



# Doubling grass loading with rotating grazing and grassland renovation



## François de Chénerilles

### 1 Description of the innovation



Rotating grazing combined with grassland renovation doubled the herd of 300 to 600 ewes on the farm.

Grassland renovation, of permanent meadow to temporary meadow, benefits to biodiversity, give more forage resources to use and may have a good impact on animal health.

Indeed, he uses a multi-species mixture with fodder rape-seed at the sowing. Thanks to that, he can graze after two months.

He also uses tannin plants such as chicory and plantain that have a positive effect on grass ingestion. The second benefit of its plants is their pivotal root system that allows better moisture retention during the summer.

Thanks to this, he doubled the herd of 300 to 600 ewes on the same surface. The reforms are grass-fed as part of the lambs. Young ewes do not receive concentrates anymore (before 400 g / lamb).



Condition of work  
Biodiversity  
Economic results

### FARMER'S STRATEGY

Brake: climatology and soils are not conducive to good grass growth throughout the year.

Achievements :

- The breeder has regained the esteem of his work thanks to this change: "Before we were healers".
- Gain of 8,000 € from the first year. (€ 14,000 saving, € 6,000 investment)
- Ewes and young ewes have better status
- Less parasitism
- Use of the herbometer to control its pasture and to know which meadow must be renewed.



## 2 Description of the farm

### ENVIRONMENT

Soil : Clay

Climate : Oceanic climate

Altitude : 90m

### Grassland management

Pasture : Yes

Rotating grazing : 4 to 6 days on a paddock.

Pasture between 15 and 5 cm.

All year round.

30 kg organic and inorganic N/ year

### STRUCTURE

**Annual Work Unit:** 1

**Agricultural area:** 138 ha UAA

Main forage area: 129 ha

Permanent grassland : 85 ha

Temporary grasslands: 40 ha

Cereal stubble: 13 ha

**Breeds :** Vendéen x Charolais

**Stocking rate :** 0,76 LU / ha of forage area

### ANIMAL PERFORMANCES

**Average carcass weight:** 19 kg (Lamb)

**Average age when slaughtered:** 135 days (Lamb)

**Average European classification of the carcass (EUROP):** U and R (Lamb)

### WHY IT IS WORKING

This innovation does not require any particular criteria to operate, except a technical, rigorous and voluntary breeder.