



# The herb - plantain in grassland sward



## Marcin Czerniak

### 1 Description of the innovation



The herb - plantain is a botanical component of temporary grassland within the farm. Dominant grass and legume species in temporary grassland vegetation are: perennial ryegrass, timothy, white clover, plantain.



#### Added value:

Increasing grassland quality (species composition, feeding value)

Increasing biodiversity

#### The farmer's strategy

Cows are tied up and the production is rather intensive on the farm. Since the farmer wanted to improve cows health, he decided to implement the idea of sowing herbs on his grasslands.

Enrichment grasslands with plantain is innovative in the country, because this plant is in general not appreciated by Polish farmers and considered sometimes as a weed, especially when its share in sward composition is high.

## 2 Farm description

### ENVIRONMENT

Soil types:

Sandy, Peat

Climate:

Warm-summer humid continental

Altitude :

54 m a.s.l.

Slope:

0%

### GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

All of the grasslands are exclusively mowed.

The sward is conserved by making haylage and hay.

### STRUCTURE

**Annual Work Unit 4**

**Agricultural Area** : 90 ha UAA

Main forage area: 90 ha

Arable land area: 40 ha

Permanent grassland area: 50 ha

Temporary grassland area: 5 ha

Other forage area: 35 ha

**Average stocking rates:**

- agricultural area 0.9 LU/ha
- main forage area 0.9 LU/ha
- grassland area 1.7 LU/ha

### ANIMAL PERFORMANCE

Dairy cows: 55

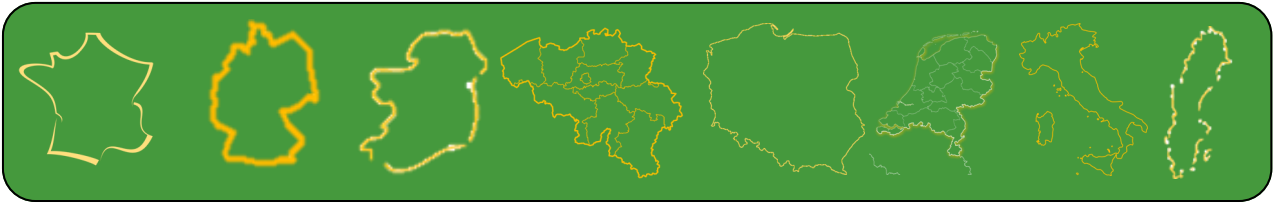
Total livestock units: 84.25 LU

Milk production per head: 10000 (l/year)

### WHY IT IS WORKING

The farmer regularly participates in trainings and conferences, in which he gains knowledge about grasslands and herbs. He also cooperates with other farmers, so he has an opportunity to exchange of know-how on grassland maintenance with them. The farmer has also the necessary machinery for meadow maintenance, sowing and reseeding of grass.

## Country shapes



## Domains of innovation



Machinery, tools



Forage mixture



Forage conservation technique



Grazing management system



Legume management



Animal feeding management



Animal type (breed)



Product processing



Marketing



Farm system



Landscape

## Main types of animal

