software function without the need for expensive and cumbersome RFID antennas and transponders. It is therefore available at a low cost for the benefit of the animals, which are provided with feed according to their age and weaned in small steps of 0.1 liters. There are three feeding plans to provide each group of animals with optimum care. Together with the MP-calculator, the amount of MP-quantity required for feeding is automatically determined and displayed depending on the feeding plan. The great advantage of this is that it is no longer necessary to manually calculate the daily changing MP-quantity when preparing the feed. The system does this automatically.

Feeding starts at the lowest occupied place number. After dosing out the quantity in place x, the system jumps directly to the next occupied place. The system knows the age of the animals and determines the current quantity at the touch of a button according to the plan. This means that changing people can quickly care for the animals without having to know the details. Individual supplements or pair keeping are also possible. The system also indicates the total amount of fresh milk or MP for the next feeding.

Previous **MilchMobile** have no option for age-dependent feeding. In this case, the operator must know or recognize the age of the animal and derive the stage of development from this, e.g. increasing quantity at the beginning of rearing, then a stagnant quantity to consolidate. To wean from milk, the quantity should be reduced daily in small steps so that the development of the forestomach can take place continuously. The "estimated" amount must then be set and called up manually at each calf place. This is not an effective way to achieve animal-friendly feeding and slow weaning.

CalfPlan significantly improves labor management on the farm, as each person can feed the animals one by one without any additional knowledge. Age-appropriate feeding increases animal welfare and makes work faster. By doing without extra hardware and transponders, CalfPlan can be offered at a reasonable price, so that more farms and animals benefit overall.

Clean & Fill Station. Save up to 240 working hours per year.

The **Clean & Fill Station** consists of a compact control unit that is mounted on the wall in the dairy kitchen, where the **MilchMobil** was previously filled with water and MP or cow's milk. In addition to a cold and hot water connection, the Clean & Fill Station has two detergent pumps for alkaline and acidic detergents. Only three connections need to be connected to the **MilchMobil**.

A hose with quick coupling for supplying water and detergent, the drain valve for the tank and a data connection. As with manual cleaning, the cleaning nozzle must be connected to the dosing head of the milk hose and inserted into the center of the tank lid.

"Docking" is completed within one minute. There are three cleaning programs to choose from: alkaline, acidic or rinsing with clear water.

Cleaning takes place fully automatically in the following steps: Draining the remaining milk, pre-rinsing the tank with clear water via the cleaning nozzle, introducing warm cleaning water or heating the water to cleaning temperature, dosing the correct amount of cleaning agent, pumping the rinsing water in a circle for the pre-selected duration of the main cleaning (with contact time) and cleaning the tank surface with the cleaning nozzle, and finally draining the cleaning water and rinsing with clear water. The milk tank is then completely emptied via the drain valve and left to dry until preparation for the next feeding. This corresponds to good operational practice for milk tank cleaning. Optimum cleaning results and a high standard of hygiene are guaranteed.

Depending on the animal population, MP-feeders require up to 250 liters of water per feeding. The required amount of water is automatically poured into the tank as specified using a precise measuring sensor. Timed so that it is ready for the next feeding at the correct mixing temperature.

If hot water is available from a biogas plant, for example, the filling process can already be carried out with hot water, thus saving electrical heating energy. The operator arrives at the **MilchMobil PRO** shortly before feeding time and only has to fill in the required amount of MP and stir it up. Here too, the **MilchMobil PRO's** calculator provides support and shows the amount of MP to be added on the display according to the number of animals. The tedious and time-consuming wait for filling and heating is now a thing of the past.

All functions of the **Clean & Fill Station** are controlled via the **MilchMobil**. All parameters for cleaning and feeding preparation can also be set individually on the device. The operating status of the **Clean & Fill Station** is clearly indicated by colored lights. Thanks to the data connection between the **Clean & Fill Station** and the **MilchMobil**, all processes are coordinated with each other. This means that the **MilchMobil** components such as the pump, heater, temperature sensor, fill level sensor etc. can also be integrated into the automation process. The farmers only have to adapt to one operating philosophy.

The **Clean & Fill Station** saves calf farmers a lot of time and money. Manual cleaning by one person takes at least ten minutes. With two feedings per day, this corresponds to 20 minutes per day and therefore approx. 120 working hours per year. The automatic filling of water for the next feeding saves another 10 minutes of waiting time per feeding. That's another 120 hours per year.

AMS-Cool. Natural fresh milk preservation for robotic dairy farms.

The **AMS-Cool** option enables cooling with well water or ice water. By installing the cooling surface under the milk tank instead of in the jacket surface, even small quantities of milk from individual cows are covered by the cooling system. This makes the **MilchMobil** ideal for farms with automatic milking systems, where the cows are milked with milk for calf feeding throughout the day. Particularly on hot summer days, the **AMS-Cool** enables the fresh milk to be cooled quickly and effectively, thus ensuring a high-quality supply of calves.

The **MilchMobil** can be configured to suit the individual farm. It suits every comfort requirement and every farm size. With the new **MilchMobil PRO** with 4.3 inch color display, Förster-Technik once again proves its claim to leadership in mobile milk supply for calves. Because each calf counts.



Fig. 1: MilchMobil PRO.



Fig. 2: New control panel.



Fig. 3: LED color display with light-up keypad.



