Routeplanner Dairy cattle

Topic	Topic
Technical efficiency	Economic resilience

Background

Many dairy farmers do not know enough about the level of costs and income on their dairy farms. This knowledge is essential to make correct management decisions. Instead of making decisions based on intuition, it is better to adjust your business operations based on factual results. Not only is the knowledge of one's own company of added value but also comparable knowledge from similar companies. Through external comparison, strengths and weaknesses can be quickly identified and this knowledge can give rise to the correct action. A management tool can include both economic and technical figures.

Flow of the tool

Baseline

1

Input: Data business processes, costs and prices

Output: Profitability calculation of the company

Simulate

2

Simulating business choices or investments and their effect on profitability

3

Under what conditions do certain choices remain interesting?
What productivity is needed to make choices interesting?
Is investing interesting? When to invest and when not to invest?

Compare simulations

How does the strategy work?

Via an (online) management tool, all necessary parameters are entered. Due to its specific mathematical structure, Routeplanner Dairy Cattle assumes the interconnectedness of processes on the dairy farm and can handle the combination of crop plan selection, feed requirements of the herd, manure application and labour requirements in one optimization. The tool calculates to an economic optimum, accounting for a variety of limiting factors that have been entered or chosen.

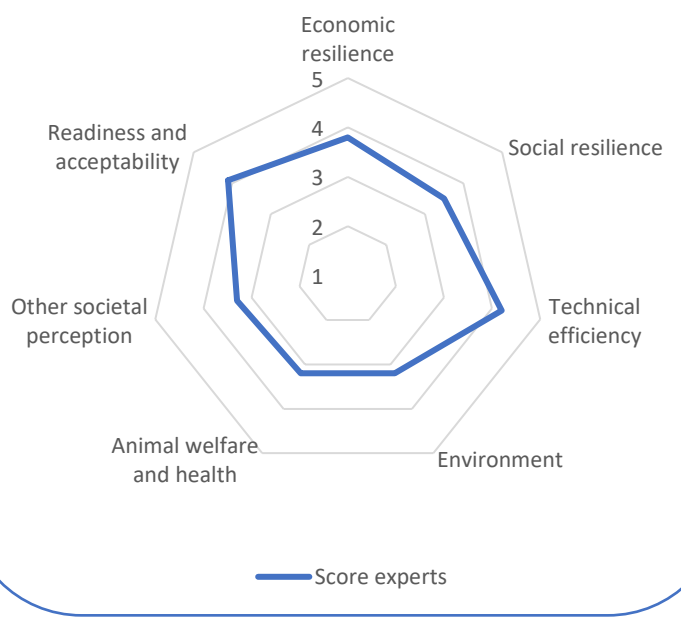
Equipment involved? Investment?

- Internet and a web-based management tool to work anywhere and securely.
- Keeping track of proprietary figures.

Positive features

- All farm processes are considered
- Default values, representing an average Flemish dairy farm, are filled in. Those can be used as a starting point
- A control box guides the user in filling in the baseline in the correct way
- Different simulations can be done and compared with each other
- Graphs can be made to make a simulation visible
- Lower and upper limits show the user in between which values the solution will be same

Assessment of method



Be careful, especially on these points

The baseline information is very important. Careful attention must be paid to input the different parameters correctly.

Quote of the farmer:

"Using this tool leads to incredible new insights"

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