



Pasture reader and GPS

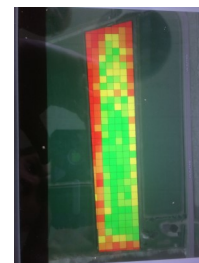


Piet Jan Thibaudier

1 Description of the innovation

The farmer Piet Jan Thibaudier from the northern part of the Netherlands, in the province Friesland, is feeding his cows with the zero grazing system. He bought a pasture reader to be able to mow every day the right amount of fresh grass for his cows.

The pasture reader is built on the front mower and measures exactly the amount of grass. With the use of light reflection the density and the dry matter content of the grass is determined. The pasture reader is used together with GPS for mapping his meadows with the data from the pasture reader.



Grassland yield
Economic results

Strategy implementation

The strategy of the farmer is based on a flatter milk production curve of his cows with the zero grazing system. He bought a pasture reader.

Achievements: flatter milk production curve with zero grazing

Failures: high purchase costs

Constraints: a useful management tool

Results: data to optimize his grassland management



2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Soil: Clay and peat

Climate: Temperate oceanic

Altitude: \pm sea level

Slope: flat

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing: No

Grazing management: zero grazing

Main composition grassland: Perennial ryegrass



STRUCTURE

Agricultural Area 100 ha UAA

Permanent grassland 100 ha

Production method Conventional

Stock 195 dairy cows

85 young stock

Breed Holstein-Friesian

Milk production 8500 kg/year

Annual Work Unit 2

WHY IT IS WORKING

The innovation is successful on this farm because:

- The farmer is interested in modern technology and data.
- The motivation from the farmer to optimize his farm management.
- The usefulness of the collected data.