



# Priority to harvested forage quality and grazed grass



## GAEC des Méandres

### 1 Description of the innovation



Organic system, exclusively grass-fed with a feed diet based on grass silage.

A great care is taken when harvesting grass silage. The harvest is systematically carried out before May 15th for 80% of the plots cut in order to have a good harvest of hay afterward.

Optimization of forage quality because no concentrate are distributed during winter.

Practice overseeding with a perennial rye-grass base, which is associated with hybrid rye-grass and intermediate perennial rye-grass. The hybrid rye-grass secures the overseeding. White clover is very present too.

Practice crossbreeding with several goals: ease of calving, having cows with good legs and milk quality.



**Grasslands quality**  
(composition, food value)

### FARMER'S STRATEGY

The farmer thought about this strategy first of all because he had a sanitary problem that needed to be solved.

The objective is also to increase production and so the products.

Everything rely on forage quality and quality of the grasslands for grazing..

## 2 Farm description

### ENVIRONMENT

Soil types:

- Loam
- Sandy-loam

Climate: temperate oceanic

Altitude: 40 m

### GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing management type: rotationnal

Length: 9 months/year

28% of the grasslands exclusively mowed

Fertilization: organic only (20 t/ha of composted manure with embedded bacteria on litter)

Dominant grass and legume species in grasslands: Perennial rye-grass, White Clover, Red Clover, Fescue, Cocksfoot, Hybrid rye-grass, Alfalfa and Chicory.

Forage conservation type :

- Grass silage
- Hay
- Haylage

### STRUTURE

**2 Annual Work Unit**

**Agricultural Area:** 75 ha UAA

**Grass-based system**

(55 ha of temporary grasslands and 20 ha of permanent grasslands)

**Farm type:** Organic specialist milk production

**Breed:** Cross-breeding (Jersiais/Prim'Holstein/Rouge scandinave)

**Livestock Unit:** 95 (65 dairy cows)

**Stoking rate:** 1,8 LU/ha main forage area

### ANIMAL PERFORMANCE

**Milk production per head:** 5 000L

### WHY IT IS WORKING

The farmer helps himself out to ensure the innovation works. He made a boviduc to increase the available area for pasture (10 ha).

Good grazing valorization and management with plots from 1,3 to 1,7 ha and 3 days-rotationnal grazing.

Numerous exchanges via discussion groups, farmers groups and advisors.