



# Mice damage in grassland



## Gosse de Vries

### 1 Description of the innovation

Gosse de Vries is a dairy farmer in the northern part of the Netherlands, in the province Friesland. Mice damage in his grassland is a problem for the quality of his grassland and the food security for his cows.

In the winter 2014-2015 there was an explosion of the mice population and the damage of his grassland was enormous. He had to renew almost his whole area of grassland. In the spring and summer of 2015 he had a dramatic harvest. The mice damage gave a huge negative economic effects.

Gosse de Vries is now looking for precautionary actions for mice damage by making his area unattractive for mice with innovations for a higher (ground-) water level.



Grassland quality

Economic results

#### Strategy implementation

The strategy of the farmer is based on making his area unattractive for mice by looking for innovative measures to create a (temporary) higher (ground-) water level.

**Achievements:** (looking for) precautionary actions for mice damage through steering the (ground-)water level

**Results:** different knowledge available and possibilities in the scope, but no results yet



## 2 Farm description

### ENVIRONMENT

Soil: Clay, peat

Climate: Temperate oceanic

Altitude: ±sea level

Slope: flat

### GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing: No

Grazing management: no grazing, only mowing for silage

Main composition grassland: Perennial ryegrass

### STRUCTURE

**Agricultural Area** 80 ha UAA

*Permanent grassland* 71,5 ha

*Corn silage* 8,5 ha

**Production method** Conventional

**Stock** 130 dairy cows  
100 young stock

**Breed** Holstein-Friesian

**Milk production** 7500 kg/year

**Annual Work Unit** 2

### WHY IT IS WORKING

The innovation is successful on this farm because:

- risk management:
  - the (economic) need to prevent mice damage, no repeat of the situation in 2014-2015.
  - the conditions in the area are very attractive for mice at the moment.
- other positive effects from the possible innovations for a sustainable grassland management on peat soil.