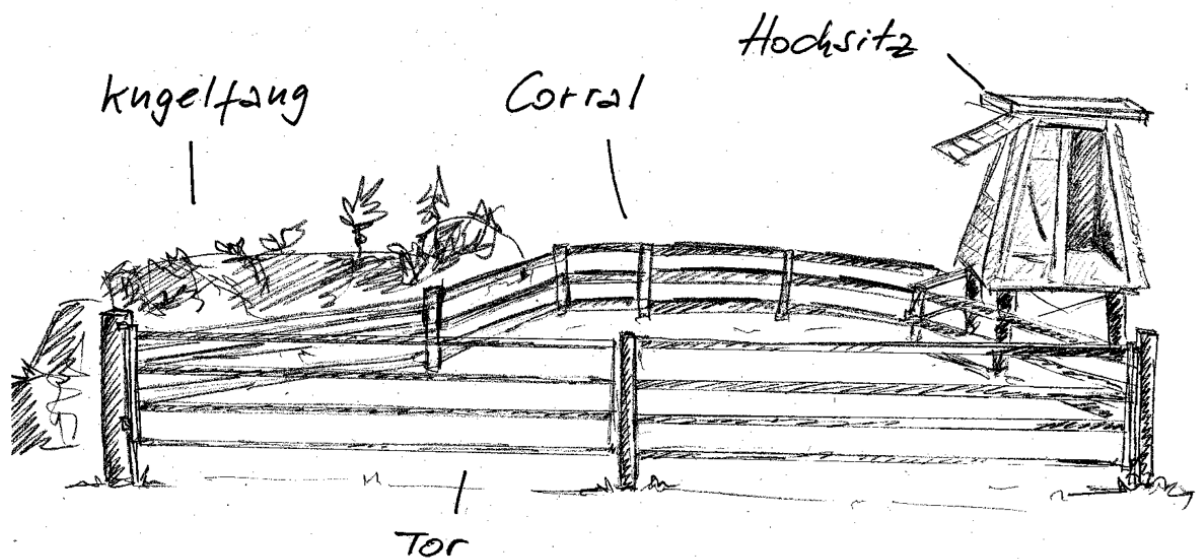


Abstract: slaughtering on pasture

Conventional slaughter systems including capture, uploading, transportation, unloading, confrontation with unfamiliar conspecifics and mostly driving into the stunning box and immobilization inside the box. All these aspects can cause stress for cattle. Outdoor cattle kept on free-range pastures are especially exposed to pre-mortal strain and frequently generate handling-problems at the day of the slaughtering. As an alternative stress reduced cattle slaughter method, the technique of outdoor gunshot can be applied under the terms of German as well as EU regulations. In Switzerland, the first farmer started this year 2015 with this animal friendly free-bullet rifle shooting within a pilot project. This alternative method to conventional slaughter at abattoirs implies a cattle stunning by use of a directed rifle shot (small bore rifle .22 Magnum, with an free gun reflector sight), and can only take place if all safety conditions with respect to accident prevention, animal welfare, and hygiene are strictly adhered. The animal is stunned by a qualified person (with hunting license) inside a special, but familiar, corral and exsanguinated immediately by an equally skilled person via chest-stick. The large herbivores have no abstraction assets, so its also no stress for the rest of the herd. After this, the carcass gets transported in an appropriate trailer to the closest possible abattoir for skinning, viscerating, and further conventional processing. Finally, the effect of the free-bullet rifle shooting on meat-quality will be investigated. This includes stun quality assessments of the stunned animals, analysis of blood samples, pH- and conductance measurements on the carcasses in the abattoir, sample taking and measurements in the lab (e.g. water holding capacity, tenderness and tastiness of the meat).



corral

bleed out

hygienic trailer

