

# AUTOGRASSMILK

## Economical evaluation of feeding costs in pilot farms at grazing

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# Economical evaluation of feeding costs in pilot farms at grazing

- How to evaluate ingested grass?
  - Evaluation of grass available for the cows
  - Evaluation of grass ingested by the cows



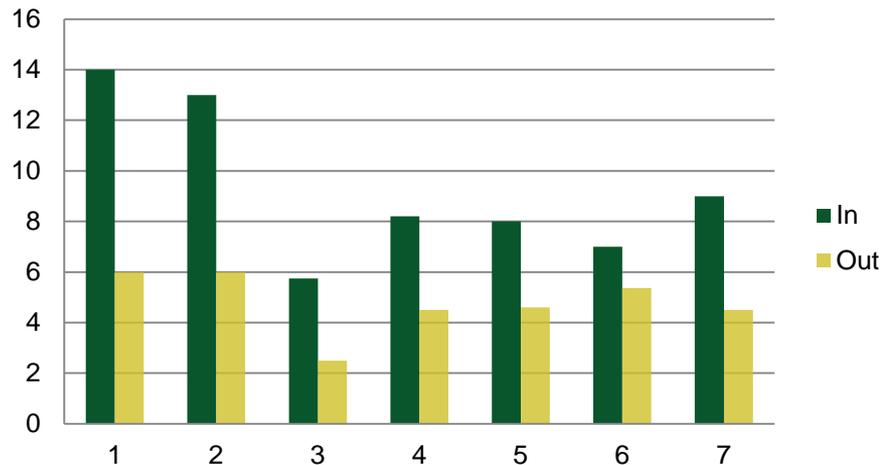
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# Evaluation of grass available for the cows

- Estimation of grass height

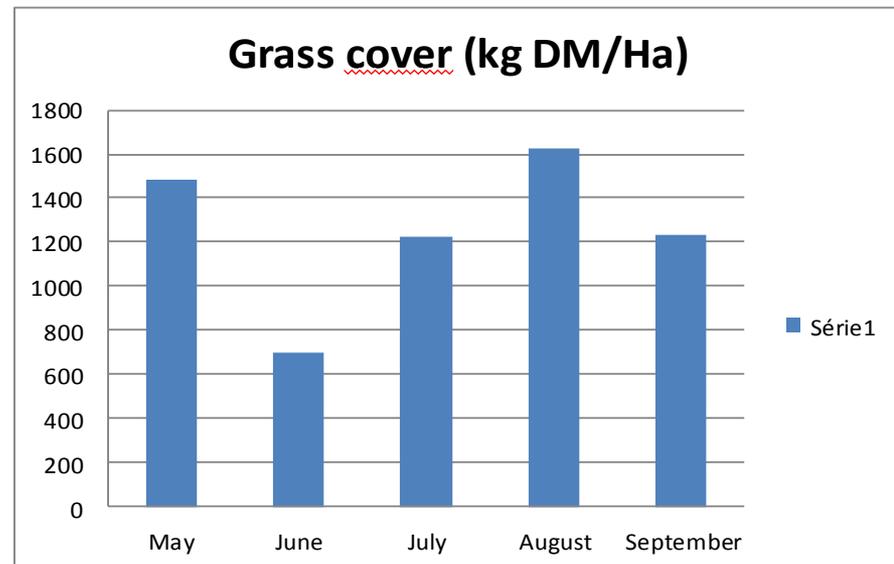
June - Grass Height: measurements in/out



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# Evaluation of grass available for the COWS

- Estimation of grass cover



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# Evaluation of grass available for the cows

- Door opening at 6 AM
- Distribution TMR: 6 PM
- TMR = 13 kg DM (without conc.)
- In average: 4 kg conc./cow/day

Parcel	Kg DM /cow/day
1	5,71
2	8,33
3	5,80
4	3,30
5	4,05
Mean	5,4



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# Evaluation of grass ingested

How much grass ingested?

$22 \text{ kg DM}^* - \text{DM TMR} - \text{DM concentrates} = \text{DM ingested grass}$

\*: reference value based on feed consumption in winter



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# Evaluation of grass ingested

	DM TMR	DM TMR + conc	Grass ingested?	% grass
April	17,2	21,9	0,1	0,5%
7/5/2013 - 17/6/2013	12,6	17,2	4,8	22%
17/6/2013- 16/7/2013	11,7	15,5	6,5	30%
17/07/2013- 22/8/2013	13,2	17,2	4,8	22%
22/8/2013- 16/9/2013	13,7	16,9	5,1	23%
17/09/2013	15,6	18,7	3,3	15%
October	17,9	21,1	0,9	4%



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# Feeding costs

- 2 methods for estimation:
  - Addition of costs of TMR + concentrates (1)
  - Addition of costs of TMR + concentrates + grass production (2)



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# Feeding costs

	Method 1	Method 2
Forages	Compensation wildlife	Compensation wildlife
Other feeds (wheat, corn, alfafa, ...)	Accountancy	Accountancy
Concentrates	Accountancy	Accountancy
Grass	-	% of grass valorised for grazing cows % applied to costs (seeds, fertilizers, energy, lease,..)



