



## Background

Nieuw Nederlands Weiden ('Grazing New Dutch Style') is the solution for dairy farmers who want to convert more fresh grass into milk, with a simple and easy-to-fit system. This system is convenient for both dairy farmer and cow, because it is clear to both where they stand every day.

## How does the strategy work?

Nieuw Nederlands Weiden works with five 'standard' output situations. Each situation describes how to set up grazing in a simple and good way on the dairy farm. These baseline situations are based on the size of the farm plot and the stocking density (maximum number of cows per hectare of grassland). This initial situation forms a so-called Platform on which part is mowed (Mowing Platform) and part is grazed (Grazing Platform). These Platforms are characterised as XL, L, M, S or XS (non-mowing). Using the diagram below (Figure 1), the farmer first determines his platform.



Figure 1: Schematic representation of the different platforms

After determining your platform, three steps must be followed to apply Nieuw Nederlands Weiden effectively.

### The three steps of 'Nieuw Nederlands Weiden'

- 1 Divide your home lot once into plots of equal size (using flexible threads)
- 2 Mow every 4-5-6 weeks and choose your plots in your Grazing Platform
3. Allocate a new plot to your cows every day by rotating on your Grazing Platform

Table 1 shows how subsequently an allocated home lot can be managed by adjusting grazing and mowing to available plots and condition of the grass (grass growth). Grazing is done by rotating cows on the allocated grazing plots (see Figures 2 and 3).

Table 1: Plot numbers with matching mowing and grazing management. Adjustment should be made if the grass length is either too long or too short due to the length of the rotation. This makes it possible to compensate for shortfalls, or allow the grass to regrow.

Platform	Grazing (# plots)	Mowing (# plots)	Mowing strategy	Grazing time (hour)	Grazing strategy	Adapting supplementary feeding to supplementary growth
XL	8 x 2.5 ha	16 x 2.5 ha	Every 4-6 weeks (5 times)	Day and night > 12	Morning and evening new plot	2-8 kg DM / cow / day
L	6 x 2.5 ha	6 x 2.5 ha	Every 4-6 weeks (5 times)	On average 10	For growth > 80 kg DM day and night grazing > 12 hours	Adapt supplementary feeding to supplementary growth: 5-10 kg DM per cow/day
M	5 x 2.5 ha, later to 6	3 x 2.5 ha, later to 2	Every 4-6 weeks (5 times)	On average 8	-	Adjust supplementary feeding to supplementary growth: 7-11 kg DM per cow/day
S	4 x 2.5 ha	2 x 2.5 ha	Every 4-6 weeks (5/6 times)	On average 6-7	-	Adjust supplementary feeding to supplementary growth: 8-12 kg DM per cow/day
XS	6 x 2.5 ha	-	All plots mowed 2 times fully	On average 10	For growth > 80 kg DM day and night grazing > 12 hours. After fully mowing, 2 rounds of no grazing	Adjust supplementary feeding to supplementary growth: 5-10 kg DM per cow/day

## Positive features

1. Optimal and specific use of own land
2. Simple and practical application
3. Contributes to seeing the cow in the pasture and social acceptance of raising dairy cattle
4. If properly implemented, this strategy contributes to animal welfare
5. Within some dairies' programmes, additional premiums can be given for the above points
6. Contributes to possible reduction of milk costs and higher value of delivered milk
7. Within some programs or by experts, coaching can be offered to be even more targeted

## Assessment of the method

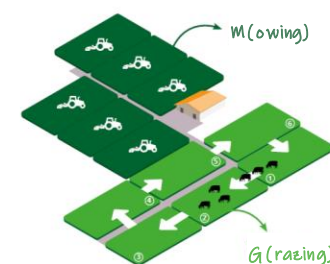
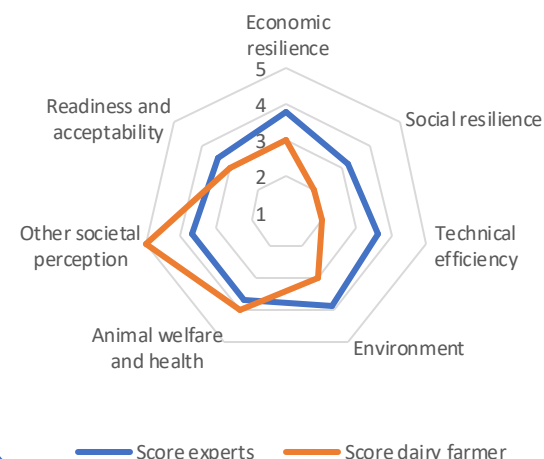


Figure 2: Example of layout and rotation for the L-type platform.

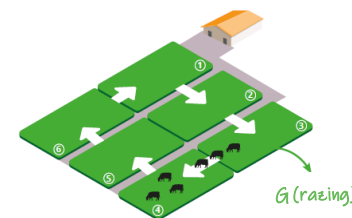


Figure 3: Example of layout and rotation for the XS-type platform.

### Be alert to the following:

Fertilise pasture plots with slurry 4-6 weeks before you start grazing and after you have moved out the cows from a grazing platform for the first time. For all platforms, ensure that the shearing height of the grass is not less than 8 cm.

Quote of the farmer:  
"Don't think, just do!"