

Topic

Improve protein self-sufficiency through improvement of grassland management

Technical efficiency

Environment, animal welfare, society friendly

Background
 Increasing the consumption of grazed grass through better grassland and grazing management will help to improve protein self-sufficiency. The key to pasture management is synchronizing the animals' daily requirements with the grass supply.

How improve pasture ingestion ?



- Early in spring or late in autumn
- Winter pasture of cereals or turnip when the soil's bearing capacity allows it



- More precise grazing (fast rotational grazing...)
- Grazing assistance thanks to planning tools and new technologies



- Redevelopment of land parcels
- Field improvement and adaptation (tunnel or bridge)

Positive features

- Economic
 - Lower feed costs
 - Lower material costs
- Environmental
 - reduced greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions
 - greater protein self-sufficiency
- Animal welfare for dairy cows
 - Less lameness and mastitis
- Society: grazing is well accepted by society

Be careful, especially on these points

- Management skills in adapting supplementation to grass growth
- Grazing area near the farm (< 15 ares / dairy cow)
- Herd size
- High milk production per cow
- Workload for moving fences, bringing in cows

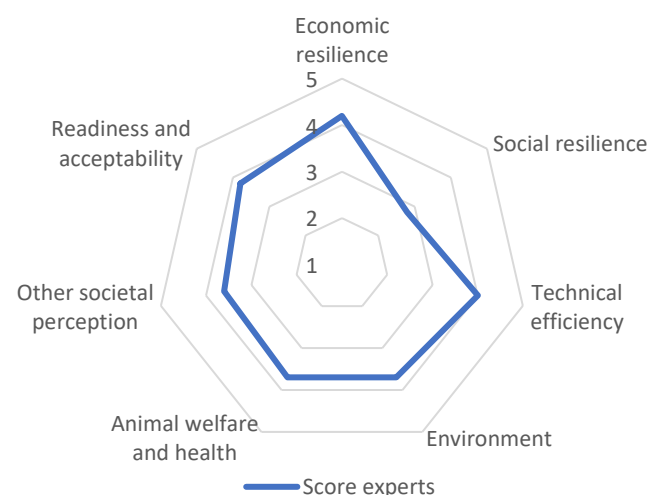
Specific advises

- Transfer of knowledge from pioneering farms to farms wishing to adapt innovation
- High prices for protein concentrates / low milk prices
- Added value for grazing milk
- Public payments for grazing dairy cows (Grass Premium)
- If the size of the herd is too large, the area of pasture too small or milk production too high, the herd can be divided into different production groups

Equipment involved? Investment?

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| ○ Field accommodation | ○ Grassland management |
| ○ Fences | ○ Platometer |
| ○ Water points | ○ Online tools (Grass growth model, pasture planning, fertilisation planner) |
| ○ Way | |

Assessment of method



Quote of the farmer:

"Through good grassland management, I want to be as self-sufficient in protein in diet as possible"