

**Centre for Agriculture -
Landwirtschaftszentrum**

Haus Düsse

Bad Sassendorf – Ostinghausen



www.duesse.de

Haus Düsse

The mansion “Haus Düsse”, a moated castle built by Adrian van der Düssen in 1641, is nowadays the central institution for agricultural formation and research for livestock and crop production of the Chamber of Agriculture of North Rhine-Westphalia. Already in 1927, the first practical courses for livestock husbandry took place and in 1937 Haus Düsse became an institute for agricultural formation and research. In 1950, the Chamber of Agriculture Westphalia–Lippe acquired the estate.

Assignment

It is the assignment of the centre of agriculture to develop production methods that are practically oriented, cost-efficient, environmentally compatible and livestock-friendly. Beyond this, the centre provides hands-on training courses and advanced training as a service for the farmers of the region.

Profile of the estate

Size 281 ha

Land use

Field crops	228 ha
Grassland	12 ha
Woodland	22 ha
Farmstead, roads, buildings	19 ha

Climate and site

Altitude	70 m above sea level
Soil quality rating:	58–78 (max.100 points)
Annual mean precipitation:	790 mm/year
Annual mean temperature:	9,8 C°

Livestock

Cattle

Dairy cows	100
Fattening bulls	60
Places for bulls (performance test)	400
Beef cattle (cow/calf operation)	8
Ewes	20

Poultry

Places for layers	5.000
Alternatively:	
- places for broilers	6.000
- or turkey cocks	1.000
- or turkey hens	2.000

Pigs

Places for sows	250
Places for fattening pigs	2.700
Places for piglets	1.200
Cubicles for pigs (performance test)	550
Places for sows/fattening pigs, according organic farming standards	30/100

Other animals

Bee colonies	4
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Staff

The Agricultural Centre Haus Düsse has 70 full-time places of employment for the execution of all duties.



Training centre

Haus Düsse, a place for further training, conferences and events, is highly appreciated by about 25.000 annual participants and visitors. The reasons are obvious:

- Central location, easy to reach by public transport
 - educational institute with excellent facilities: rooms for computer-training, seminars and conferences, equipped with modern multimedia systems
 - Special programmes: hands-on trainings and demonstrations
 - Guest houses with 122 beds for participants of courses and conferences
 - Casino, dining hall, lounges and leisure centres, day care centre for children
- Haus Düsse can be booked by the non-agricultural public as well.

Training programs:

- Training in basics of milk production and animal management (cattle, calves, pigs and sheep)
- Training in basics of gardening and landscaping
- Advanced training for farmers, farm-workers, milkers, hoof-trimmers, dairy- and feeding advisers from Germany and from abroad
- Training for part-time farmers
- Training for beekeepers, breeders of poultry, rabbits and fur-bearing animals
- Training in landscape conservation and management

Pig production

Stables and equipment

Stable-unities for hands-on training and information of sow management and pig fattening. The demonstration-unit comprises various systems of

- keeping
- feeding
- air conditioning in closed systems

Demonstration and testing of stable facilities

Testing of facilities, machines and implements as well as systems of slurry disposal considering the animal welfare, environmental impact, management of farm labour-force and safety of function.

Trials

During the successive phases of growth and performance of pigs, trials concerning general management and feeding are carried out.

The conventional equipments are completed by an ecologic pig production system with 30 sows and 100 fattening pigs

Performance testing programme for pigs

The performance testing programme for pigs provides 550 double-pens. According to the national directions, two piglets of one litter at a time, during the fattening phase and ad-libitum feeding on automats, are tested for their fattening efficiency and carcass value.

Quality-testing of fattening piglets

Crossbred- and hybrid-piglets are tested for fattening performance, carcass value and breeding performance of their mothers. The test is carried out according to DIN 66052-standard and assesses the economic efficiency of different provenances.

Cattle production

Dairy cattle

German Holsteins and cows of other breeds are kept in an open cubicle housing system with 60 places. A greater variety of dairy-facilities is permanently being tested. The results enter in training programmes and agricultural information.

The new milking complex is fitted out with all modern developments. The main item is the spacious milking parlour with two different milking systems. Further you will find a dairy-stable with 40 places and an automatic milking system.

Calf and young stock

The Centre shows various drinking systems and facilities for calf raising and the raising of young stock.

