



Techno-grazing all year round



Ferme expérimentale du CIIRPO

1 Description of the innovation



The « CIIRPO » (Centre Inter Régional d'Information et de Recherche en Production Ovine) currently has a testing on techno-grazing. The aim is to develop a farming system based on pasture at the maximum by limiting forage crops through techno-grazing.

Concretely, the animals stay 1 day per "cell".

The animals come back in the cell 21 days later in the spring or 35 days in summer / winter.

The instantaneous load is 150 to 600 ewes on 1 ha according to the season.

The animals pasture all year round.



Quality of environment

Economic results

Grassland production / yield

FARMER'S STRATEGY

The main goal of this experiment is to reduce costs through better grazing, reduced harvests and reduced investment in equipment / building.

To be able to compare, a ewes bundle is driven in traditional rotational grazing (5-6 days per paddock).

Nevertheless, some breeders can see some obstacles to this technique:

- Need to be equipped for watering, to have bundled plots, to be equipped for distribution if the breeder wishes to bring concentrates to the pasture
- More work for fencing
- Predation problem if lambing is outdoors
- Lack of shade in some cells: animal welfare?

Success - Results:

- No grinding of uneaten grass
- Less harvests
- Daily work greatly reduced in winter thanks to winter grazing
- Economy of concentrates
- Zootechnical objectives achieved



2 Description of the farm

ENVIRONMENT

Soil : Loamy-sands, silt

Climate : Oceanic climate

Altitude : 300m

Grassland management

Pasture : Yes

Rotating grazing

Techno-grazing

Manure : 5 T / year

STRUCTURE

Annual Work Unit: 1,5

Agricultural area: 85 ha UAA

Main forage area: 90 ha

Permanent grassland : 43 ha

Temporary grasslands: 47 ha

Breeds : Romane, Vendéen, Cross-breeding

Stocking rate : 1,3 LU / ha of forage area

ANIMAL PERFORMANCES

Average carcass weight: 18,5 kg (Lamb)

Average age when slaughtered: 4 months
(Lamb)

**Average European classification of the carcass
(EUROP):** R3 (Lamb)

WHY IT IS WORKING

This technique works on the farm because the experimenters are rigorous. It is indeed necessary to be guided a minimum at the beginning of the techno-grazing and the winter grazing.

Of course, the recommendations given on the previous page stay valid: it is necessary to have grouped plots and a good watering system.