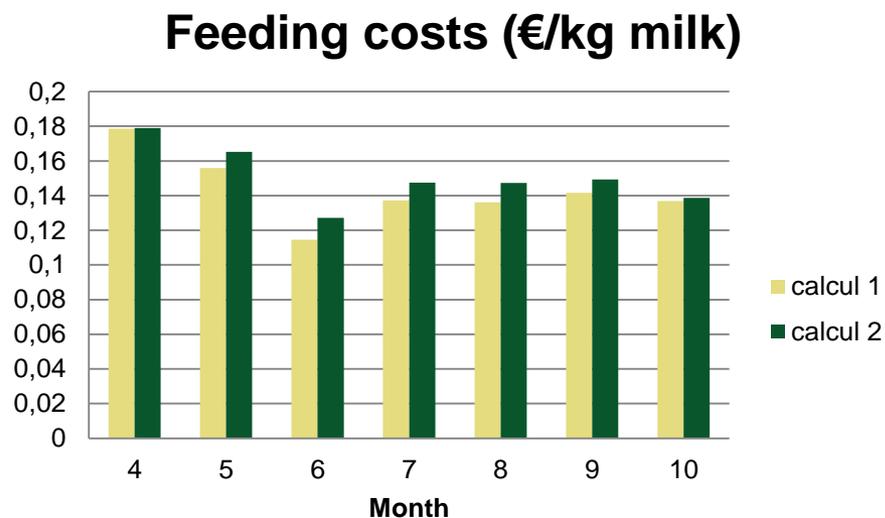
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# Feeding costs

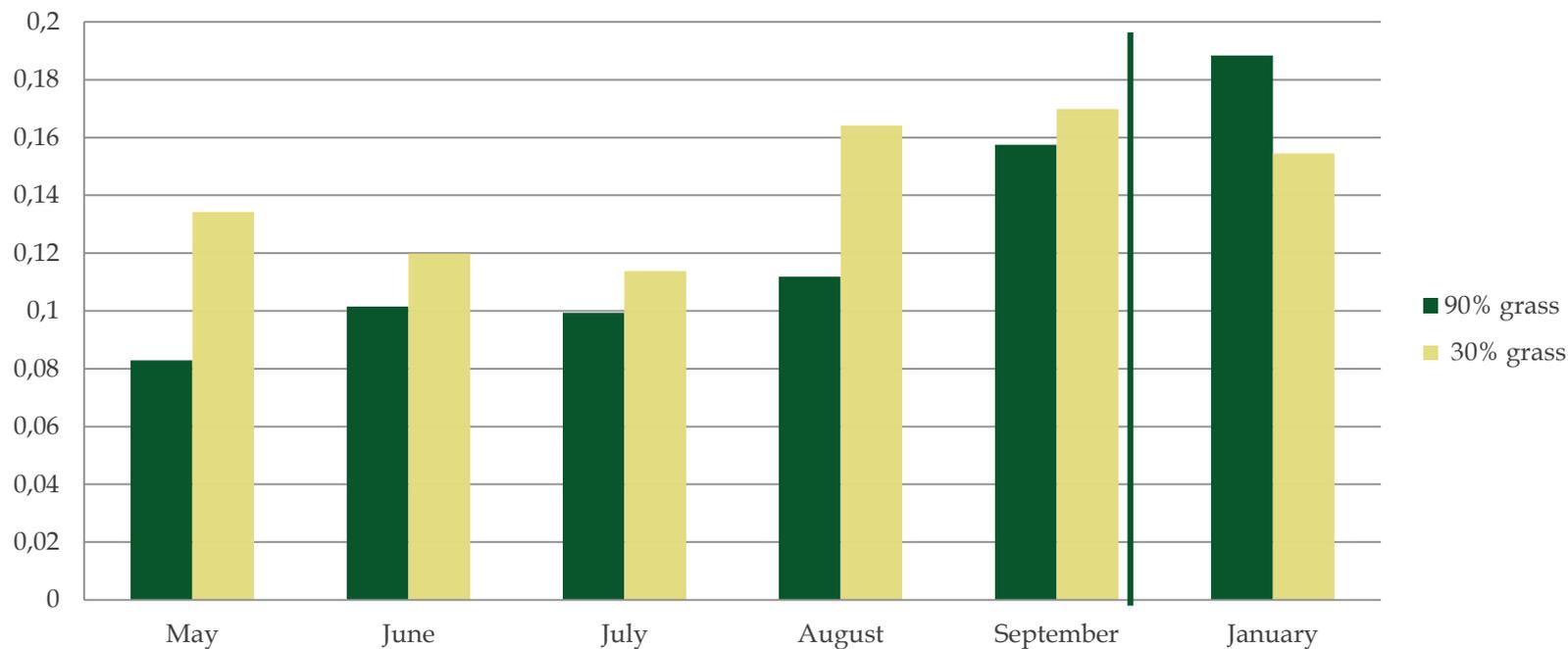
## Feeding costs method 1 et 2

Month	TMR (kg DM)	1	2
4	17,2	5,58	5,59
5	12,6	4,87	5,16
6	11,7	3,52	3,92
7	13,2	3,84	4,13
8	13,7	3,73	4,03
9	15,6	3,67	3,87
10	17,9	4,02	4,07



# Feeding costs: comparison of 2 pilot farms

Feeding costs (€/kg lait)  
in relationship with % grass during grazing



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# Conclusion

- Calculation methods require a good evaluation of



**TMR**  
Quantity,  
Refusals,...



**Animal  
Behaviour!**



**Pasture  
Refusals  
Palatability?**



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