Tall fescue on moor-sites

BEEF

MILK

1 Description of the innovation

Demonstration plot to compare: Tall fescue vs. perennial ryegrass (cultivars for moor-soils); and especially structured grassland mixtures; test of performance on a moor-site where perennial ryegrass is difficult to establish permanently. Comparison of yield, fodder quality, suitability for biogas plants, silage, persistence

Grassland production and yield

Grassland Quality

The farmer was interested to find alternatives to perennial ryegrass for wet moor sites, because of its unsatisfying persistence on those sites

It was a challenge to establish the new grasses on the wet moor-site; persistence remains to be seen.

2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Soil types: Sandy soils and moor

Temperate oceanic climate

Average Altitude: 2 m a.s.l.; no slope

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

No Grazing

five cuts per year

STRUCTURE

Annual work units: 1.5

Agricultural Area : 185 ha

113 ha permanent grassland, 50 ha silage maize and 20 ha arable land

ANIMAL PERFORMANCE

143 Dairy cows and 161 heifers;

8600 l /year/dairy animal

Bull fattening:

400 kg carcass weight (20 months)

Heifer fattening:

380 kg carcass weight (24 months)

WHY IT IS WORKING

Good weather conditions and know how of the farmer were essential to establish Festuca arundinacea successfully.