Fig. 4: AMS-Cool equipment for robot operations.



Fig. 5: DLG Silver Medal 2022: Clean & Fill Station.



CALFRAIL DUO

Pair keeping will come. Preferably automatically.

CalfRail DUO. It tastes better with two.

Young calves develop best when they are not alone in a box, but in a double box with another calf. This has been confirmed in numerous studies and practical farms. With the **CalfRail DUO** from Förster-Technik, two calves in a double box can be automatically fed simultaneously via two teats. This allows the calves to develop even better into future high-performance cows - because each calf counts.

Cattle are herd animals. Scientists at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver discovered that calves recognize a second calf as a herd substitute. Calves kept in pairs in a double box grow significantly better than calves kept individually because they encourage each other to eat. Tests have also shown that the risk of illness is also significantly lower in pairs compared to single housing until weaning. The "group calves" have around 2/3 less diarrhea and 50% less pneumonia. So there are many good reasons for healthy growth, through to better consumer acceptance of automated pair housing with **CalfRail DUO**.

CalfRail DUO. Unique efficiency in the calf barn with increased animal welfare.

Dairy farms are growing worldwide, and so are calf herds. Vital calves need to be fed 4-5 times a day, especially in the first few weeks of life, in order to produce maximum milk yield later on. Above a certain number of animals and feeding frequency, traditional feeding methods with buckets are inefficient and far too labor-intensive. With the **CalfRail DUO**, feeding starts where manual methods come to an end.

The drinking arms move from box to box on a rail mounted above the boxes. This guarantees absolute ground clearance.

The drinking arms swing freely to simulate a natural drinking situation. The **CalfRail DUO** recognizes the boxes and therefore the calves. The drinking quantities are adjusted individually for each feeding and, of course, any quantities not consumed and the drinking speed are also recorded for any indications of illness and offered for monitoring in the CalfCloud, for example.

The entire hose system cleans itself fully automatically after each feeding. A water heater keeps the entire system at the right temperature, even in winter. The teats can also be rinsed between two boxes. Hygiene is therefore higher than with manual feeding with buckets or bottles.

Feed preparation and animal monitoring via VARIO automatic feeder.

The **CalfRail DUO** is supplied with feed and controlled by the tried-and-tested VARIO automatic feeder from Förster-Technik. Each **CalfRail DUO** can feed 64 calves. One automatic feeder can control up to two **CalfRail DUO**, meaning that up to 128 calves can be supplied with freshly prepared feed per automatic feeder with two **CalfRail DUO**. It is also possible to combine the **CalfRail DUO** for the younger calves and group housing for the older calves.

With the **CalfRail DUO**, Förster-Technik offers a unique, fully automatic feeding system for farms of all sizes that want to grow independently of personnel and are future-proof and focus on maximum efficiency in calf feeding. Because each calf counts.

Engen, 24.09.2024

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Fig. 1: Pairs will come.

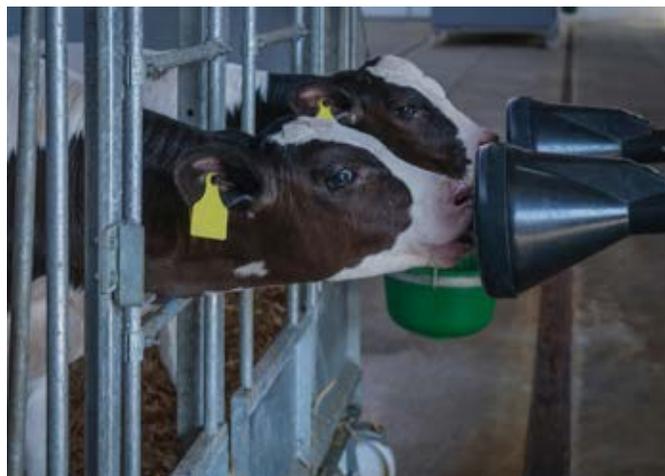


Fig. 2: : CalfRail DUO - feeding 2 calves at the same time.

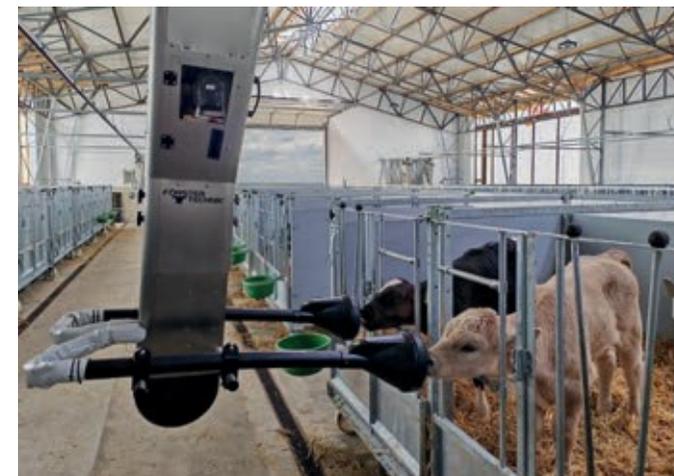


Fig. 3: CalfRail DUO in the barn



Fig. 4: Best hygiene thanks to automatic rinsing.



Fig. 5: Best care for calves in double boxes.



Fig. 6: Control via tablet.