

Automated feeding and TMR mixture



1 Description of the innovation



Automation of animal feeding in combination with milking robot and grazing - focus on automation of feeding; automatized filling of the feed mixer and automated distribution of the respective fodder to different groups of cows according to their respective rations; simultaneously remaining food is moved into position



Animal health and welfare

Labour intensity

Working conditions

Optimized feed submission and TMR mixing plus reduction of workload

The workload could be reduced as well as the costs for fodder distribution. The fodder ration is more uniform than after manual feeding. This is especially an advantage if the farmer works with external staff. In the beginning there were some minor technical issues with the Bluetooth connection in the loading station of the feed mixer, which could be solved quickly.

Because of the automation of many processes that were usually in close contact with the cow (milking, feeding) it is vital checking the cows is still done by skilled personnel, to notice animal health issues in time.

2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Soil: Mainly Marshland

Climate: temperate oceanic climate

Altitude: 2 m a.s.l.; no slope

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing : Rotational stocking on exclusively grazed area

Exclusively mown grassland: 5 cuts per year

STRUCTURE

Annual Work Unit: 2.3

Agricultural Area: 166 ha UAA

Main forage area: 100 ha; 30 ha permanent grassland and 70 ha temporary grassland

Breeds: Holstein Friesian and Fleckvieh

Stocking rate: 1.8 LU/ ha agricultural area

3.1 LU/ha grassland area

ANIMAL PERFORMANCE

9,800 l/year/dairy animal

WHY IT IS WORKING

The farmer prepared and planned the system carefully in close cooperation with an advisor. The farmer also has a technical friendly attitude.