

CONTEXT PROFILE

 IRELAND



FARMER
Billy Gilmore



INNOVATION
Contract rearing system



Video



MAIN DOMAIN OF THE INNOVATION
Animal management



SOIL TYPE
Loam



FINANCE/INVESTMENT
Low



AGROCLIMATIC AREA
Atlantic north



MANAGEMENT
Pasture beef



MARKET
Local-rural



CLIMATE
Moderate rainfall



TECHNICAL
Computer-based



SOCIAL
Full-time farmer

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Case Study: IE_14	Agroclimatic Zone								
Item (Key Innovation Elements)	Alpine	Atlantic Central	Atlantic North	Atlantic South	Boreal	Continental North	Continental South	Mediterranean North	Mediterranean South
Rearing of replacement heifers on contract	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	++
Including clover in seed mixture	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	++
Reduce nitrogen inputs while maintaining grass	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Reduce concentrates cost by grazing	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++

+++ Strong transferability ++ Slightly limited transferability + Very limited transferability ✕ Generic information/not relevant

Implementation Gaps

- Contract clauses - How to feed and how to inseminate;
- Specific for cow production;
- Establish how to take into consideration different risks into the contract;

Research Gaps

- Cost of the system; How does it works;
- Insurance system;

Suggestions to Adapt

- Evaluation of the animal welfare.
- Send the animal where you know & trust;

COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

INVESTMENT COSTS

Total initial investment costs at start up:	low
• Initial authorisation costs (e.g. sanitary, veterinary, etc.)	not applicable/not known
• Initial advisory costs	low
• Initial buildings and machineries	mid
• Initial certification costs	not applicable/not known
• Initial working capital (personal qualification, marketing and promotion, etc.)	not applicable/not known

ON-GOING COSTS

On-going advisory costs	not applicable/not known
On-going certification costs	not applicable/not known
On-going buildings and machinery costs	mid
On-going working capital	not applicable/not known

BENEFITS RELATIVE TO ORIGINAL SYSTEM

◦ Economic

Reduction in energy consumption (electricity; fuel consumption)	high
Reduction in input use (fertilizers; pesticides; feed) etc.	high
Payback period	high
Product value added	not applicable/not known
Additional farm income through agroecological/agri-environmental payment schemes	not applicable/not known

◦ Environmental

Animal feed self-sufficiency increase	mid
Biodiversity increase	not applicable/not known
Improved nitrogen cycling	not applicable/not known
Soil regeneration	not applicable/not known
Animal health and welfare improvement	not applicable/not known

◦ Social

Workload reduction	high
Engagement of young generation	mid

Literature

English

- McCarthy M-C, O'Grady L, McAloon CG, Mee JF. The Effect of Contract-Rearing on the Health Status of Replacement Dairy Heifers. *Animals*. 2021; 11(12):3447. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani11123447>
- P.R. Tozer, A.J. Heinrichs. What Affects the Costs of Raising Replacement Dairy Heifers: A Multiple-Component Analysis, *Journal of Dairy Science*, Volume 84, Issue 8, 2001, Pages 1836-1844, [https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.S0022-0302\(01\)74623-1](https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.S0022-0302(01)74623-1).