



Using herd dogs to increase work efficacy



GAEC du Petit Fer

1 Description of the innovation

« A paw hit, a charging cow... It doesn't happen to me since I use dogs. Even while nursing cows ! »

Bruno Banon is a farmer and a former about « herd dogs ». So he isn't very present on the farm. So his working time must be efficient and without risk.

With a fragmented plot set, animals have to change of paddock very frequently to have a good grass management. That normally demands to be several people with a trailer, to install fences ... or to be alone with a 4x4 and a dog. The use of herd dog allows to move quickly the cattle and to increase work efficacy, for all of the GAEC du Petit Fer associates.

The dog allows to create a different relation of dominance with the cattle. Globally, cows are stressless and more calm. The work security and comfort are so consolidated.



Valorise a fragmented plot set
Efficiency and comfort of work

FARMER'S STRATEGY

- Be able to graze small and distant plots
- Increase work efficacy and confort
- Secure work

2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Types of soil : Clay and limestone

Climate : océanic to continental trend

Altitude : 300 m

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing : Yes

Grazing 7 month a year

STRUCTURE

Annual work unit : 3

Agricultural area : 206 ha UAA

Temporary grassland : 15 ha

Permanent grassland : 86 ha

Corn silage : 30 ha

Breeds : Prim'holstein and charolaises

Stocking rate : 1,58 LU / ha of forage area

ANIMAL PERFORMANCES

Milk production : 9000 L / year / cow

WHY IT IS WORKING

Real will to work with dogs. It is a necessity to increase the work efficiency and the farm perform.

The farmer is vigilant to his behavior and to the dog and cattle behavior. It is important to have a coherence between the three.

A consolidated vigilance is done on the dogs training.