

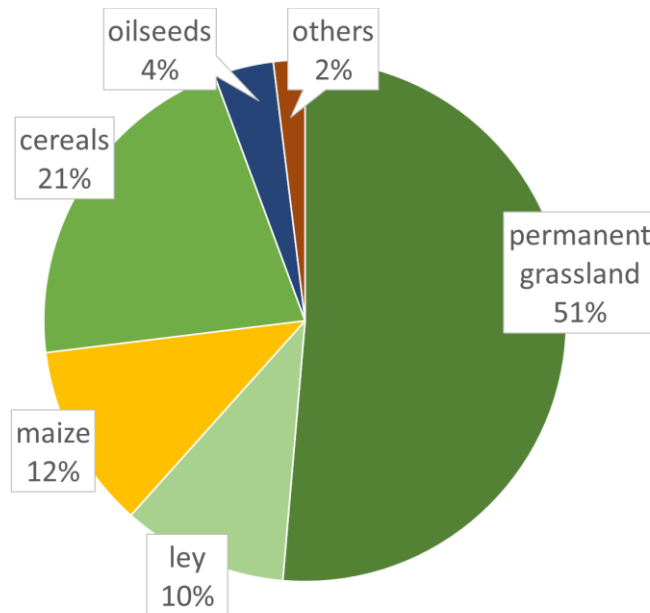


AGRI-ENVIRONMENT-CLIMATE MEASURE TO SUPPORT GRAZING WITH DAIRY COWS



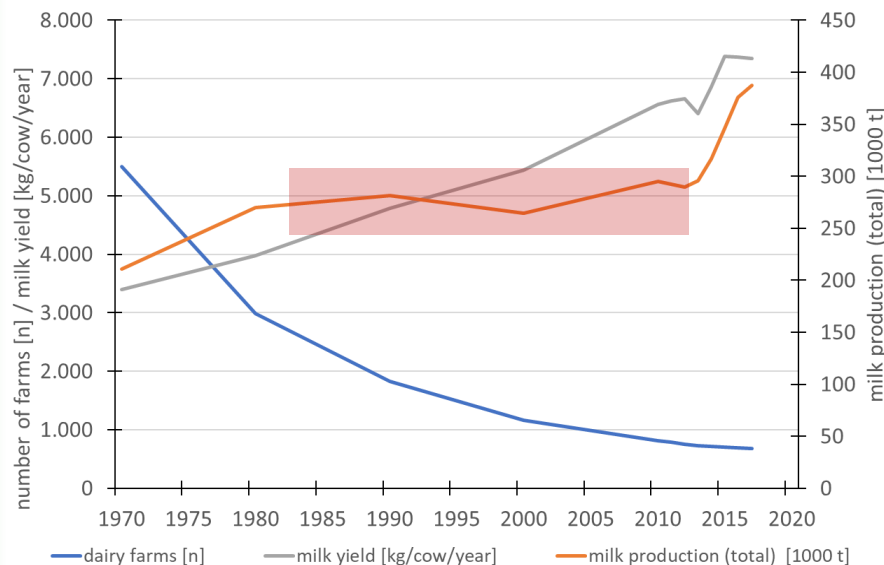
Farming in Luxembourg

UAA



- ▀ > 50% of UAA
 = permanent grassland
 due to pedo-climatic conditions
- ▀ +/- 75% of UAA
 = forage production
- ▀ Dairy & beef
 = most important production
 - ▀ 53.000 dairy cows
 - ▀ 29.000 beef cows

Dairy evolution



- ▀ Increase of milk production
 - ▀ + 35% in 5 years
 - ▀ very restricting quota regulation
- ▀ Decrease of nb. of dairy farms
 - ▀ with increasing herd size
- ▀ Decrease of grazing (nb. of farms)
 - 1980: 100%
 - 2018: 35%

Grazing Promotion in Luxembourg

Grassland and grazing promotion activities

- FILL WEED (2003-2005; 2006-2008)
- Dairyman (2009-2013)
- Autograssmilk (2015-2017; 2016-2019)



Objectifs

- Promote efficient grazing with growing dairy herds
- Respect local conditions
 - limited pasture availability (paddock parcelling, ..)
 - pasture alone diet rarely possible
 - supplementary feeding adaption according to available pasture
- High prevalence of AMS (> 20% farms)



Methods

- Pilot farm networking
- Financial compensation to stop the decrease of grazing farms in dairy production (since 2014)

AEC measure and grazing

AEC (Agri-environment-climate measures)

- motivate farmers for environment and climate matters
- commitment for at least one term of 5 years
- compensation payments for possible constraints

Environmental + climate benefits of grazing

- provides eco-system services, animal + farmer welfare
- offers structures and refuges in meadows to many species and
 - allows nesting of birds breeding on grassland (lapwing, whinchat, meadow pipit)
 - presence of livestock = presence of insects
- correctly managed grassland provides equilibrated feed in terms of energy and protein and decreases import of protein-feeds

Financial compensation (AEC)

- public founding (EU: 25%; LU: 75%) for
 - reduced milk yield in grazing systems
 - more complex herd-management (combined grazing and indoor feeding)
 - installation and adaption of innovative grazing infrastructures

Design of the AEC Grazing measure

- Declaration of a fixed area for compensation payment, grazed exclusively by lactating dairy cows
 - max. stocking density (7 dairy cows/ha declared area)
 - dairy herd has to be registered in the official milk control
 - guarantee of minimum 7-8 kg DM/day/cow grass-intake
 - well-managed half-day grazing system
 - harvesting forbidden during the main growing season
 - with 3 possible options:

- compulsory grazing over the whole vegetation period
- paddocks within a perimeter of 1.000 m to the milking unit (+accessibility)
- max. 7 cows/ha



spring

May 15th
mulching

a) July 15th
forage harvest
(250€/ha)

b) August 30th
forage harvest
(300€/ha)

autumn

complement to a+b: mulching date = harvest date (+50€/ha)

Results of the AEC Grazing measure

Financial compensation [c€/kg milk]

at an average milk yield
of 7.500 kg/cow/year

		Option [€/ha]	
		250	350
Stocking density [LU/ha]	5	0,7	0,9
	7	0,5	0,7

Participation (after 3 years)

110 farmers of 682 dairy farmers

12% of national milk production (40.000 t/year)

Evaluation/Perspectives

Exclusive grazing of the declared area by lactating cows

makes leader follower system impossible

obstacle for some farmers to participate

necessary revision if AEC to be continued in next programming period!?

Introduction of innovative technologies (sensors, satellites, ...)

Evaluate impact of grazing on GHG and other ecosystem services

Introduction of a grazing label?

Development of a competent grazing advisory



Thanks for your attention!

Questions?