

Diversified farm works with neighbouring farmers



Nord – Pas de Calais (F)

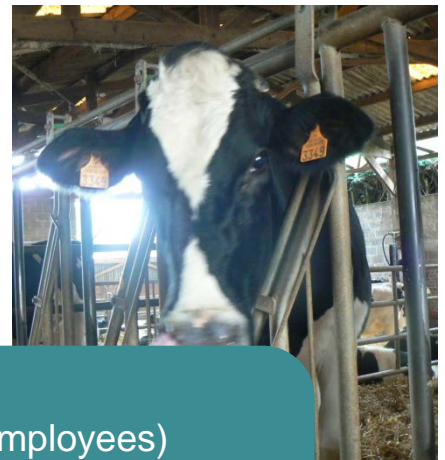
Example of successful cooperation between dairy farmers, and arable farmers to simplify the work and to decrease the environmental pressure

Cooperation partners

- The Blondeel farm: a mixed farm with dairy cows, pigs, crops and strawberries
- Neighbouring farmers
- Farmers of the region

Cooperation activities

- Exchange manure against straw
- Free export of slurry
- Sugar beet cultivation by neighbours



Blondeel farm :

2.3 LU (2 brothers, 0,3 employees)
59 ha AA (17 ha grassland, 21 ha maize)
53 cows – 435 000 l quota
40 sows + pigs fattening
0.7 ha strawberry



The benefits

■ For the Blondeel farmers

- **Free export for 50% of their manure and slurry production**
Own farm area is insufficient to use all animal manure. Some areas are closed for slurry. The contracts reduce the 'manure pressure' and the work load.
- **Free straw**
- **Save time, work and investment**
By 'outsourcing' 3 ha of sugar beets to a neighbour they keep their share right of beet pulp.

■ For the arable farmers

- **Free organic fertilizers**
Saves chemical fertilizers (and money), and improves soil quality.
- **More efficient machinery use**
Increased sugar beet area.

Added benefit for society?

- **At farm scale**
manure and slurry exports strongly decrease the organic pressure and so reduce the risk of nitrate leeching.
- **At regional scale**
cooperation demonstrates to society the efforts of farmers to reduce their environmental impact.

