

A collective hay dryer in barn



GAEC de la Bos



Description of the innovation



The heat from a digester is used to dry green forage. The barn hay drying sys-

tem is collective. Ten dairy farms are involved.

The aim of farmers is to improve protein self-sufficiency by producing high quality forage and to reduce feeding cost.

190 t dry matter have been dried, come from 84 ha of alfalfa, red clover and multispecies grasslands.

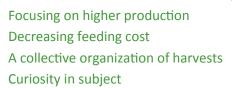
In this farm, 6 ha of multi-species grasslands have been harvested and dried in the collective unit. These grasslands have produced 9,3 t dry matter per ha.





In this farm, temporary grasslands are sown under a cereal cover crop to ensure grassland establishment.







Animal health Grassland yield Grassland quality



2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

This plain farm is located in western France, in the department of Mayenne.

Climate: temperate oceanic, especially good for forage yield.

Soils: clayed-loam

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing management type: Strip stocking

Length of grazing period: 8 months

Forage conservation type: Silage and barn dried hay

STRUCTURE

4 Annual work unit

Agricultural area: 116 ha UAA34 ha temporary grasslands13.5 ha permanent grasslands

Herd: 115 Holstein cows—178 LU

• 50.5 ha corn silage

Stocking rate: 1.5 LU/ha main forage area

≈ 20 fattening bulls sold each year

ANIMAL PERFORMANCES

Milk production per head: 8,300 L/year

WHY IT IS WORKING

A good work organisation and available labour: all farmers aim at a good quality of forage and it needs a harvesting schedule to mow at good maturity stages in each farm.

Proximity between barn hay system and farms: All 10 farms are located around 15 km around the collective unit.

Good relationship between managers of the digester unit and farmers.

This forage conservation type requires a storage building for loose dried-hay.