



# Permanent grasslands renovation after intercrops sowing



## GAEC de la Basse Cour



### 1 Description of the innovation



Organic system, grazing system, food system based on hay (dried in barn) and haylage. Priority to grazing with 70 ha available for the cows.



Renovation of permanent grasslands in progress since 2015 with seedling of a catch crop (intercrop) during spring or autumn, that is grazed (5 times) then destroyed to be reseeded as permanent grassland (multispecies) the next spring. Composed by Perennial Rye-grass, Tall Fescue, Meadow Fescue, Timothy grass, Red Clover, Hybrid Clover, White Clover, Chicory and Plantain.



Sowing of multi-species grasslands in 4 stages: destruction of intercrop with a rotavator, 2 cover-crop passages, sowing the grassland with combined sowing then 2 passages of cultipacker roll.



Grassland quality  
Production quantities  
Grasslands yield

### FARMER'S STRATEGY

Technique works quite well for now with good results from milk production (especially when intercrop grazing) and White Clover being present in permanent grassland thanks to spring sowing.

Restrains: climate when sowing, no labour which means good mechanical destruction of the intercrop is needed and cost of the organic seeds.

This technique was set up to increase production and reduce feeding costs.



## 2 Description of the farm

### ENVIRONMENT

Soil: loamy

Climate: temperate oceanic

Altitude: 30m

### Grassland management

Grazing: Yes

Grazing Management type: Rotational, strip-grazing

Length: 8 months/year

48% of grasslands grazed and mowed

Fertilization: organic only (compost 10 t/ha every 2 years)

Intercrop composition: Fodder Colza, Perennial Rye-Grass, Diploïde Oat, Oat and Fodder radish.

Fodder conservation types:

- hay (dried in barn)
- haylage

### STRUCTURE

**3 Annual Work Unit**

**Agricultural area:** 200 ha UAA

Main forage area: 175 ha

Permanent grassland: 165 ha

Temporary grasslands: 10 ha

### Organic production

**Breeds:** Prim'Holstein, Montbéliarde and Cross-breeding (Jersiaise x PH)

**Stocking rate:** 1.08 LU / ha main forage area

137 Dairy cows—190 LU

### ANIMAL PERFORMANCES

**Milk production per head:** 5,000 L/year

### WHY IT IS WORKING

The farmers wanted to start a renovation program of permanent grasslands (following a trip to another French area) to improve production.

Great care is given to renovation with intercrop sowing before grassland sowing to clean up the soil keeping good productivity.

Spring sowing of grassland because autumn is too wet

Optimum valorization of multispecies grasslands thanks to the dryer in barn.