

CONTEXT PROFILE

 SWEDEN



FARMER

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INNOVATION

Foster cows on semi-natural grasslands



Video



MAIN DOMAIN OF THE INNOVATION

Animal management



SOIL TYPE

Loam



FINANCE/INVESTMENT

Mid



AGROCLIMATIC AREA

Atlantic central



MANAGEMENT

Pasture dairy



MARKET

Global



CLIMATE

Moderate rainfall



TECHNICAL

Computer-based



SOCIAL

Full-time farmer

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Case Study: SE_04	Agroclimatic Zone								
Item (Key Innovation Elements)	Alpine	Atlantic Central	Atlantic North	Atlantic South	Boreal	Continental North	Continental South	Mediterranean North	Mediterranean South
Use of dairy cows as foster cows, raising 2-3 calves each	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Calves are fed milk produced from forage grown in pastures unsuitable for other uses	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Calving is aligned with natural pasture growth in spring	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++

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

Implementation Gaps

- This system may be challenging for very intensive farms with high-production breeds like Holstein Friesians
- A minimum number of calves is required for this system

Research Gaps

- Conduct extensive cost benefit analysis to assess economic viability
- Evaluate the impact on animal health, animal welfare and milk composition
- Compare foster cow calf rearing with suckler cow-based systems

Suggestions to Adapt

- Adopt semi-intensive farming systems, particularly in traditionally intensive farming regions

COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

INVESTMENT COSTS

Total initial investment costs at start up:	not applicable/not known
• 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.)	low

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	not applicable/not known
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	high
Additional farm income through agroecological/agri-environmental payment schemes	high

◦ Environmental

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

◦ Social

Workload reduction	mid
Engagement of young generation	mid

Literature

English

- Topping pasture: <https://pasture.io/management/topping#what-is-topping-pasture>