

When is a vineyard profitable

In the pre-Christmas season, many years ago, we were invited to a part-time wine grower's house for a beer. After discussing many a topic over home-brewed beer and eating our supplies of chocolate icolas and nuts, which were actually intended for the children, we got to talking about the profitability of a vineyard in high spirits. I don't remember how many hectares are necessary to make a living from it. However, our host said, there was a rule of thumb: either you have wine - or the insurance has to pay.

How so? Very simple: either you have a good harvest year or the hail ruins your harvest. So you have to be well insured against hail damage. However, the worst is a rainy summer and especially autumn - without any hail events. Because then you have bad wine and you don't get any compensation from the insurance company.

Absender: *Aloisia Weinkogl*
 vlg.:
 Wohnort: *Weinberg 28*
 Post: *Ottendorf*
 Ortsgemeinde: *Breitenfeld a/R*
 Gerichtsbezirk: *Feldbach*
 Bundesland: *Stmk.*

Oesterreichische Hagelversicherungsanstalt auf Gegenseitigkeit
 Wien, VIII., Lerchengasse 3—5
 Rekommantiert!

Schaden Nr. *44597*
 Polizze Nr. *163668*

Hagelschäden sind mit dieser Karte sofort zu melden!
 Von den unter Polizze Nr. *163668* versicherten Fruchtarten wurden am *20. 8.* um *14* h vorm. folgende Fruchtarten nachm. *Wein* von einem leichten*, mittleren*, schweren* Hagelschlag betroffen.
 Im Falle meiner Verhinderung, an der Schadenerhebung persönlich teilzunehmen, ernenne ich zu meinem vertretungsberechtigten Bevollmächtigten Herrn *Heuer Franz* Frau *Weinberg 28* in *Weinberg 28*
 Datum: *21. 8. 58*
 Unterschrift: *Aloisia Weinkogl*

Schäden bis 10% werden nicht vergütet und sind daher nicht anzumelden.

Notification card to Austrian Hail Insurance Institute in Vienna
 Sender: Aloisia Weinkogl [sic], Weinberg 28, Breitenfeld an der Rittschein

By the way, insurance fraud is hardly possible in case of hail damage. Large events are certainly surveyed on the one hand, on the other hand one can inquire about the weather at a certain place in Austria at the Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics, Vienna. It should also be known that there are hail fliers in various regions, for example in the districts of Rosenheim and Ortenau, Rems-Murr and Schwarzwald-Baar. A machine is also stationed at the Stuttgart airfield, on the one hand for agricultural missions and on the other for Mercedes Benz. The hail clouds are inoculated with a silver iodide-acetone mixture so that they rain down where it is not dangerous for the farming community.

It is noteworthy that in valleys running from east to west, the wine is said to be better than in valleys running from north to south. However, this would still have to be verified, especially since such results are imprecise, since one can argue about taste as is well known.

Further reading:

Statista Erträge Weinmost je Hektar Anbaufläche in Deutschland

<https://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/5713/umfrage/ertrag-je-hektar-fuer-weinmost-nach-sorten/> -

ZAMG <https://www.zamg.ac.at/cms/de/aktuell> -

Wikipedia-Hagelabwehr [besucht 09.11.2021] <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hagelabwehr>