



Use of fodder surplus as manure



1 Description of the innovation



Use of the last cut in case of fodder surplus: starting point was to look for an alternative to mulching, as mulching was difficult with high yield on the field or in case of wet soil conditions; Thus the grassland is mown; swathed then shredded with the forage harvester (shredding equipment for silage maize shredding is used) and at the same time spread on the grassland with an manure spreader.

Nutrients must remain on the fields in case the yield is not required for fodder production



Environment quality



Grassland production or yield

Grassland Quality

Increase nutrient efficiency

The aim was to leave nutrients on the respective fields in case of fodder surpluses and improve their availability for the plants and to ensure that the grassland isn't too high at the beginning of winter. An additional advantage is the easier passability with the nearly empty manure spreader compared to harvest machinery, in case of wet soil conditions. Difficulties may arise for the headland if the driver doesn't pay attention and spreads the cut grass too thick.

2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Soil type: Mainly moor with marsh cover

Temperate oceanic climate

Average altitude: 1.1 m a.s.l. ; no slope

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

No grazing

Five cuts per year

STRUCTURE

Annual Work Unit: 1.5

Agricultural Area : 125 ha

Mainly permanent grassland; 25 ha arable land

160 dairy cows

Breeds: Mainly Holstein Friesian; 5 % Rotbunte

ANIMAL PERFORMANCE

9500 l /year/dairy animal

WHY IT IS WORKING

- 1) **Personnel:** The staff was well trained and could implement the new idea well.
- 2) **Working conditions:** The grass must not be too dry (difficult with old grass-stock) and must not be wilted too much.