



# A collective hay dryer in barn



## GAEC de la Bos

### 1 Description of the innovation



The heat from a digester is used to dry green forage. The barn hay drying system is collective. Ten dairy farms are involved.

The aim of farmers is to improve protein self-sufficiency by producing high quality forage and to reduce feeding cost.

190 t dry matter have been dried, come from 84 ha of alfalfa, red clover and multi-species grasslands.

In this farm, 6 ha of multi-species grasslands have been harvested and dried in the collective unit. These grasslands have produced 9,3 t dry matter per ha.

In this farm, temporary grasslands are sown under a cereal cover crop to ensure grassland establishment.



#### FARMER'S STRATEGY

- Focusing on higher production
- Decreasing feeding cost
- A collective organization of harvests
- Curiosity in subject



Animal health  
Grassland yield  
Grassland quality

## 2 Farm description

### ENVIRONMENT

This plain farm is located in western France, in the department of Mayenne.

Climate: temperate oceanic, especially good for forage yield.

Soils: clayed-loam

### GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing management type: Strip stocking

Length of grazing period: 8 months

Forage conservation type: Silage and barn dried hay

### STRUCTURE

#### 4 Annual work unit

**Agricultural area:** 116 ha UAA

- 34 ha temporary grasslands
- 13.5 ha permanent grasslands
- 50.5 ha corn silage

**Herd:** 115 Holstein cows—178 LU

**Stocking rate:** 1.5 LU/ha main forage area

≈ 20 fattening bulls sold each year

### ANIMAL PERFORMANCES

**Milk production per head:** 8,300 L /year

### WHY IT IS WORKING

A good work organisation and available labour: all farmers aim at a good quality of forage and it needs a harvesting schedule to mow at good maturity stages in each farm.

Proximity between barn hay system and farms: All 10 farms are located around 15 km around the collective unit.

Good relationship between managers of the digester unit and farmers.

This forage conservation type requires a storage building for loose dried-hay.