Changing to 100% spring calving

MILK

Glenn Forde

1 Description of the innovation

- Increasing grass output
- Changing from autumn calving
- Only breeding animals to calve in the spring
- Better margain in spring calving, less labour over the winter
- Installation of more calving facilities
- More sustainable system of farming
- Economic results
- Cow must be fertile
- Discussion groups

Better margin in spring calving, less labour over the winter

- Increasing grass output, changing from autumn calving
- Only breeding animals to calve in the spring
- Calving facilities, fertile cow
- Pasturebase Ireland

2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Soil type: Clay soil

Climate: Temperate oceanic climate

Land area: 67.43ha

Stocking rate: 2.7LU/Ha

Slope: Variation across different paddocks

Altitude: Variation across different paddocks

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing : Yes

Grazing management type:

Rotational Grazing

STRUTURE

Annual work units (AWU): 2.5

Main animal type: Dairy

Total Livestock unit (LU): 230

Breed: Fr

ANIMAL PERFORMANCE

Milk production per head (l/year/dairy animal): 6200

Grassland management type: Rotational

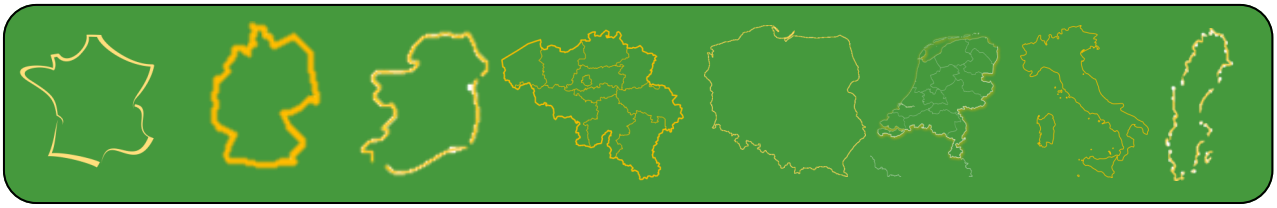
Length of grazing period: 304 days

Fertilization rate (kg N/ha): 240

WHY IT IS WORKING

- Increasing grass output
- Better margain in spring calving, less labour over the winter
- More sustainable farming system
- Economic results
- Calving facilities
- Fertile cow
- Discussion groups
- Cost reduction

Ireland



Domains of innovation

Pasurebase, calving facilities

Fr

Grass

Milk

Silage pit for dry cow over winter

Quality Milk from grass

Rotational grazing

Low cost grass based

N/a

Sandy soil

Grass, milking parlour, feed barrier

Main types of animal

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