

## Shooting ends for "The Last Common Hamsters" after two years on the hamster field

The 2022 harvest season is drawing to a close and the common hamsters are also going into hibernation. This also means the end of filming for one of the most comprehensive documentaries about the endangered species. Nature filmmaker and ecologist David Cebulla filmed common hamsters for over two years. What makes this film special are the protagonists and filming locations: David Cebulla did not film bred animals in a replicated and illuminated studio burrow, but wild animals on agricultural land. In the process, he was able to document unique behavior such as the digging of hamster burrows and mating outside the burrow.

David Cebulla shows how complex the subject is by portraying some of the last populations of the species which is threatened with extinction worldwide. He traveled to France, Austria, Poland, Hungary and Kazakhstan. With his work, the nature filmmaker wants to inspire enthusiasm for the animals in need of protection and raise awareness for their threat in modern agriculture. Thuringia in central Germany is particularly interesting for the filmmaker. This is the only place in Central Europe where the rare black common hamster still occurs.

Important for Cebulla's project was the cooperation with both partners in the protection of the common hamster and in agriculture. The "Stiftung Lebensraum e.V." foundation is in charge of an important common hamster conservation project in Thuringia. This includes the common hamster protection areas of René Döring and Geratal Agrar, where David Cebulla filmed hamsters. The commitment is a personal concern for the crop production manager René Döring: "With the protection measures for the common hamster, I would like to make my contribution in the conservation of the common hamster in my generation". The protected areas are cultivated on a smaller scale than conventionally farmed areas and the stubble is left until the end of September. This not only provides food and cover for the hamster, but is an important habitat for many open land species. The flowering strips also provide pollen and nectar for insects. Thus, the areas were a wonderful backdrop for the documentary film "The Last Common Hamsters," which will be released in 2023.

Character count: 2182

### Further information

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film-teaser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNaILB6ibvg>  
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YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPwfta3RuKb06y\\_OH\\_K-Taw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPwfta3RuKb06y_OH_K-Taw)

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