Factsheet: Cream

Analysis of the Life Cycle
This factsheet shows the results of the life cycle analysis. It shows which cream products out of the Migros cream assortment is most climate friendly. The greenhouse gas emissions have been analysed and evaluated. The greenhouse gas emissions (expressed in CO2 equivalents) were balanced over the whole life cycle of the products, i.e. from the milk production and keeping of milk cattle to the production of cream and transportation through to the disposal of the packaging.

Creme Léger 15% fat
Combibloc 5 dl

Valflora half cream 25% fat
Combibloc, various sizes, cup 1.8 dl

Heidi half cream 25% fat
Bottle 5 dl

Valflora whole cream 35% fat
Combibloc, various sizes, cup 1.8 dl

Heidi whole cream 35% fat
Bottle 5 dl

Functional unit: 1 liter cream. The climate impact of 1 litre cream, as it is available in stores, was compared.

The results
The ingredients are the most important factor: Due to the high emission factor of milk and to the fact that the cream products consist primarily of these milk components, the whole cream products are worse than the other tested products as half cream and Lèger cream. This is because the whole cream consists of a high proportion of fat mass. Due to the high proportion of fat mass by the selected allocation, higher emissions of raw milk were assigned. It follows that the most decisive reason for the good scoring of Léger cream is due to the low fat content of only 15%. For the production of Léger cream, less fat and therefore less milk is needed. In other words, from the same amount of milk, compared to the production of whole cream, additional fat containing products such as butter can be produced.

The climatop certification
The product comparison shows that Léger cream has the lowest emissions. The climate impact is about 36% lower than the average of cream products sold by Migros. It also performed significantly better than the second best product, Valflora half cream with 23% fat.

Validity: 2012 - 2014
Discussion

The bar chart shows where the climate impacts of cream derive from. The most important factor are the active components, the ingredients. The process of cream production is the second important factor of climate impact. The rumination of cattle produces methane, a greenhouse gas. In addition, fossil fuels for machines and stables are used in dairy farming.

Complete climate impact

In all the other parts such as transportation, packaging and the waste disposal and also the utilisation are only responsible for a small part of the climate impact of cream. The differences are, however, not significant. In general, cut the low-fat cream products better than the full cream products. The provision of milk contributes all products contributed the largest share to the environmental burden. Poorer fat products, which thus contain less milk equivalents per liter of product overlap, so better.