



Europe's Most Innovative Grassland Farmers Set for Award Ceremony in Germany in June

Europe's most innovative grassland farmers are set to receive international awards for their innovation and commitment to excellence in grassland. This initiative is part of the three year Inno4Grass Thematic Network project, a €2 million project funded by Horizon 2020. The farmers receiving awards represent eight member states in Europe and are all excelling in grassland and grassland management despite differences in climate, systems and soil types. Each member state has recognised a farmer excelling in grassland through different competitions which took place in the member states.

The eight countries being celebrated at the Inno4Grass award ceremony are Germany, Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden, in which grasslands have a considerable share in the agricultural area and where production of dairy, beef and sheep from grassland is of major economic importance.

The award ceremony is set to take place in Germany from 11th to 12th June 2019. Participants will visit local farms near Oldenburg, Northern Germany to discuss grassland management with different grazing and conservation techniques on the 11th June and will then travel to Hannover for a Grassland Conference and the official award ceremony the following day. The German Ministry for Agriculture is supporting this event.

In Germany, the "Inno4Grass Award" recently went to the Bruns family from Biolandhof Butendiek in Seefeld, Lower Saxony. During the 67. Grassland Day of the Lower Saxony Chamber of Agriculture in February 2019 the farmers were honored for their exemplary innovative spirit. Family member Niklas Bruns received the "Inno4Grass Award" on behalf of Felicitas Kaemena, head

of the field research station for grassland and cattle farming at the Chamber of Agriculture.

The Butendiek farm has been marketing its own cheese products in organic quality since 1987. This is based on 210 acres of grassland and 180 cows. With the help of its own drying plant, high-quality hay is produced as basic fodder.



67th Grassland Day on 7th February 2019 in Spohle (Lower Saxony): Prize winner Niklas Bruns (farm Butendiek) and Felicitas Kaemena (Chamber of Agriculture).
© Wolfgang Ehrecke

It is really important for all partners to participate in this event for the promotion of good practices in European livestock breeding. Project coordinator Arno Krause, general manager of the Centre for Grassland in Germany, remarked “I’m looking forward to presenting innovative grassland farmers around Europe with awards for their fantastic achievements in grassland. We call these farmers ‘lighthouse farmers’, they are shining lights in their countries, providing other farmers with guidance, ideas and knowledge in grassland, so it is important that we recognise their contribution to society in the award ceremony. This is one of the major achievements of the Inno4Grass project”.

The Inno4Grass programme strives to bridge the gap between practice and science communities to ensure the implementation of innovative systems on productive grasslands. The long term goal of the project is to increase profitability of European grassland farms and to preserve environmental values across Europe.

Further links:

More info about the German award winner Hof Butendiek:

<http://www.hof-butendiek.de/>

[Article in a German daily newspaper](#)

Entries on Facebook:

Beiträge

 **Inno4Grass** ⋮

Gepostet von Lena Dangers [?] · 8. Februar · 🌐

In Germany, Niklas Bruns was awarded the "Inno4Grass Award" on behalf of Biolandhof Butendiek yesterday. The awarding ceremony took place in frame of the 67. Grassland Day, organized by our project partner the chamber of agriculture in Lower Saxony (Landwirtschaftskammer Niedersachsen). The jury was convinced by the special innovative spirit of the Bruns family, who have been marketing their own cheese products in organic quality since 1987. The new built hay drying system provides best quality feed for his cows and increases the milk quality. The produced milk has to be butyric acid free to be of value for the cheese production. Due to the new drying facility, the farm is able to produce enough hay to feed all cows during the winter period. The awarding was also mentioned in the local newspaper. Please have a look!
<https://www.nwzonline.de/.../spohle-67-gruendlandtag-in-spohl...>





See more information on the Inno4Grass home www.inno4grass.eu/de
 The following table shows the award winning farmers and the Inno4Grass contact persons.

Country	Award winners	Inno4Grass Contact	Inno4Grass Contact Email
Ireland	Eddie and Denis O'Donnell	Fergus Bogue	fergus.bogue@teagasc.ie
Germany	Hof Butendiek	Felicitas Kaemena	felicitas.kaemena@lwk-niedersachsen.de
The Netherlands	Hielke and Hanny de Rooij	Agnes van den Pol-van Dasselaar	agnes.vandenpol@wur.nl
Belgium	Jean-Marie Velghe	Benoit Delaite	b.delaite@trame.be
Poland	Mariusz Duda,	Artur Paszkowski	artpa@up.poznan.pl
Italy	Gavino Pulinas	Rita Melis	rita.melis@ispaam.cnr.it
France	Earl Bordeaux	Fanny Baste-Sauvaire	fanny.baste@apca.chambagri.fr
Sweden	Per and Tore Larsson	Nilla Nilsson-Linde	nilla.nilsson-linde@slu.se

Acknowledgement:

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727368