Cattle fattening

The new training workshop for bull fattening is situated in an open fronted stable with 50 fattening places on sloping floor.

Performance testing of bulls (LPA)

German Holsteins

- Tests of future IA-bulls concerning functional characteristics: capacity of feed intake, quality of hooves and legs, daily gains, type and conformation.
- 47 places as quarantine area
- 150 testing-places in open front stables

Beef cattle

Beef cattle between 7 and 12 months are tested for fattening performance, meat conformation and type

- 49 places as quarantine area
- 200 places for tests in open front stables

Sheep production

For training-purposes, a flock of 20 Texel-ewes is kept. Stable facilities and grazing- and paddock-management are demonstrated.



Poultry production

Performance tests

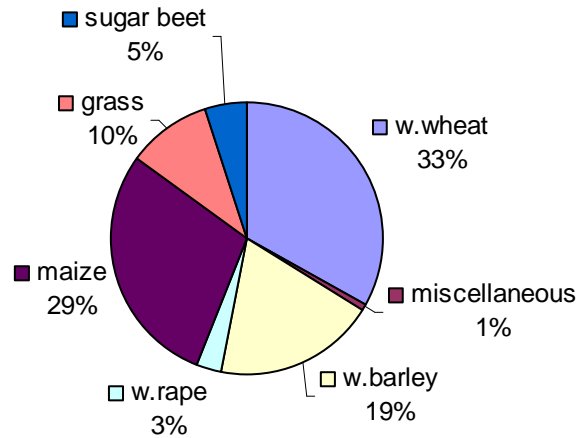
- laying-performance test for hens
- parentage testing of broilers
- feed-conversion testing of laying hens, of broilers or of turkeys (complete concentrate)

Trials

Testing of different feeding and management systems with layers, broilers and turkeys

Tillage and crop production

Haus Düsse is an experimental operation in the fertile loess-plains around Soest. To provide the unit's livestock with feedstuff of all kind, the farm produces the following crops.



Field trials

As main focus within the field trials, the centre disposes of an experimental area of 25 ha, subdivided into 5.800 plots, situated within the farm itself and it's outskirts Ruhr-Hellweg. Evaluations, variety tests and plant protection trials for all important crops are carried out.

Tillage and cultivation trials

The priority of these trials are the soil cultivation, the crop rotation and the renewable resources. Tests for cultivation intensity, long-term tests with organic and mineral fertilizers as well as tests for protection against soil erosion.

Centre for renewable resouces (ZNR)

Since 1998, Haus Düsse is the centre for renewable resources (ZNR) in North Rhine-Westphalia. Renewable resources are agricultural and forestry products which can be used as raw material for industrial purposes or for energy production. The centre aims at working on the interface between agriculture and it's supply-sector as well as the processing industry. An information pavilion, an exhibition for renewable energy and a biogas plant are demonstrating new practical experiences to the visitor. The target group of special conferences encloses training, technology, processing, trade, science and practical appliance.

Main activity areas

- Energy from biomass (timber, plant-oil, biogas, etc.)
- Biodegradable materials based on starch or sugar
- Accompanying and controlling of special projects; e.g. bio-energy projects
- Cultivation tests for various renewable resources
- Trials with biogas production systems
- Permanent exhibitions for renewable energy
- Exhibition of products from renewable resources

Other institutions at Haus Düsse

- Educational exhibition for agricultural construction: About 140 exhibitors present building materials and livestock facilities. Neutral consultation by specialists of the Chamber of Agriculture North Rhine-Westphalia about livestock facilities and renewable energies.
- Centre for electronic in agriculture (ZEL): Training and Trials in electronic technology and computer (Precision farming)
- Biogas plant for demonstration and for trials
- Bee-house, demonstrating four bee colonies



Guided tours

Upon request, guided tours (about 2 – 4 hours, with competent guidance) through the Agricultural Formation and Research Centre Haus Düsse, can be arranged from Monday until Friday and by special agreement.

