



Intensive grazing system



Hielke de Rooij

1 Description of the innovation

In Wadenoijen, Hielke and Hanny de Rooij run a dairy farm with 180 dairy cattle. Through tight management it can reach 7 to 8 cows per hectare on the platform. The use of rotating stand grazing is the best with the farmer and his resources. There was a relatively small platform for the number of cows. The grazing had to be efficient in order to ensure that all cows could be grazed. The construction of additional dams and cowtracks were important points of attention. Moreover, the farmer bought some new drinking troughs so every parcel has one own drinking trough. The cows are grazed in 5 plots of 4 hectares each. Every day the cows go into a new parcel. This is to keep the intake of pasture grass by the cow as constant as possible. The plots are mown separately from each other at a given moment. On the basis of the quality of the grass is determined from the disappearance in the rich owl of the cows of the young stock. Each plot is cut out twice a year. Last year the farm started grazing the milking cows on 27th of March. In total the cows have done over 200 days of grazing.



Farmer's strategy

The strategy of the farmer is based on maximum grass from a small platform. He liked when the cows are outside.

Achievements: For the next year the farmer pursue a higher production of the grassland

Failures: enough grass growth for the cows

Results: A licence to produce



2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Soil: Clay

Climate: Temperate oceanic

Altitude: ±sea level

Slope: flat

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing: Yes

Grazing management: Rotational stocking

Length of grazing periode: 7 months/year

Main composition grassland: Perennial ryegrass, Italian ryegrass, meadow fescue, red clover

STRUCTURE

Agricultural Area 97 ha UAA

Permanent grassland 76 ha

Temporary grassland 10 ha

Green forage area 11 ha

Production method Conventional

Stock 177 dairy cows

110 young stock

Breed Holstein-Friesian and Jersey

Milk production 9000 kg/year

Annual Work Unit 3

WHY IT IS WORKING

The innovation is successful on this farm because:

- It is an easy system.
- The farmer has more milk from grass.
- The grass production is high.
- The job satisfaction for the farmer is great.
- Grass growth is good for this type of cows.