Pilot farm

Geert en Dineke Stevens

Holten

FARM STRATEGY:

"Farming in balance"

"Financial result is at the top,

producing appropriately with the environment is an pre condition"

FARM CHARACTERISTICS (2021):

Soil type	Sand
Grassland (ha)	40,4
maize (ha)	5,7
cows	102
Young stock	26
Young stock/10 cows	2,5
Quota	820,292
Milk production (kg/cow/yr)	8,026
intensity (kg MM milk/ha)	17,740
Concentrate use (kg/100kg milk)	22
Milking parlour	2 X 12 zij aan zij
Cubicles	140

MILESTONES:

2000 – Partnership with parents started

2008 – New build cubicles stable

2017 – Dineke and Geert in partnership

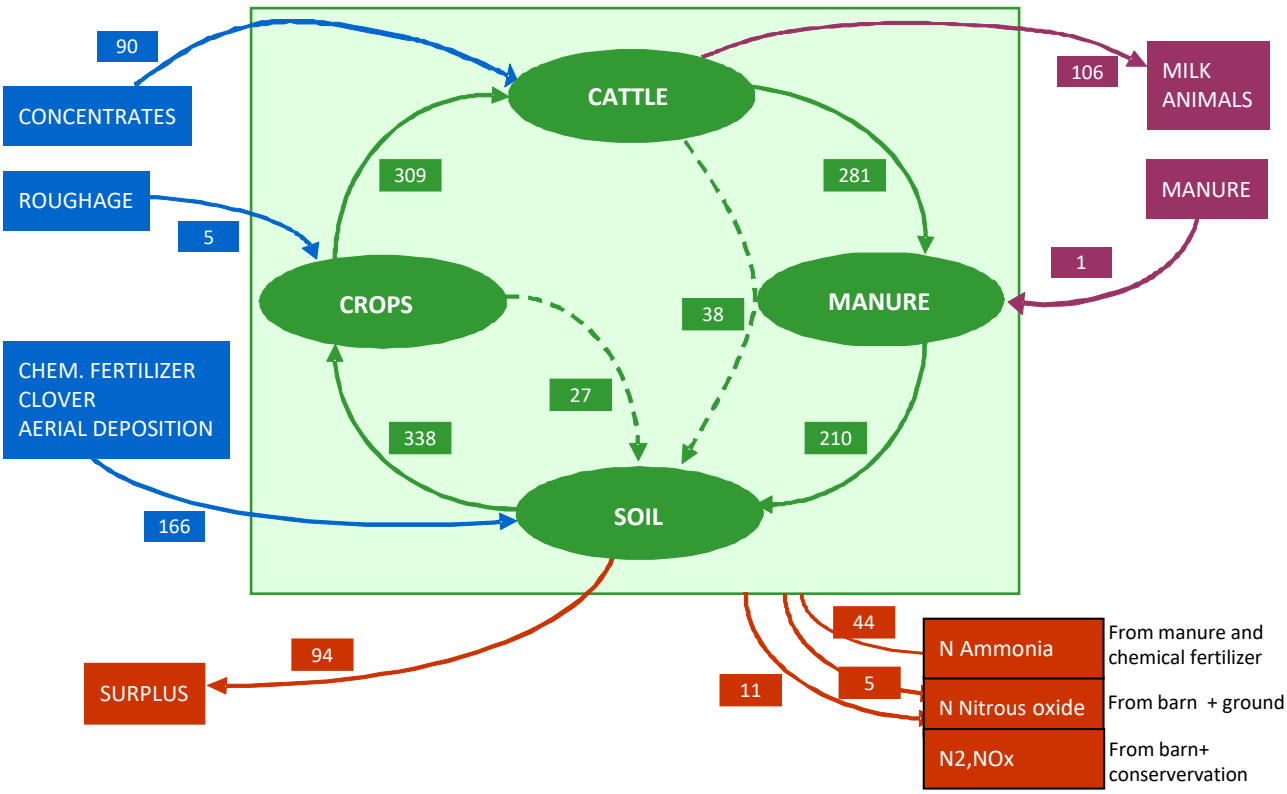
2018 – Participant Cows and opportunities

