Pilot Farm

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FARM STRATEGY:

- Long term: gradual growth combined with thinking in cycles and reduction of greenhouse gasses
- Short term: minimize input of chemical fertilizers and concentrates

"Do things others don't do. This brings progress."

FARM CHARACTERISTICS (2011):

soil type	clay/sand
grassland (ha)	65.4
maize (ha)	12.1
other fodder crops (ha)	8.7
arable crops (ha)	12.9
cows	105
young stock	103
young stock/10 cows	9.8
quota (kg)	1,026,640
milk production (kg/cow/yr)	9,880
intensity (kg milk/ha)	12,040
concentrate use (kg/100 kg milk)	15.2
milking parlour	2x6 fishbone
stable	150 cubicles
particulars	no external input concentrates

MILESTONES:

1987 – Farm re-location

1999 – Start farm enterprise with partner

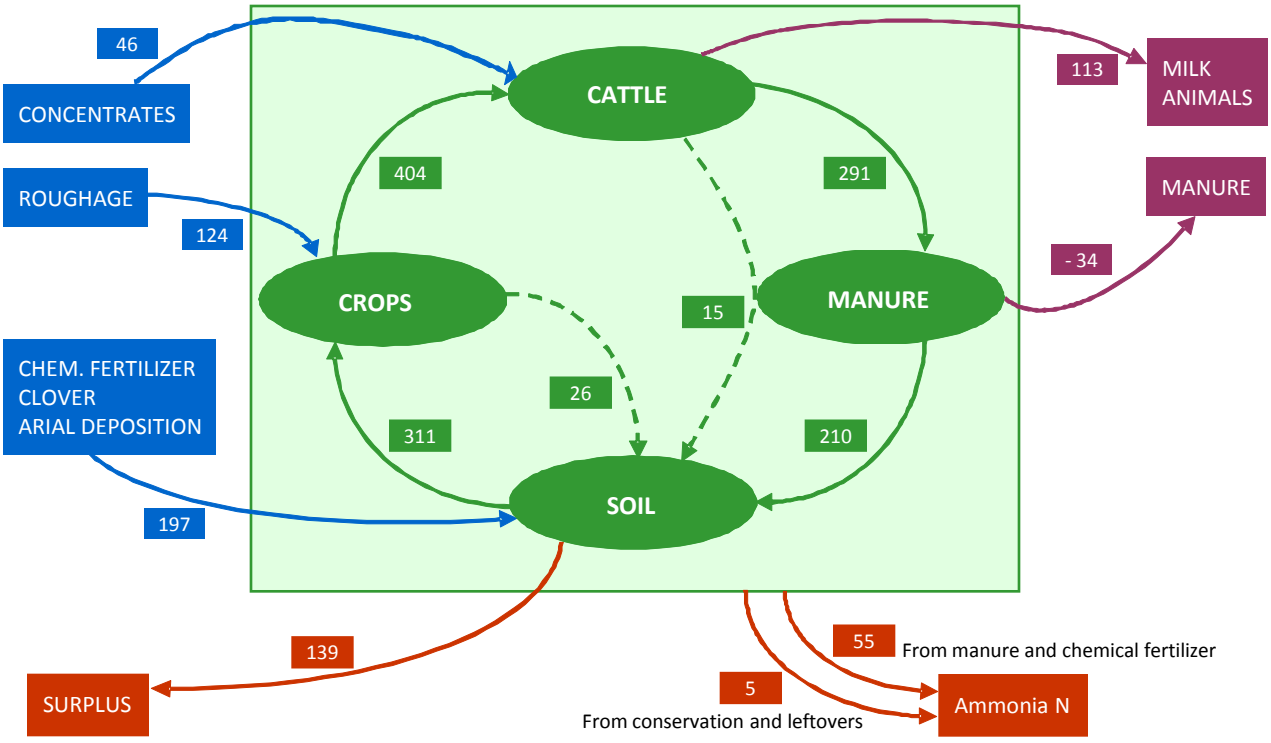
2000 – On-farm production concentrates

2010 – Join project Cows & Opportunities

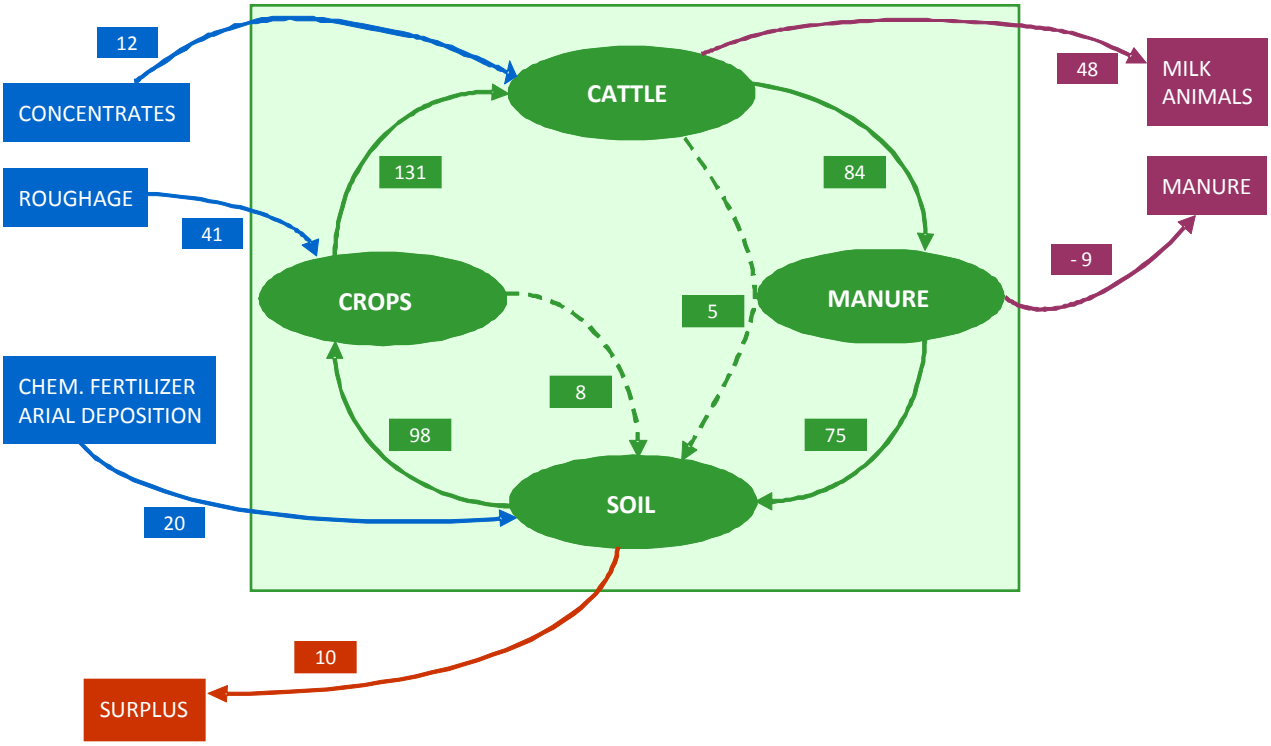
Fertilization 2011

(per ha)	Slurry m^3	Chemical fertilizer kg N	kg P_2O_5
Grass	**92**	**185**	**33**
Maize	**4**	**13**	**6**

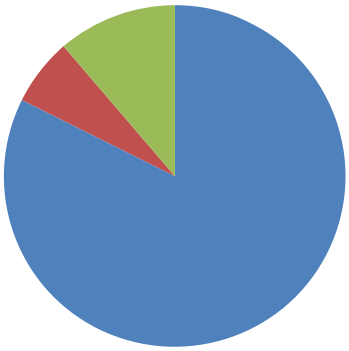
Nitrogen cycle 2011 (kg N/ha)

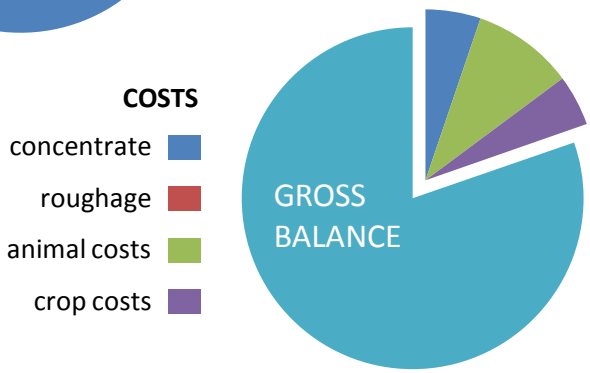


Phosphate cycle 2011 (kg P_2O_5/ha)



