



Fertilization for soil improvement



Albrecht Finnema

1 Description of the innovation

The farm from Albrecht Finnema is located on the northern part of the Netherlands, in the province Friesland. Albrecht Finnema is focussed on the chemical soil fertility of his grassland to get a higher yield. His fertilization plan is based on the 'Albrecht-method' (*developed by the American soil expert William Albrecht*).

The Albrecht method is an fertilization method based on the analyse of the soil for the elements magnesium, calcium and potassium. The idea is that the right proportions of these elements create a fertility soil for the grass. The focus for the fertilization is on the chemical proportions in the soil and not on the needs of the crop.



Grassland production and quality

Soil fertility

Strategy implementation

Improvement of the yield trough focus on the soil fertility.

Achievements: increasing the amount and the quality of the grass production

Constraints: sub-optimal machinery for bringing the manure on the land (injecting the manure).

Results: improved soil fertility, less use of fertilizer (KAS), increasing yield, positive balance for the element phosphate

2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Soil: Clay, peat

Climate: Temperate oceanic

Altitude: ±sea level

Slope: flat

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing: Yes

Grazing management: Rotational combined with zero grazing

Length of grazing period: 7 months/year

Main composition grassland: Red and white clovers, meadow fescue, Perennial ryegrass

STRUCTURE

Agricultural Area 116 ha UAA

Permanent grassland 95 ha

Natural grassland 21 ha

Production method Conventional

Stock 210 dairy cows
100 young stock

Breed Holstein-Friesian

Milk production 8800 kg/year

Annual Work Unit 1

WHY IT IS WORKING

The innovation is successful on this farm because:

- the interest of the farmer in the soil fertility.
- the need for better and more yield.
- the experience with the naturally grassland.