



Short sward grazing (Kurzrasenweide) with dairy COWS



Baumannhof/Paul Peter Mutschlechner

1 Description of the innovation




The farm with an agricultural area of 16 ha (3 ha leased included) is in the conversion phase to organic farming and keeps dairy cows (on average 26 LU). The animals are held on moderately steep pastures, located around the farm buildings and being connected one with another, without import of off-farm forage. The practiced grazing management system is a continuous variable stocking (short sward grazing, Germ: "Kurzrasenweide"). The grazing season lasts from the mid of April until the end of October. During this time the animals are milked indoor and receive only a small amount of conserved forage. In the winter months, they only get hay from the own meadows. 50% of the total agricultural area is exclusively mowed (3 cuts/year), 20% is exclusively grazed, while on the final 30% a combination of mowing and grazing is practiced.



The farmer achieves a high forage quality thanks to a well-working facility for barn-drying of hay, with a roof suction system, which is located under the photovoltaic panels, combined with a dehumidifier. This implicates a high efficiency of the barn-drying system and at the same time a cooling of the photovoltaic panel, whereby the production of electricity can be significant increased.

Added value

-  Better working conditions
- Reduction of labor intensity (time per year)
- Better economic result

Reason for the innovation

- Solving problem (the need to change)
- Decreasing production costs
- Curiosity in subject/technique



2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Main soil types: sandy-loam

Climate: temperate continental climate

Average altitude (m a.s.l.): 1200 (970 m to 1268 m)

Average slope (%): 18 (3.8 % to 37.5 %)

GRASSLANDMANAGEMENT

Farming system: in conversion to organic farming (certification in January 2018)

Grazing: Yes, partially combined with cut use

Grazing management type: continuous variable stocking (short sward grazing)

Length of the grazing period (months/year): 7

Number of cuts on exclusively mown areas: 3 cuts/year

Forage conservation type: hay

Average fertilisation rate: 130 kg of organic N/ha

STRUCTURE

Annual work units per year: 2

Agricultural area (ha UAA): 16 ha

15.7 ha pasture

0.3 ha arable area

ANIMAL PERFORMANCE

Breed name:

Braunvieh, Jersey

Total livestock unit (LU): 26

Average stocking rate (LU/ha): 1,6

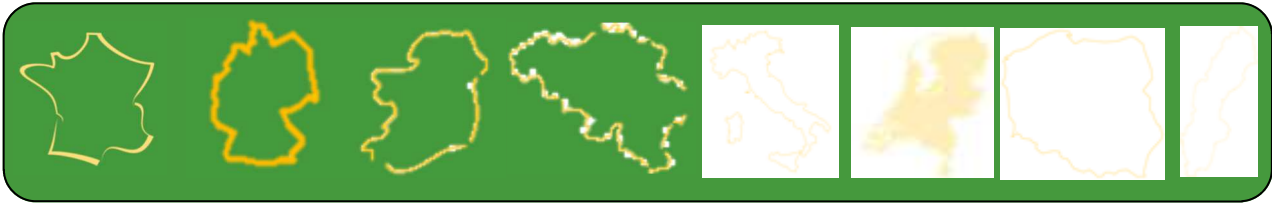
Average acquisition rate roughage: 0%

Reasons why this innovation is working on the farm

The farm fulfils the prerequisites for a grazing management.

The farmer is highly motivated to innovate and develop own solutions.

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

