

From farmer's pitch fork to consumer's table fork



Biofarm

1 Description of the innovation

The innovation is holistic. It concerns the whole production, processing and marketing system. All animal products produced on the farm are processed in the farm butchery and marketed in the farm shop ('From farmer's pitch fork to consumer's table fork'). Animal breeds were chosen for meat quality (Angus beef, Ardennais Roux and Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse sheep and Sattelschwein pigs). The farmer followed a butcher training. All animals are in priority fed on grass.



Economic results, Animal health and welfare, Contacts with consumers

The farmer inherited a Holstein Friesian herd but he wanted quickly to replace these dairy cows by more rustic animals for decreasing animal health problems. He wanted to develop a more natural, organic livestock farming system, with a lower use of drugs.

He faced difficulties for finding the right breeds for beef cattle, meat sheep, and pigs. He had to search a lot.

Another difficulty is that herd production has to follow consumer's demand. He has not yet enough beef meat, but he can satisfy demand for pork meat.

He has now a good balance between all productions, and very low production costs.

ENVIRONMENT

Soil type: Clayey-loam

Climate: Temperate continental

Altitude: 400 m asl

Slope: 5%

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing: Yes

Grazing management type: Mainly continuous stocking and some rotational

Mainly silage and some hay

Most grasslands are exclusively grazed, none are mixed used

Exclusively mown temporary grasslands are cut three times a year

STRUCTURE

Annual Work Unit: 2

Agricultural Area: 74 ha UAA

Permanent grassland area: 26 ha

Temporary grassland area: 15 ha

Annual crop area: 33 ha

Breed: Angus beef cattle, Ardennais Roux and Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse sheep, and Sattelschwein pig

Stocking rate: 2.0 LU per ha of grassland area

ANIMAL PERFORMANCE

Bull and heifer carcass at 21 months: 300 kg (R2 classification)

**WHY IT IS WORKING?**

The wife came from a urban environment and brought a new vision on the farm. She encouraged her husband to develop high quality, easily marketable products. Local consumers and tourists are looking for it.

Another reason of success is that the farmer acquired broad competencies in many activities from cropping to product processing and marketing.

A PROFITABLE ORGANIC FARM BASED ON HIGH QUALITY MEAT BREEDS, PROCESSED IN THE FARM AND DIRECTLY SOLD TO CONSUMERS