



Westerwold ryegrass as companion crop in establishment of temporary grasslands

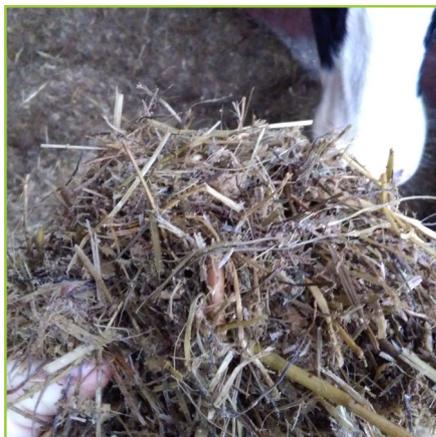


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1 Description of the innovation



Westerwold ryegrass (annual type of Italian ryegrass) is used as a companion (cover) crop while establishing a new temporary grassland instead of cereals such as oats or barley. Different varieties of westerwold ryegrass are used by the farmer to enhance the positive effect of leys productivity in the sowing year.



Added value:

Increasing grassland DM yield



Improving forage quality and feeding value

The farmer's strategy

The farmer uses intensive temporary grasslands what is an alternative to maize cultivation. The share of grass sward in TMR feeding system is as much as 70% on the farm, while not more than 50% is typical of the country.

Many Polish farmers are afraid of investing in grassland productivity enhancing because of the high risk of failure. It is highly noticeable in the Wielkopolskie voivodeship, where maize is commonly cultivated. Although westerwold ryegrass is a highly productive grass, comparable to maize, having even better feeding value, farmers are not really convinced about that and they generally prefer to cultivate maize than grasses.

2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Soil types:

Sandy, Peat, Sandy-loam

Climate:

Warm –summer humid continental

Altitude :

54 m a.s.l.

Slope :

0 %

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

All of the grasslands are exclusively mowed.

The sward is conserved by making haylage and hay.

STRUCTURE

Annual Work Unit 4

Agricultural Area : 70 ha UAA

Main forage area: 59 ha

Arable land area: 30 ha

Permanent grassland area: 40 ha

Temporary grassland area: 13 ha

Other forage area (silage maize): 6 ha

Average stocking rates:

- agricultural area 1.3 LU/ha
- main forage area 1.6 LU/ha
- grassland area 1.9 LU/ha

ANIMAL PERFORMANCE

Dairy cows: 60

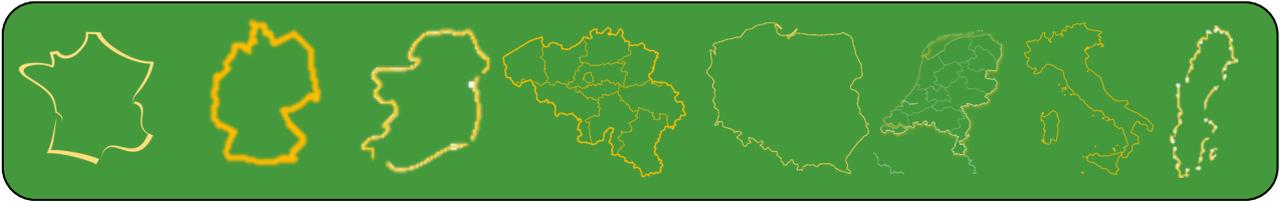
Total livestock units: 95 LU

Milk production per head: 8750 (l/year)

WHY IT IS WORKING

The owner of the farm has theoretical and practical knowledge in grassland management. An optimum sowing rate by the renovation of westerwold ryegrass (10 kg/ha), as well as high nitrogen fertilization (275 kg N/ha), contribute to the success of renovation carried out on the farm.

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