Fertilization 2021

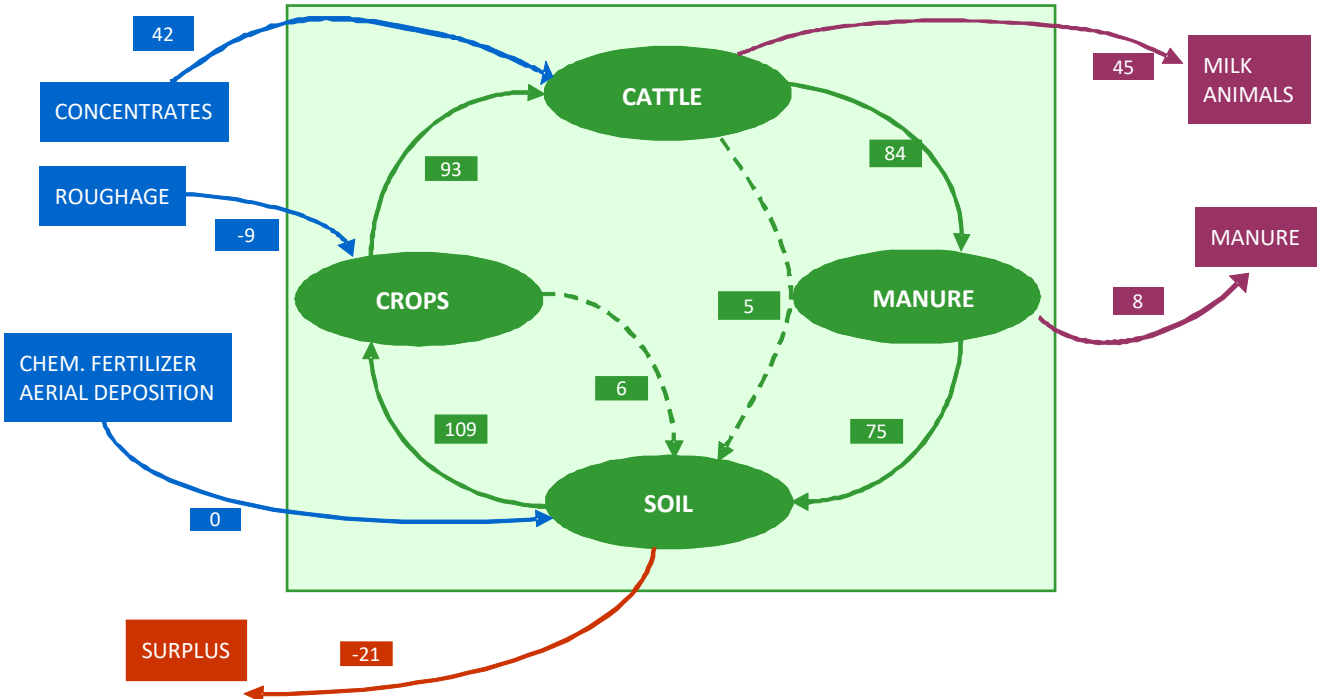
(per ha)	Grassland m^3	Grassland kg N	Grassland kg P_2O_5	Maize land m^3	Maize land kg N	Maize land kg P_2O_5	
Slurry	52	203	62	50	296	80	0
Chemical fertil.	147	0		33	0		0
Manure (graz.)	60	18		0	0		
Deposition	31			31			0
Legumes	30			0			0
TOTAL	445	80		361	80		31

* Gross amount of N, so incl. NH3 losses during application/grazing
The amount of nitrogen is not only the active part, but total

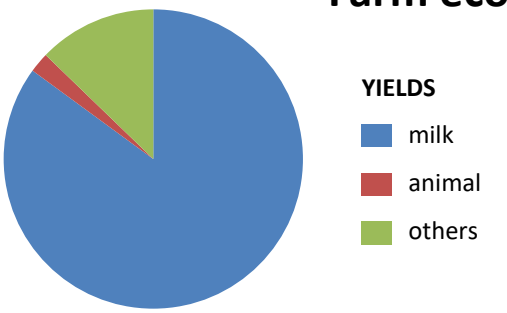
Nitrogen cycle 2021 (kg N/ha)



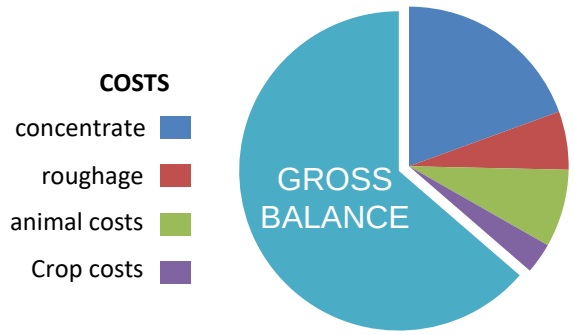
Phosphate cycle 2021 (kg P_2O_5/ha)



Farm economics (2020)

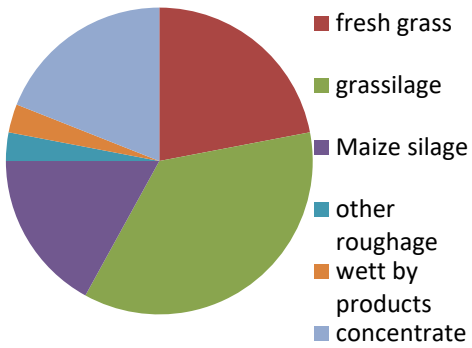


€/100 kg milk	
YIELDS	
milk	41.74
animal	1.06
other	6.27
	49,7
COSTS	
concentrate	6.84
roughage	2.80
other fodders	1.21
breeding	1.02
animal health	2.14
other animal costs	0.47
fertilization	0.66
other crop costs	0.85
Cost for manure disposal	0.92
Other. variable costs	1.17
Total costs	18.08
GROSS BALANCE	**30.99**



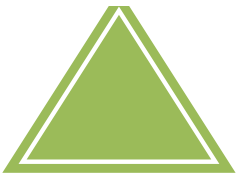
Animal Nutrition

Ration characteristics complete herd	
VEM (energy)-content ration (g/kg dm)	970
RE-content total ration (g/kg dm)	153
P content (g/kg dm)	3.6
kg concentrate / 100 kg milk (incl. young)	22
Nitrogen efficiency complete herd (%)	27.3
Phosphate efficiency complete herd (%)	35.1
kg FPCM / kg dm feed intake	1.23
(%)	
fresh grass	22
grass silage	36
maize silage	17
other roughage	3
Wett by products	3
concentrate	19



Improvement projects

ECONOMY



- *Increase feed balance (by means of more fresh grass)*

LABOUR

- *Increase employment (higher income per hour worked)*

ENVIRONMENT

- *Increase protein from your own country*
- *Increase N-efficiency livestock*
- *Raising water level*

Steps

	Period	Action
1	2020	Installing BES strips
2	2021	Increase fresh grass intake by 40%
3	2021	Corn bean cultivation
4	2022	Optimizing outdoor grazing through smart farming
5	2022	Increasing biodiversity

“Quality of roughage is very important. Combining this with a high (protein) yield is a challenge’’

“Starting pasture grazing early in spring results in low feed costs”

"Breeding young cattle is very important, they are the ones who will shape the future"

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 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).