

# Grazing in France and its future

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**MultiSward**



**MULTI-SPECIES SWARDS AND MULTI SCALE STRATEGIES FOR MULTIFUNCTIONAL GRASSLAND-BASED RUMINANT PRODUCTION SYSTEMS**

# Grazing is still an important part of the annual diet of French cattle

(t DM/year)	Grazing	Conserved grass	Maize silage	Other forage	concentrate
Suckler herd	<b>2.78</b>	1.85	0.33	0.04	0.35
Young bulls fattening	<b>0.49</b>	0.54	1.95	0.72	2.31
Dairy in plain					
“grassland based”	<b>2.44</b>	2.19	0.11	0.06	0.63
“maize based”	<b>0.79</b>	0.87	2,97	0,18	1,16
Dairy in mountains	<b>2.00</b>	2.67	0.10	0.03	1.07

Most than 90% of the dairy cow are currently grazing

# Conditions for the use of the grassland are highly variable

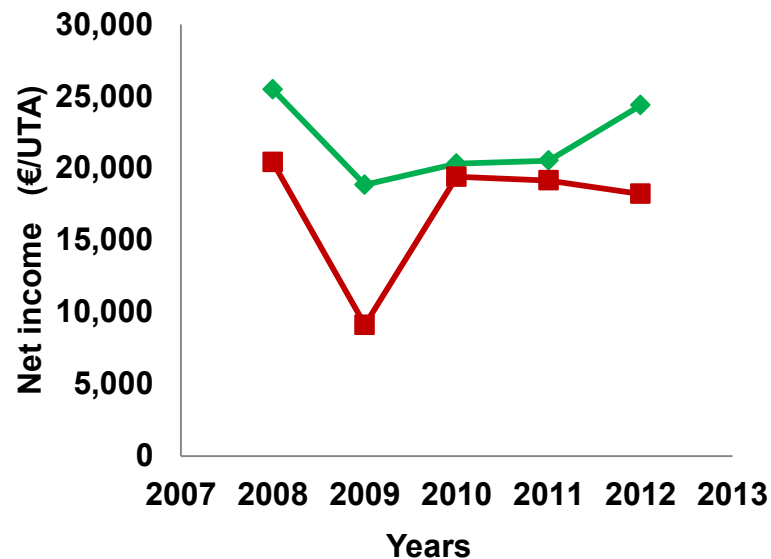


Dairy / Suckler cows / sheep  
Intensive / extensive  
Plains / mountains



# Dairy systems in plain using Grassland are competitive

	<b>French FADN</b>	<b>RAD</b>
AA (ha)	78	56
Crops	20	8
Maize (%forage area)	32	11
Quota (10 <sup>3</sup> L)	349	266



*However, many farmers are not convinced and think that  
“the more I produce the more I win “*

# The future on grazing in France

- **Is grazing an important issue for the society and farmers**

Society	Farmers
Not really concerned – probably yes	In mountain/less favored area : yes In plain : some farmers are confident and are activists, others are more reluctant and grazing is perceived as a constraint

- **What is the future of grazing in France**
  - In mountain/difficult area : overall maintenance of grazed area
  - In more intensive region : a decline
    - intensification of dairy production
    - discontinuation of dairy production at the expense of crop production
    - Nitrate directive

# Biggest challenge for grazing and forage production research in the next decade

- **Some technical levers to explore**
  - Value 1 to 3 t DM/ha than today thanks to better grassland and herd management (avoid wastages)
  - Increase DM yield thanks to MSS and quality of conserved forages
- **Others ways of action**
  - Communication
  - Revisiting the evaluation criteria of grassland performances to better communicate with different stakeholders
  - Training and consulting : Provide tools and adapted repositories