



Organic intensive grazing farm



Dairy farm Spijkerman

1 Description of the innovation

Auke Spijkerman and his parents Ton and Ria have a farm in the North of the Netherlands. The farmers can be labelled as really fanatical grazers, this is because the company aims to get as much fresh grass in the cows as possible. The farmers have the opinion that a high intake of fresh grass has a positive effect on the margin and that the mineral losses are limited as much as possible. The Spijkerman family uses the Agrinet grassland management program to ensure that the grazing runs smoothly. Every week Auke runs a round through all the parcels available for grazing the milking cows, during that round he measures the grass supply with a pasture meter in each field. He enters this data into the program, to get a good overview of the current stock of grass on the farm. The system stores all data, so that the production of all individual parcels can also be checked afterwards. According to the farmers, a tight grassland management is necessary to get the maximum out of grazing.



Farmer's strategy

The farmer applies a New Zealand farming system, because he believes that a low cost price agricultural operations, improves the profit. He is focussing on the efficiency of fresh grass. That is why he applies strip stocking.

Achievements: Increase in fresh grass intake and milk production

Results: Lower costs of the milk production



2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Soil: Sandy

Climate: Temperate oceanic

Altitude: ±sea level

Slope: flat

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing: Yes

Grazing management: Strip stocking

Length of grazing periode: 8 months/year

Main composition grassland: Perennial ryegrass, timothy grass, red and white clovers, goose grass, chicory

STRUCTURE

Agricultural Area 70 ha UAA

Permanent grassland 70 ha

Production method Conventional

Stock 90 dairy cows
43 young stock

Breed MRIJ, Fleckvieh
Jersey,
Holstein-Friesian,
Brown Swiss,
Swedish Red

Milk production 6500 kg/year

Annual Work Unit 2,4

WHY IT IS WORKING

The innovation is successful on this farm because:

- The farmer has a passion for grazing.
- There is a balance between cows and grazing platforms
- The labor intensive is low, the farmer can spend more time about grass management