



Cross breeding for better grazing



Lycée de Pixérécourt



1 Description of the innovation

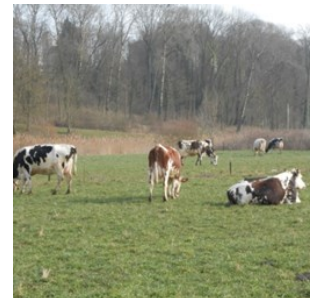


The farm of Pixérécourt do cross breeding for a few years. The objective of this 5 breed crossing is to have small cows, adapted to a milk production based on grass.

The cross breeding is a way to be consistent with the exploitation system : maximize grazing to maximize economics results /ha with the ressources present on the farm.

These breeds are using for the crossing :

- Prim'holstein
- Montbéliarde
- Normande
- Jersiaise
- Rouge scandinave



Crossing are beginning since 2009 with good economic results and a better milk quality.

The crossing allows to go faster in the selection with the heterosis effect, and allows to select easily low-heritable characters.



Small cows

Better valorization of pasture

FARMER'S STRATEGY

- Maximize economics results
- Valorize grass with few concentrate
- Increase milk production / kg alive weight for the dairy cows

2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Types of soil : superficial clay and limestone and sandy-loam

Climate : océanic to continental trend

Altitude : 220m

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing : Yes, cellular grazing

Grazing 6 month a year

STRUCTURE

Annual work units : 2.5

Agricultural area : 280 ha UAA

Rangeland area : 140 ha

Temporary grassland : 110 ha

Permanent grassland : 20 ha

No corn silage

Breeds : 5 breeds crossing

Stocking rate : 1,17 LU / ha of grassland

ANIMAL PERFORMANCES

Milk production : 5300 L / year / cow

WHY IT IS WORKING

This innovation works on this farm because it is included in the farm system evolution.

The will to increase exploitation profitability leads to a better grass use, which leads to a better grazing management. The old cattle couldn't meet that goal. So the exploitation need to have smaller, lighter and more « rustic » cows, using cross-breeding.