



Adjustment of feeding system of beef animals to different type of grasslands occurring in the farm



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1 Description of the innovation



The innovation is rational use of fodder resources occurring in the farm by adjustment of different beef cattle feeding to different grassland types. The mowing and grazing of the permanent grasslands depends on location and forage production potential. The farm indicates various feeding groups of the beef cattle. Beef bulls receive the best forage obtained from the best quality mowed grasslands, conserved in the form haylage and an addition of concentrates; suckler cows in the dry period receive the worst quality feeds (hay/haylage) obtained from grasslands included in the agro-environmental program. Heifers for fattening are grazing in summer only the pasture sward, and in the winter they are fed with conserved feeds with an addition of concentrates.



Added value:

Labour intensity (time per year)

Animal health and welfare

Livestock production quantity



Farmer's strategy

In order to rationalize production costs and reduce labour input, the farm divided own grasslands in terms of their productivity and type of use, as well as to the nutritional requirements of the proper beef cattle feeding groups. Thanks to the introduced feeding system, the farm relatively quickly receives bulls ready for sale due to an intensive fattening and heifers fattening on less intensive pastures. An additional benefit of introducing such solution is, noticeable by the farmer, correct condition of suckler cows intended for breeding, which significantly improves the rate of calving on the farm.

2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Soil types:

Clay, Sandy

Climate:

Warm-summer humid continental

Altitude:

148 m a.s.l.

Slope:

10%

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing for 6 months in the year. The rotational stocking system is carried out on a pasture divided into two parts, the cattle are in each within a month.

The sward from meadows for winter season is conserved by haylage or/and hay making.

STRUCTURE

Annual Work Unit: 2.5

Agricultural Area: 198 ha UAA

Main forage area: 165 ha

Arable land area: 30 ha

Permanent grassland area: 165 ha

Temporary grassland area: 0 ha

Average stocking rates:

- agriculture area 0.4 LU/ha
- main forage area 0.5 LU/ha
- grassland area 0.5 LU/ha

ANIMAL PERFORMANCE

Beef cattle: 133

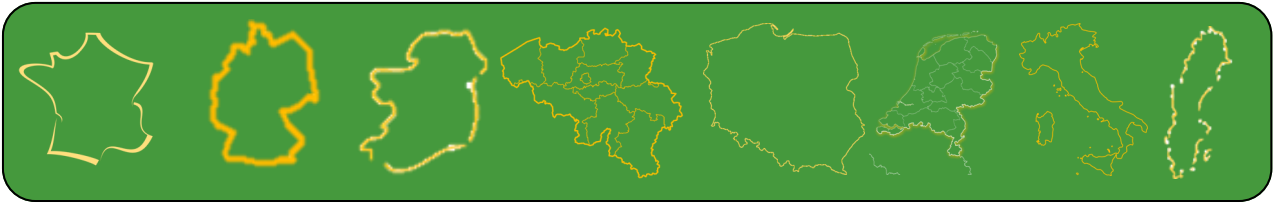
Total livestock units: 78.25 LU

The farm sales beef animals: fattening bulls in 25 months in average weight of 650 kg and fattening heifers in 25 months in average weight of 500 kg.

WHY IT IS WORKING

Innovation works on the farm because it allows on the rational use of forage resources of individual grassland in the feeding of different groups of beef cattle. Finally, the production and using of feeds is optimized, input and costs of labour is decreasing and animal health and welfare is improved.

Country shapes



Domains of innovation



Machinery, tools



Forage mixture



Forage conservation technique



Grazing management system



Legume management



Animal feeding management



Animal type (breed)



Product processing



Marketing



Farm system



Landscape

Main types of animal

