CONTEXT PROFILE

THE NETHERLANDS



FARMER Karst-Jan Snip



INNOVATION

Pre-mowing as a method to increase fresh grass intake in grazing systems



MAIN DOMAIN OF THE INNOVATION Improvement of grassland management



AGROCLIMATIC AREA Atlantic central



CLIMATE Moderate rainfall



SOIL TYPE Sand

MANAGEMENT Pasture dairy



TECHNICAL



















CONTEXT PROFILE THE NETHERLANDS

| Case Study: NL_13 | Agroclimatic Zone | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Item (Key Innovation Elements) | Alpine | Atlantic Central | Atlantic North | Atlantic South | Boreal | Continental North | Continental South | Mediterranean North | Mediterranean South |
| Pre-graze mowing | ++ | ++ | ++ | ++ | ++ | ++ | ++ | + | + |



Generic information/not relevant



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Implementation Gaps

- Requires significant time commitment and appropriate equipment to be effective
- Can be costly in terms of labour, fuel, machinery, and maintenance

Research Gaps

- The long-term effectiveness of this practice in terms of grass utilisation and animal performance per hectare needs to be evaluated
- A comprehensive, multi-site experimental approach is required to assess its broader applicability, disadvantages and benefits

- heading)
- needed
- plants like docks



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Suggestions to Adapt

• This practice could be useful as a corrective measure in grazing management (e.g., when a paddock is grazed too late or after

• Could be selectively employed when

• Could be useful for managing undesirable

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 | low |
|--|-----|
| On-going certification costs | low |
| On-going buildings and machinery costs | mid |
| On-going working capital | low |

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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| low |
|-----|
| low |

| not applicable/not known |
|--------------------------|
| none or low |
| not applicable/not known |
| not applicable/not known |
| not applicable/not known |

mid

not applicable/not known

Literature

English

- https://www.dairynz.co.nz/feed/fundamentals/pre-graze-mowing/
- <u>https://researcharchive.lincoln.ac.nz/server/api/core/bitstreams/d9fd5aaa-0451-4497-a383-dbaa20714268/content</u>
- Pollock J.G., Gordon A., McConnell D.A. (2020) The effect of pre-mowing on the performance of high-production dairy cows. Grassland Science in Europe 25, 327-329



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