CONTEXT PROFILE

THE NETHERLANDS

FARMER
Joeri Ham

INNOVATION
Providing a mixed ration in the pasture

Video

MAIN DOMAIN OF THE INNOVATION
Improvement of grassland management

SOIL TYPE
Clay

FINANCE/INVESTMENT
Low

AGROCLIMATIC AREA
Atlantic central

MANAGEMENT
Pasture dairy

MARKET
Global

CLIMATE
Moderate rainfall

TECHNICAL
Easy

SOCIAL
Full-time farmer

All contents of this document are expert opinions of the G4AE Scientific Technical Working Group

CONTEXT PROFILE

THE NETHERLANDS

Case Study: NL_12	Agroclimatic Zone								
Item (Key Innovation Elements)	**Alpine**	**Atlantic Central**	**Atlantic North**	**Atlantic South**	**Boreal**	**Continental North**	**Continental South**	**Mediterranean North**	**Mediterranean South**
Cows are offered access to two different paddocks each day—one with fresh, leafy grass (typically grazed during the day), and one previously grazed paddock with more stemmy regrowth (typically at night)	+	+++	+++	+++	+	+++	+++	+	+
Sufficient accessible grazing area	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+	+
Weekly farmwalk	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++

+++ **Strong transferability**

++ **Slightly limited transferability**

\+ **Very limited transferability**

× **Generic information/not relevant**

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Implementation Gaps

- Sufficient paddocks near the milking parlour
- Night grazing preferably close to the milking parlour to reduce walking time early in the morning, particularly during autumn when it is still dark

Research Gaps

- A controlled experiment with the same stocking rate but different grazing management—alternating between day and night paddocks versus a single paddock—could help evaluate the impact on pasture utilisation, grazing behaviour and animal performance
- A study on the long-term effects of alternating paddocks on soil health, grass regrowth, and overall farm productivity would be valuable to understand the sustainability of this grazing practice in the long-term

Suggestions to Adapt

- Implementing tools such as grazing management software or apps could help the farmer track and analyse pasture conditions, grazing rotations, and cow behaviour

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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	not applicable/not known
• Initial buildings and machineries	not applicable/not known
• 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	low
On-going certification costs	low
On-going buildings and machinery costs	low
On-going working capital	low

BENEFITS RELATIVE TO ORIGINAL SYSTEM

- **Economic**

Reduction in energy consumption (electricity; fuel consumption)	not applicable/not known
Reduction in input use (fertilizers; pesticides; feed) etc.	not applicable/not known
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	high
Biodiversity increase	none or low
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	not applicable/not known
Engagement of young generation	not applicable/not known

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Literature

National Language

- French website of the National Technology Network „Grasslands in the Future“ https://afpf-asso.fr/fiches-methode-du-rmt A protocol to measure grass growth on farm.

English

- Delaby L., Duboc G., Cloet E., Martinot Y. (2015) Pastur'Plan: a dynamic tool to support grazing management decision making in a rotational grazing system. Grassland Science in Europe 20, 110-112
- Hanrahan L., Geoghegan A., O'Donovan M., Griffith V., Ruelle E., Wallace M., Shalloo L. (2017) PastureBase Ireland: A grassland decision support system and national database. Computer and Electronics in Agriculture 136, 193-201, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compag.2017.01.029

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