

TOOL: Supporting grazing management



Brittany (F)

Simple decision tool for grazing management

Herb'Avenir:

- Supports decision making
 - Shows consequences of different tactics (grazing/cutting) under three grass growth estimations
- For dairy farmers and advisors
 - Used by dairy advisors in several French regions
 - Easy to adapt to other regions
 - providing the supply of a grass growth profile.

2. On July 1st, the 25 dairy cows have 32 days ahead (DA)

DATA										RESULTS										
Today					In the future...					Today 01/07/05										
Date	01/07/2005				For...	30 days		30 days			With the whole area	8.95 ha								
Post grazing height	6.0 cm				Allocated forages	0 kg DM/anim/d		6 kg DM/anim/d			That is	36 ares/animal								
Animals' type	Dairy cows (6 to 8 t)				Allocated concentrates	2 kg /anim/d		2 kg /anim/d			Days ahead	32								
Number of animals	25				Number of animals	25		25			Grass budget / animal (kg DM/anim)	548								
Mesures					Other utilization of paddocks					IF 1.05 ha are not used for grazing										
N°	Paddock	Area	Height (cm)	DA	Harvest date					That is	32 ares/animal									
1	P1	1.2	10.1	2.5	Harvest					Days ahead	22									
2	P2	1.1	14.8	4.8	10/07/2005					Grass budget / animal (kg DM/anim)	372									
3	P3	1.1	14.5	4.6						Harvestable grass (t DM)	4.4									
4	P4	1.1	25.0	10.3						In the future...										
5	P5	1.3	14.0	5.4						IF 1.05 ha are not used for grazing										
6	P6	1.0	9.4	1.8						Grass growth hypothesis					pessimistic normal optimistic					
7	P7	1.0	7.4	0.7						Period 1 31/07/05										
8	P8	1.3	9.1	2.1						Area per animal					35 ares/animal					
9										Grass growth (kg DM/ha/day)					28 34 40					
10										Grass supply (kg DM/anim/day)					9 11 12					
11										Days ahead (at the end of the period)					8 12 15					
12										Grass budget / animal (kg DM/anim)					144 198 253					
13										Period 2 30/08/05										
14										Area per animal					36 ares/animal					
15										Grass growth (kg DM/ha/day)					20 26 32					
16										Grass supply (kg DM/anim/day)					6 8 10					
17										Days ahead (at the end of the period)					2 9 15					
18										Grass budget / animal (kg DM/anim)					38 150 263					

1. Information paddocks: names, areas and sward heights measured on July 1st.

3. If the paddock 4 (25 cm) is cut on July 10th and if for 30 days, cows are supplemented with only 2 kg concentrates (no forage):
→ Days ahead on July 26: between 8 and 15.
Forage supplementation will then start after this date.

Advantage:

- Quick (10 minutes when paddocks' sward heights are known)
- Environmental and economic

