



Combining biodynamic agriculture, forage mixture, legume management and product processing



Damien Jacquemart - Ferme de la Sarthe

1 Description of the innovation



Damien Jacquemart practice biodynamic farming and he is involve in different short supply chain systems and associations, (Agricovert, Terre en vue and Peasant-artisans)

Damien Jacquemart is constantly improving his grazing management system.

Currently he practices :

- Forage mixture (Sensier and Swiss mixtures)
- Legume management
- Product processing and marketing

The added value of these practices covers both:

- Grassland quality (species composition, feeding value)
- Fecundity
- Livestock production quality (taste, nutritive value, etc)



Farmer's strategy is focusing on higher production, processing products and curiosity in grassland management and techniques

Optimal management of limiting factor: grass productivity and herd genetics

2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

- Soil types : Clayey-loam
- Temperate oceanic climate
- Altitude : 260 m
- Slope : 0-5%

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grasslands, mostly permanent, are both grazed and mowed down (2 times a year). The duration of permanent meadows is longer than 20 years. Grazing management type: rotational stocking. Forage is stored in hay.

STRUCTURE

Annual Work Unit: 2.2

Agricultural Area: 29 ha UAA

The farm is managed by the owner. 2ha are dedicated to crops and the rest in permanent (23 ha) and temporary (4 ha) grasslands.

The dairy cattle is Pie Rouge : 19 lactating cows and 11 heifers. The milk production is average: 4,500 kg of milk / cow / year.

WHY IT IS WORKING

Damien Jacquemart set up a performing grassland management based on an optimal herd management: expression of the potential of the dairy cow (favours the social life of the cows: free run, stay in the barn as much as they want, attention to animal welfare during milking, permanent presence of the bull, etc.) => « cool cows ». Good fertility rate.

Damien Jacquemart regularly follows trainings on grassland management (MAP (Mouvement d'action paysanne), UNAB (Union Nationale des Agrobiologistes Belges), training in Germany, etc.)

