



A system focused on autonomy and work conditions



GAEC de Chadenas

1 Description of the innovation



The GAEC de Chadenas have a breeding system designed to increase autonomy and work quality. The two associates realized many innovations on the farm.

To increase autonomy, what is better than grazing? It is for this reason that rotational, then cellular grazing has been put in place. Despite difficulties about paddocks organization in the beginning and about watering now, the first year of cellular grazing is a success.



To be able to graze a long time of the year (more than 10 months in 2016!) the GAEC de Chadenas cross his herd of Alps brown cows with Swedish red and jersiaise cows. The objective is to have animals light enough to graze as late as possible on clay soils. These small cows are better for valorize grass in kg ingested for one liter of milk.

Finally, to increase work conditions, associates are testing once day milking for 2016. The first year is rather positive since the current production has returned to the production level of the past year with one less milking, and with cows in better corporal condition.



- Maximize grazing
- Increase autonomy
- Better work conditions

FARMER'S STRATEGY

- Decrease expenses
- Maximize grazing
- To be autonomous for forage and more
- Feeding only with grass
- Work in better conditions



2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Types of soil : clay. Difficulties about practicality of paddocks in autumn

Climate: oceanic with continental trend

Altitude: 320 m

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing management type: cellular

Grazing: 9-10 months a year

STRUCTURE

Annual work units : 2

Organic agriculture

Agricultural area : 125 ha UAA

Permanent grasslands : 125 ha

100% grass

Breed : Crossing Alp's brown x Swedish red x Jersiaise

Stocking rate: 0,78 LU / ha of forage area

ANIMAL PERFORMANCES

Milk production : 3500 L /cow / year

WHY IT IS WORKING

Herd history has made the change easier : engaged organic agriculture since 1975, cows were already feeding mostly with grass before the grazing reorganization.

Farmers adapt their production objectives to the potential of their territory

Many ways of informations and external points of view : farmers group, farms visits, formations, books, newspapers...

Long term farm targets shared by associated and stable over time.