Combining trees and grazed grasslands

EARL BORDEAU

1 | Description of the innovation

Farmers have implemented agroforestry within grazed grasslands and plots of annual crops. Trees have been planted on 12 ha for 7 years (50 trees per hectare). Strips of trees are planted every 18 or 21 meters.

Trees are all about stimulating animals to pasture all over the grassland area, by providing a cooler and shaded environment and a weather protection. This land-use system improves cattle grazing.

👍 **Environment: enhancing biodiversity and carbon sequestration, erosion control, various landscape**

Technic: extension of the grazing season, animal welfare

Economic: higher overall yield, diversification through the sale of timber

FARMER'S STRATEGY

A sustainable land-use system to adapt to climate change and provide cattle good grazing conditions.

A gradual implementation considering labour and cash flow: tree plantations occurred over three years.

Improving his agroforestry knowledge and skills through training and with the support of a specialist consultant

MILK

ENVIRONMENT

Soils: loam

Climate : temperate oceanic

Altitude : 75 m

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing : Yes

Grazing management type : strip stocking

STRUCTURE

Annual work unit : 1,9

Organic agriculture

Agricultural area : 42 ha UAA

Herd: 55 Normand dairy cows—80 LU

Forage area:

- 30 ha temporary grasslands
- 5 ha corn silage
- 3,5 ha cereal silage

Bought forage: 30 ha grass silage and hay

Sales in short supply chains: beef, wood

ANIMAL PERFORMANCES

Milk production per head : 6 500 L /year

WHY IT IS WORKING

A strong motivation to adapt the dairy system to climate change and a strong interest in tree management.

Training and exchanges: farmer received technical trainings and visited other farms before starting his project

Good practices and rigour in tree management (protecting trees against cattle, tree trimming, choice of tree species).

Tree density and plot size suitable for farm mechanisation and ensuring sensible workload.