



Local ham manufacturer Berger focusses on solar energy

Minister of the Environment Berlakovich: Solar record emphasizes Austria's role as a model in eco-friendly energy

(Sieghartskirchen – October 2012) – Berger, the local ham manufacturer, is a true pioneer in ecological production: Aside from its innovative concept regional.optimal. – which is a first in that it exclusively uses local pigs from the near vicinity of the company, grown on guaranteed GMO-free feed, for the production of the best traditional meat and ham products – Berger has now also proved itself as a pioneer in the use of eco-friendly electricity.

Berger relies on solar energy: "Sausages from the sun"

Ham manufacturer Berger uses a 1,087 m² solar heating plant for generating the energy needed for cooking and pasteurization of sausages and ham. Instead of using light fuel oil, the Berger family goes a vital step further: "We rely on the power of the sun and are thus in a position to save 62,500 litres of fuel oil year after year – which is equivalent to the consumption of 15 single-family homes," Mag. Rudolf Berger, head of the butchery, is proud to tell.

Sustainability and responsible use of resources: Also possible for ham and cold meat production!

Berger, the showcase family business from Lower Austria, places the focus on regionalism and fairness while contributing to the growth of regional value creation.

"Today, sustainable and resource-friendly management is paramount. With our regional.optimal. flagship project and the use of solar energy, we make a special contribution towards supporting our farmers, our region and our environment. We take our responsibility very seriously", Mag. Rudolf Berger, Manager of Fleischwaren Berger explains.

Photographs: Photograph of Renate Fuchs, C= Ministry of the Environment, print free of charge



The Berger family is proud of the new solar plant and their contribution to a responsible use of resources: Year after year, the plant saves 62,500 litres of fuel oil.



Delighted about the solar record: (left to right) Robert Kanduth, Chairman of the Austria Solar industry association, Johann Höfinger, Member of the National Council, Federal Minister Niki Berlakovich, Mag. Rudolf Berger, GF Fleischwaren Berger GesmbH & Co KG, Christian Holter, S.O.L.I.D. Gesellschaft für Solarinstallation und Design mbH





Solar record: 5 million square metres of solar panels have been installed in Austria! (left to right) Mag. Rudolf Berger, GF Fleischwaren Berger GesmbH & Co KG, Robert Kanduth, Chairman of the Austria Solar industry association Austria Solar, Federal Minister Niki Berlakovich, Christian Holter, S.O.L.I.D. Gesellschaft für Solarinstallation und Design mbH

About Berger:

Lower Austrian ham producer Fleischwaren Berger Gesellschaft m.b.H. & Co KG with headquarters in Sieghartskirchen in the Tulln district excels as local ham manufacturer. The family business is managed by Mag. Rudolf Berger in the fourth generation. 122 years of experience and tradition combined with strong links with the region can be sensed and tasted in Berger products.

Every year, the company processes 18,000 tons of meat to ham and cold meat products and sells 6,000 tons of fresh meat. The product range comprises over 60 different ham creations and more than 70 cold meat specialities – among them multiple award winners. Berger is the second largest employer in the Tulln district employing 450 people. In 2011, Berger generated an annual turnover of 110 million Euros, 90 percent of which in Austria. Products are sold mainly via the food retail and wholesale market, at the company's own four stores and at the three Berger cash-and-carry markets.

Since 2009, Berger has actively embraced regional and sustainable meat and ham production. With its regional optimal flagship project, Berger is a pioneer in the production of regional pork specialities guaranteed to be free of genetically engineered organisms.