**Portrait of the DLG**

**DLG (German Agricultural Society) is best known as the organiser of the Agritechnica and EuroTier trade fairs, that take place in alternate years in the German city of Hanover, but the organisation, which was established nearly 140 years ago, plays a much wider role in both German and global agriculture.**

With more than 31,000 members today, DLG is a politically independent and non-profit organisation. DLG draws on an international network of some 3,000 food and agricultural experts. Through its subsidiary, DLG International, DLG operates has subsidiaries in nine countries and also organizes over 30 regional agricultural and livestock exhibitions worldwide. DLG’s leading international exhibitions, EuroTier for livestock farming and Agritechnica for agricultural machinery, which are held every two years in Hanover, Germany, provide international impetus for the local trade fairs. Headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany, DLG conducts practical trials and tests to keep its members informed of the latest developments. DLG’s sites include DLG's International Crop Production Centre, a 600-hectare test site in Bernburg-Strenzfeld, Germany and the DLG Test Centre, Europe's largest agricultural machinery test centre for Technology and Farm Inputs, located in Gross-Umstadt, Germany. DLG bridges the gap between theory and practice, as evidenced by more than 40 working groups of farmers, academics, agricultural equipment companies and organisations that continually compare advances in knowledge in specific areas such as irrigation and precision farming.

**History**

It should come as no surprise that an engineer can be credited with the establishment of the DLG, but the fact that the organisation has remained true to Max Eyth’s founding principles shows just how forward-thinking he was. His idea of starting the DLG came at a time when it was clear that the industrial revolution, and mechanisation in particular, would have a major impact on the agricultural sector, and innovation in farm machinery remains at the centre of the society’s activities today.

Born in Kirchheim unter Teck in 1836, Eyth studied mechanical engineering in Stuttgart, before finding employment at the Gotthilf Kuhn steam engine factory in the nearby town of Berg. He then joined the world's leading manufacturer of steam ploughs, John Fowler, based at Leeds in the UK. Working as the company’s chief engineer from 1860-1882, he travelled the world, including the US, where he worked to develop the engine for this region.

**Agritechnica and EuroTier – two world-leading exhibitions**

The first Agritechnica exhibition attracted 551 exhibitors and 124,000 visitors and was held in Frankfurt, moving to Hanover in 1995. One catalyst for the move was the opening of the border between East and West Germany, as the DLG required a more centrally located platform to cater for Eastern and Western Europe. Another reason was the increasing size of agricultural machinery, which meant the exhibition was outgrowing the facilities in Frankfurt.

The DLG initially offered specialist exhibitions for individual livestock species, but these were all brought together for the first EuroTier trade fair that took place in Hanover in June 1993.

Today Agritechnica and EuroTier takes place in alternate years. These two exhibitions foster innovation through the DLG’s Gold and Silver Innovation Awards that have become internationally recognized for demonstrating the technical trends.

The society’s portfolio of exhibitions include Anuga FoodTec (in conjunction with Köln Messe), the DLG Feldtage (Field Days), EnergyDecentral and PotatoEurope, which means the organisation covers the agricultural machinery, livestock technology, food technology, renewable energy, arable and potato growing sectors. All these events attract an international audience, but the DLG has also taken its exhibition philosophy outside of Germany.

Beginning with the TAGRO International Agricultural Machinery and Technology Fair, held in Ankara, Turkey, which the DLG organised in 1993, the society has set up DLG International, which has subsidiaries in nine countries, including the newly founded subsidiary “DLG North America” in 2024

**Information before investment**

DLG conducts tests on farm machinery, farm inputs and food, and through various standing committees, develops solutions for the challenges farmers, agribusiness and the food industry are facing. Central to these activities is the DLG Test Centre for Technology and Farm Inputs at Gross-Umstadt, near Frankfurt. Respected around the globe, its efforts can be summed up in the simple motto “Information before investment”.

The Test Centre provides farmers with information that is an important decision-making tool for both investments and practical use. More than 4,000 test reports are available that provide guidance on agricultural machinery as well as compound feeds, silage additives, fertiliser and lime, cleaning and disinfecting agents, and even udder hygiene products.

**Farmers’ clubs**

No review of the history of the DLG would be complete without mentioning its role as organiser of three important European farming organisations: the European Poultry Club, European Pig Producers and European Arable Farmers. And another important practical aspect to the society’s work is its International Crop Production Centre at Bernburg-Strenzfeld. This 600 hectare site conducts plot trials on crop rotations, cultivation and irrigation, as well as performing practical machinery tests and hosting outdoor shows and demonstrations.

**The principles of the DLG**  
  
Non-profit status and political   
We promote agriculture, the food industry and dialogue with society by working towards progress and sustainability. In doing so, we maintain our political independence.

Sensibility and science   
Our aim is to gain verifiable and criticisable knowledge using reason and scientific methods.

Dialogue, discourse and argumentation   
Dialogue, discourse and logical argumentation are essential features in our knowledge process, in which science, business and society are involved.

Relevance and impact   
We deal with topics relevant to the agricultural and food industry and develop solutions for agricultural and food industry practice.

Entrepreneurship and responsibility   
Entrepreneurs who utilise their potential responsibly in the various markets are our key target groups.

Progress and sustainability  
We stand for an agriculture and food industry that is innovative and productive, produces high-quality products and conserves resources.

Quality and benefits   
Product and process quality, user and consumer benefits are important goals. To this end, we use scientific methods to test food, agricultural technology and operating resources.

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