



Grazing with large herd (500 cows)



Van Eijden

1 Description of the innovation

The farm from the family van Eijden is located in the northern part of the Netherlands, in the province Friesland. The last decades the herd has gradual grown to 500 dairy cows. Despite the large herd (from Dutch perspective) the cows are still grazing.

Grazing is self-evident for the farmer and the pillar of his farm management. The motivation of the grazing is based on the economic benefits (low costs) and the simplicity.



Economic results

Simplicity

Strategy implementation

Grazing is the pillar of the farm and the size of the herd is irrelevant according the farmer.

Achievements: despite growth to a large herd still successfully grazing

Constraints: trampling the ground

Results: simplicity in the farm management and low costs, high profit



2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Soil: Sandy-loam, peat

Climate: Temperate oceanic

Altitude: ±sea level

Slope: flat

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing: Yes

Grazing management: Rotational

Length of grazing period: 4 months/year

Main composition grassland: Perennial ryegrass and red and white clovers

STRUCTURE

Agricultural Area 200 ha UAA

Permanent grassland 150 ha

Temporary grassland 25 ha

Corn silage 25 ha

Production method Conventional

Stock 500 dairy cows

250 young stock

Breed Holstein-Friesian

Milk production 7725 kg/year

Annual Work Unit 4

WHY IT IS WORKING

The innovation is successful on this farm because:

- the farmer is focussed on the economic result and not on the highest milk production.
- more than 100 hectares is located direct around the stable and suitable for grazing.