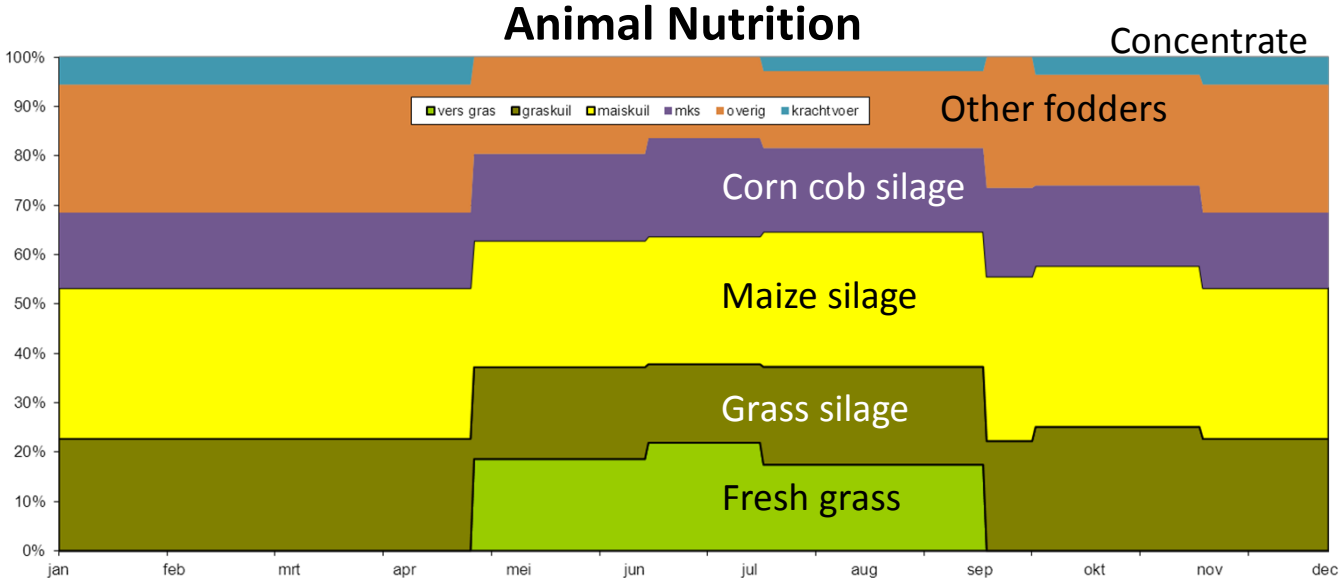
Farm economics (2010)



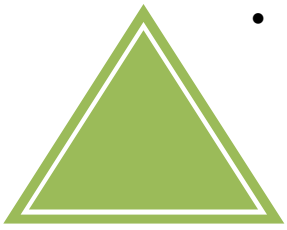


	€/100 kg milk
YIELDS	
milk	34.9
animals	2.7
other	4.8
	42.4
COSTS	
concentrate	2.2
roughage	-
other fodders	0.7
breeding	0.8
animal health	1.3
other animal costs	1.3
fertilization	0.8
other crop costs	1.3
	8.3
GROSS BALANCE	**34.0**

Animal Nutrition



Improvement projects



ECONOMY
- *Increase herd yield (meat/animals)*
- *Efficient embedding of young stock*

LABOUR
- *Improve insight in peaks and lows*
- *Planning farm labour*

ENVIRONMENT
- *Reducing energy use*
- *Improve understanding of cycle(s)*

Steps

	Period	Action	Improvement
Less fertilizers	2011	use mineral concentrate/flush water from air washers/others	reduction non-farm CO_2
Energy production	2011	putting up windmill	no external electricity input
Optimise farm plan	2011	thorough discussion on fertilization and cropping plan	reduce nitrous oxide, commonly known as laughing gas or sweet air

"Slurry separation enables me to use my phosphates more efficiently on my arable land."

"We have over 100 micro-digesters on our farm!"

Joris succeeds in avoiding the purchase of externally produced concentrates.

In place, beside beans, he feeds wheat yeast concentrate, brewer's grain and corn cob silage.

DAIRYMAN is a European project involving 7 countries of the North West of Europe. 10 regions and 14 partners. The aim of Dairyman is to strengthen rural communities in these regions where dairy farming is a main economic activity and a vital form of land use.

DAIRYMAN pilot farms are a platform for communication and exchange where other farmers can gather information and advice.

DAIRYMAN pilot farmers are also members of the Dutch project Cows & Opportunities. In this project 16 dairy famers. KTC De Marke. Wageningen UR and advisory services cooperate. On request of the ministry of Agriculture and the Dairy Board the project field-tests. evaluates and improves the effectiveness and feasibility of the (proposed) environmental legislation in farm practice and supports the Dutch dairy sector with its implementation. Cows & Opportunities works at a future for neat dairy farmers. The results are found at: www.koeienenkansen.nl (in Dutch).

Investing in Opportunities
This project has received European Regional Development Funding through INTERREG IV B.
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