



Healthy herb-rich grassland



Deinum

1 Description of the innovation

The biological dynamic farm from the family Deinum is located in the northern part of the Netherlands, in the province Friesland. The dairy and beef cows are grazing on grassland with a grass/herbs mixture, for positive effect on animal health, soil health and biodiversity.

The farm works with herb rich grassland for a long time. Since three years the farm works completely biodynamic. Not using antibiotics and no artificial fertilizer requires even more a well balanced grassland with herbs to keep the cows and the soil healthy.



Biodiversity

Animal health

Strategy implementation

Every three year the farmer checks on the grassland composition. The farmer sows the new seeds early in the year with a machine for fine seeds. After that the cows spread the seeds into the soil when they graze the pasture.

The real challenge for this farmer is to develop self sowing grassland. The only tool to manage this self sowing herb-rich grassland is his cows and wire/fences.



2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Soil: Clay on sand

Climate: Temperate oceanic

Altitude: ±sea level

Slope: flat

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing: Yes

Grazing management: Strip stocking

Length of grazing period: 8 months/year

Main composition grassland:

A broad range of different grass and legume species;

Perennial ryegrass, rough meadow-grass, quackgrass, timothy-grass, meadow fescue, meadow ryegrass

STRUCTURE

Agricultural Area 133 ha UAA

Permanent grassland 97 ha

Nature 36 ha

Production method Biological dynamic

Stock 160 dairy cows,
75 young stock

35 beef cows

67 young stock

Breed Holstein-Friesian (dairy)

Hereford (beef)

Milk production 5800 kg/year

WHY IT IS WORKING

The innovation is successful on this farm because:

- the biological dynamic farm management.
- herb-rich grassland helps to keep the cows and soil healthy.