Managing multiple grazing farms

MILK

Kevin Twomey

1 Description of the innovation

- Managing multiple grazing farms
- Focusing on higher production and/or lower costs
- Setting up different milking units to increase output and reduce costs
- Job satisfaction and profitability of system
- Larger profit being yielded from farms due to an increase in output
- Economic results
- Good support team
- Discussion groups
- Pasturebase Ireland

Job satisfaction, Profitability

Increase output per hectare while minimising costs

- Setting up different milking units to increase output and reduce costs

2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Soil type: Sandy-loam

Climate type: Temperate Oceanic

Altitude: Variation across the farm

Slope: Variation across different paddocks

Agricultural area (ha UAA): 800

Average stocking rate (agriculture area) (LU/ha UAA): 2.6

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing : Yes

Grazing management type:

Rotational Grazing

STRUCTURE

Total Livestock unit (LU): 1400 cows

Breed type 1: Fr*Je

Annual work units (AWU): 10

ANIMAL PERFORMANCE

Average stocking rate (grassland area) (LU/ha): 2.6

Milk production per head (l/year/dairy animal): 4800l

Grassland management type: Rotational

Length of grazing period: 285 days

Fertilization rate (kg N/ha): 240

WHY IT IS WORKING

- Setting up different milking units to increase output and reduce costs
- Increase output, sell more milk to the co-ops
- Job satisfaction, profitability
- Larger profit being yielded from farms due to an increase in output
- Economic results
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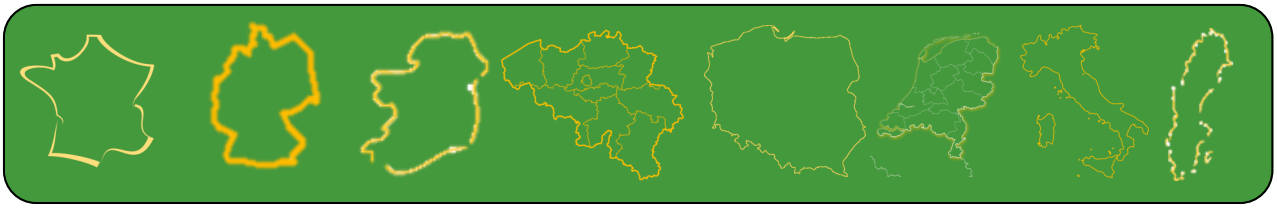
Ireland



Domains of innovation

Pasturebase

Fr*Je

Grass

Milk

Silage pit, mostly off grass though

Quality milk from grass

Rotational grazing

low cost grass based system

N/a

mixture across farms

grass (paddocks) Feed barrier

Main types of animal

MILK