Grazing in Europe 2016
Agnes van den Pol-van Dasselaar
The farmer decides...
Arguments

Technical Economy / labour
Social

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Technical: for grazing you need grazing space
Economy / labour
Social: mindset of the farmer
Research themes

MORE MILK FROM GRASS
MORE MONEY AND LESS LABOUR
MIND-SET FARMER

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Opinions and thoughts
Educated guess

93 responses (88 completed)
My estimate of grazing is ....
Grazing in Europe - North

Norway: 90% in 2016, slightly decreasing
Sweden: 100%, welfare legislation, six weeks to four months outside
Finland: 70% in 2016. Cows in tie stalls have to be let outdoors for 60 days between 1.5-30.9
Grazing in Europe - West

Ireland: 99% in 2010 and 2011, 98% in 2014, 95-100% in 2016, stable

UK: 92% in 2013, 80-90% in 2016
- 95% in Northern Ireland in 2016
- 70% in Wales in 2016
Grazing in Europe – Central – more than 50%

The Netherlands, 90% in 2001, 70% in 2014
- Premium for 120/6, increase in activities supporting farmers that graze
Belgium: 85-95% in 2010, 75-80% in 2014, 60-85% in 2016 (more grazing in Wallonia than in Flanders), stable in Wallonia, decreasing in Flanders
Luxembourg: 90% in 2008, 75-85% free access in 2010, 73% in 2014, 75% in 2016, slightly decreasing
France: 90-95% in 2011, 90% in 2014, 75-95% in 2016
Switzerland: 85-100% in 2011, 75-90% in 2014, 80-97% in 2016
Grazing in Europe - Central – less than 50%


Germany: 42% of the milking cows are grazing in 2009, 10-50% in 2016

Austria: 25% in 2011, 40% in 2016, stable
Grazing in Europe - East

Poland: 20% in 2016, quickly decreasing
Estonia: 35% in 2011
Lithuania: 50-70% in 2014
Czech Republic: 20% in 2010, 3% in 2016
Bosnia and Herzegovina: 5% in 2011
Slovenia: 25% in 2010, 20% in 2016, slightly decreasing
Hungary: 70% of all LSU (cows, sheep, horses, goats) are grazing in 2010, 2-3% grazing dairy cows in 2016, stable
Bulgaria: sheep and goat: always, dairy: on big farms NO, on smaller farms grazing; 50% in 2016
Grazing in Europe - South

Portugal: 50% in 2010, increasing

NW Spain: 20% in 2010, 18.5% in 2014; 10-30% in 2016

Greece: 15% in 2010, less than 10% in 2011, 10% in 2016, slightly increasing

Italy: 10-20% in 2016, slightly increasing
Is the percentage grazing increasing or decreasing?
Grazing in Ireland, the Netherlands and Denmark

Van den Pol-van Dasselaar, 2016
Grazing in Europe

Country specific
East and South ◀ North and West
Even though data are often only an educated guess:
• In general, the popularity of grazing is declining
  - Less cows
  - Less days yr$^{-1}$
  - Less hours d$^{-1}$
Importance of grazing for different groups on a scale of 1 to 10 (where 1 is unimportant and 10 is important)
### Propositions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposition</th>
<th>Fully disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Fully agree</th>
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<td>Grazing contributes to the image of the dairy sector</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>28</td>
<td><strong>64</strong></td>
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<td>Grazing is profitable</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
<td><strong>44</strong></td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grazing leads to higher labour costs</td>
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<td><strong>42</strong></td>
<td>33</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management of grazing is more complex than management of full housing</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td><strong>44</strong></td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What technology and grass and cow measurements could assist farmers?

1. Real time reliable grass intake measurements

- Real time yield estimates / predictions of grass growth
- Real time forage quality measurements
- GPS – monitoring cattle behaviour
- Fence that is easy to move
Thank you for your attention