



Farm system focusing on cows health and welfare



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1 Description of the innovation



The farmer designed step by step a farm production system in which cows health and welfare is a priority. The system is distinguished by the following features:

There is stable in the central part of the pastureland.

There are artificial ponds (they are fed with water from drilled wells 30 m deep).

Grasslands are irrigated and renovated every year.

Elements of the natural landscape has been preserved (i.e. forest enclaves, clumps of trees).

Heifers can choose if they want to go outside or stay in the stable.

Rotational stocking in combination with continuous stocking—Dairy cows can walk on pastures as far as they want, sometimes they walk 5-6 km per day, even though they have enough grass near the stable, where they could stay for some hours (4 paddocks — the size of each paddock is about 40-50 ha).



Added Value:



Very low marketing and advertising costs of the farm and the dairy products

Good economic results

The farmer's strategy

The aim of the farmer is to have healthy cows that produce high-quality milk necessary for the processing plant located on the farm. In Poland, dairy cows are usually loose housed for the whole year. The presented farm is a large-scale farm, where grazing is still practised. Maize has never been cultivated on that farm and given to any cow. The first Polish farmer who started processing milk into dairy products at the farm level and selling them under his own brand. The farm website: www.ekonabial.pl



2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Soil types:

Clayey-loam, Sandy

Climate:

Warm-summer humid continental

Altitude :

160 m a.s.l.

Slope :

0%

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing management type:

Rotational stocking

The sward is conserved by making silage and haylage.

STRUCTURE

Annual Work Unit: 15

Agricultural Area: 390 ha UAA

Permanent grassland area: 190 ha

Temporary grassland area: 100 ha

Other forage area: 100 ha

Average stocking rates:

- agriculture area 0.7 LU/ha
- main forage area 0.7 LU/ha
- grassland area 0.9 LU/ha

ANIMAL PERFORMANCE

Dairy cows: 200

Breeds Simental

Total livestock units: 288.7 LU

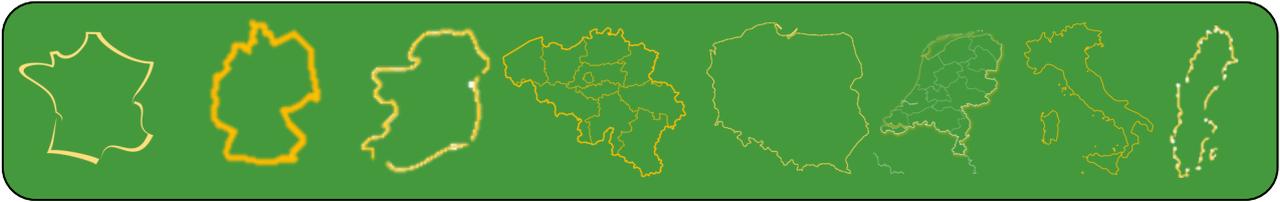
Milk production per head: 6500 (l/year)

WHY IT IS WORKING

The farmer adjusted dairy production to local agro-climatic conditions. Grazing is carried out on species-rich pastures which were set on low class agricultural land.

The farmer is really convinced that grazing has a positive impact on cows health and ensures getting high-quality milk and dairy products.

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

