CONTEXT PROFILE





FARMER Johnny van der Zanden



INNOVATION Varying grazing strategy based on grass growth



MAIN DOMAIN OF THE INNOVATION Improvement of grassland management



AGROCLIMATIC AREA Atlantic central



CLIMATE Moderate rainfall



SOIL TYPE Clay



MANAGEMENT Pasture dairy



TECHNICAL Computer-based











FINANCE/INVESTMENT Low

MARKET Global

SOCIAL Full-time farmer



CONTEXT PROFILE THE NETHERLANDS

Case Study: NL_03	Agroclimatic Zone								
Item (Key Innovation Elements)	Alpine	Atlantic Central	Atlantic North	Atlantic South	Boreal	Continental North	Continental South	Mediterranean North	Mediterranean South
Adjust grazing system to grass growth	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++



Generic information/not relevant



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Implementation Gaps

- This case is primarily designed for intensive systems, which may not be suitable or practical for all regions, particularly areas with lower stocking densities or challenging terrains
- Milking robots are cost-intensive, making them less accessible for smaller or less profitable farms
- Lack of guidance on integrating grazing systems with milking robots across various climates, soil types, and pasture compositions
- Insufficient knowledge transfer about optimizing grazing systems for different farm sizes and production goals

Research Gaps

• Develop predictive models and decisionsupport tools that help farmers optimize their grazing systems based on real-time grass growth data

- animal intake



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Suggestions to Adapt

• Select grazing systems tailored to the specific conditions of each region, considering factors such as climate, soil fertility, and pasture growth patterns

• Grazing becomes more manageable with lower cow density per hectare

• Consider implementing a single, wellmanaged grazing system

• Consistency and careful management are essential for aligning grass growth with

COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

INVESTMENT COSTS

Total initial investment costs at start up:

- Initial authorisation costs (e.g. sanitary, veterinary, etc.)
- Initial advisory costs
- Initial buildings and machineries
- Initial certification costs
- Initial working capital (personal qualification, marketing and promotion, etc.)

ON-GOING COSTS

On-going advisory costs		
On-going certification costs		
On-going buildings and machinery costs		
On-going working capital		

BENEFITS RELATIVE TO ORIGINAL SYSTEM

• Economic

Reduction in energy consumption (electricity; fuel consumption)

Reduction in input use (fertilizers; pesticides; feed) etc.

Payback period

Product value added

Additional farm income through agroecological/agri-environmental payment schemes

• Environmental

Animal feed self-sufficiency increase

Biodiversity increase

Improved nitrogen cycling

Soil regeneration

Animal health and welfare improvement

• Social

Workload reduction

Engagement of young generation



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not applicable/not known not applicable/not known low

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	low	
	low	
	low	
	mid	
	low	
	low	

Literature

National Language

• https://www.stichtingweidegang.nl/kennis-en-advies/nieuw-nederlands-weiden.html



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