1 Description of the innovation

The soils of the farm are very dry in summer. The grass growth during summer never was important, but last years, it is absent.

Classical species (ryegrass, white clover) are too much impacted by the repeated drought. Other species are developed on the farm with more success: fescue, dactyl, lucerne and sainfoin.

With these species, the main difficulty is to be precise on the grazing management. It is especially true with tall fescue and dactyl.

The sainfoin have an important first cut and a little second cut. This plant give a fibrous and very sweet forrage, which is very appreciate by cattle, and rich in protein. The sainfoin have too health virtues usefull for calves breeing.

Summer growth
Health effects

FARMER’S STRATEGY
- Production of grass during summer
- Adapt his grasslands to climate change
Farm description

ENVIRONMENT
Soils : superficial, very dry in summer
Climate : semi continental
Altitude : 400 m

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT
Grazing : Yes, rotational grazing
Grazing  7 months a year

STRUCTURE
Annual Work Unit : 1
Agricultural area : 55 ha UAA
Temporary grassland : 22 ha
Permanent grassland : 19 ha
Corn silage : 8 ha
Breeds : Prim’holstein
Stocking rate : 1,37 UGB / ha of forage area

ANIMAL PERFORMANCES
Milk production by head : 7 900 L /year

WHY IT IS WORKING
Species are choose specially for the adaptation to the soil and climate context
Farmer is vigilant during the seeding of temporary grassland, because the quality of seeding explain the productivity of the grassland.