Location of Haus Düsse

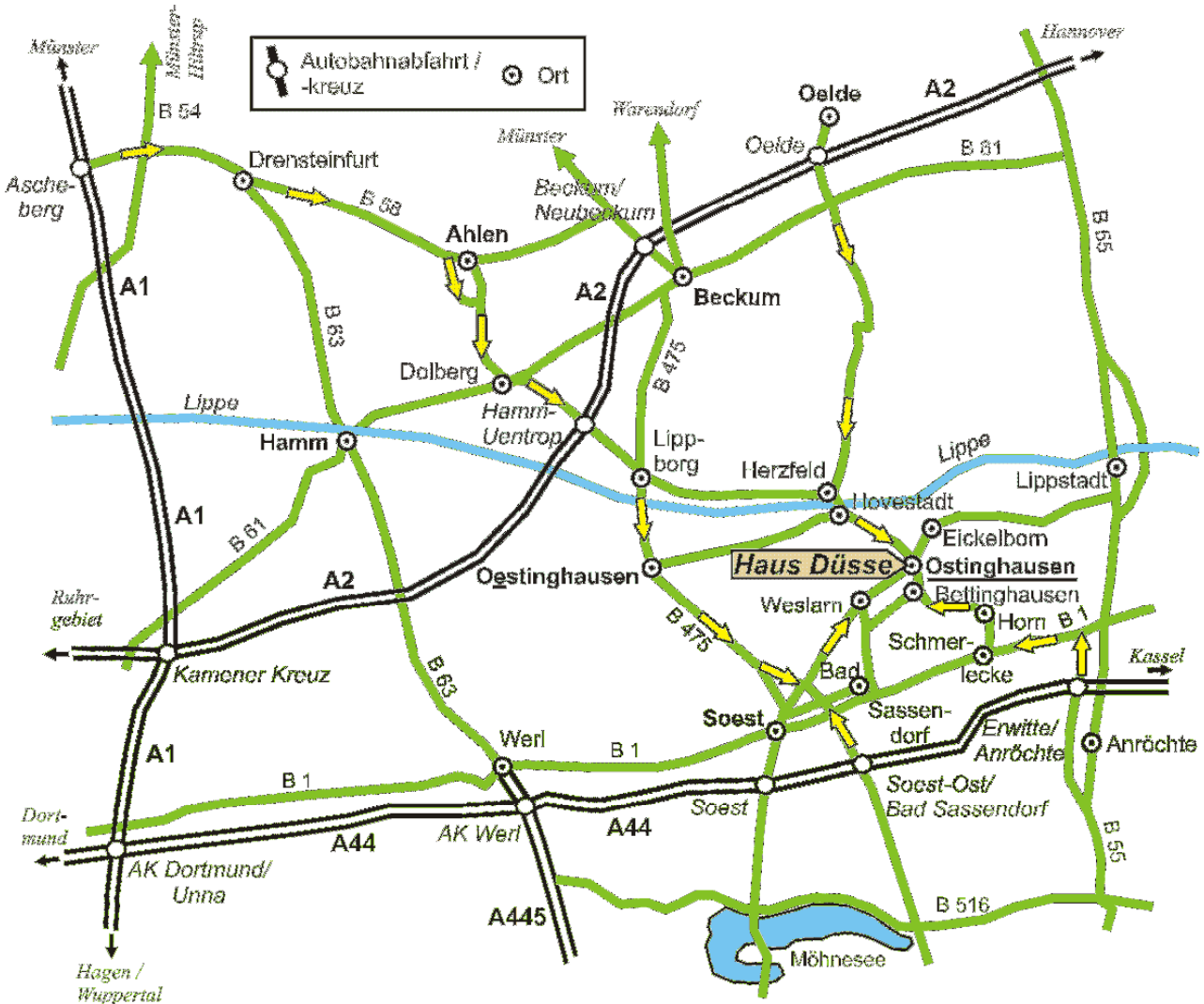
The Agricultural Formation and Research Centre Haus Düsse is located in the village of Ostinghausen, a periphery of Bad Sassendorf, about 10 Km northeast of Soest, between the two towns Soest and Lippstadt, in the heart of Westphalia (see the map). Foreigners who arrive by car might easily confound the two neighbouring villages “**O**stinghausen” and “**O**estinghausen” (the latter about 7 Km north of Soest). Please be aware!

Visitors who arrive by train: Please take the train to Soest central station. From there, two bus routes take you to Haus Düsse in Ostinghausen:

- Bus Soest-Benninghausen: via Weslarn to Ostinghausen
- Bus Soest-Beckum: via Bad Sassendorf to Ostinghausen

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The Agricultural Formation and Research Centre Haus Düsse is located in the village of Ostinghausen, a periphery of Bad Sassendorf.



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