

## Grazing4AgroEcology

Second Newsletter  
May 2023



# Grazing4AgroEcology

## Second Newsletter -May 2023

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### Dear readers,

In this overview we will discuss about:

- The most recent developments concerning grazing methods in Romania, Germany, The Netherlands, France and Sweden.
- The recent undertakings of a project that focuses on promoting sustainable and economically feasible grazing practices in ruminant farms.
- The upcoming events to look forward to.

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For more info:



Grazing4AgroEcology



[grazing4agroecology.eu](https://grazing4agroecology.eu)



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# Grazing & Grazing Technologies



Grazing and grazing technologies play a crucial role in the agricultural sector, meeting the food demands of a growing global population. With the challenges posed by climate change, population growth, and economic pressures, the significance of grazing technologies is increasingly recognized. Innovative tools like precision grazing tools, solar-powered fencing, and high-tech herding equipment are revolutionizing grazing management, enabling farmers to efficiently manage their livestock and grazing lands while promoting environmental sustainability.



Climate-smart practices like rotational grazing and regenerative agriculture are gaining traction, enhancing soil health, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and bolstering resilience to climate change. Recent research emphasizes the nutritional benefits of grazing animals, which produce meat and dairy products richer in nutrients like omega-3 fatty acids and antioxidants. These trends and developments are empowering farmers to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of their grazing operations while delivering high-quality products. As technology and practices continue to advance, the grazing industry will evolve to meet the demands of the modern world.

For more information click [here](#). 



Regenerative grazing practices are gaining interest as they aim to improve soil health, reduce carbon emissions, and enhance biodiversity. Technological advancements such as GPS tracking, remote sensing, drones, and high-tech herding equipment are also transforming grazing land and livestock management. However, changing weather patterns and extreme events caused by climate change necessitate adaptation strategies for livestock and grazing management. Indigenous grazing practices are receiving renewed attention for their contributions to biodiversity, ecosystem health, and cultural heritage.

For more information click [here](#). 



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# UPDATES ON PROJECT MEMBERS ACTIVITIES



March 21-23, 2023

## The second General Partner Assembly for the Grazing4AgroEcology (G4AE) project

Between March 21-23, the 2nd meeting of the consortium's General Assembly took place in Lisbon and Évora, marking an interesting event for all those involved.

Throughout the days, project partners gave presentations and provided updates on the various work packages, engaged in fruitful discussions, shared knowledge, and looked for synergies between the different updates of the work package. The meeting ended with a field visit to Évora, where participants had the opportunity to discuss about grazing systems, soil management and to participate in interactive group discussions.

The days spent together were extremely productive, encouraging collaboration and improving understanding. With each meeting, the project continues to progress, moving forward toward its goals.

## G4AE SURVEY 2023

The main objective of this survey is to gain a deeper understanding of the perspectives held by farmers and agricultural students in relation to grazing practices. This valuable information will be used to develop customized educational materials that cater to their specific needs.

Press the button to access the survey.



In addition to exploring the importance of topics related to livestock and the social environment of participants, the survey will also seek their opinions on the challenges that hinder grazing practices and the factors that motivate its implementation. Towards the end of the survey, respondents will have the opportunity to answer general questions and provide feedback on individual survey questions. The estimated completion time for the survey is approximately 5-10 minutes.

The primary aim of this survey is to collect comprehensive information that will significantly contribute to the objectives of the Grazing4AgroEcology project. By gaining insights into the mindset of farmers and agricultural students, the project aims to develop educational resources tailored specifically to their needs and challenges. The valuable input and participation of the respondents will play a crucial role in advancing knowledge and best practices in grazing within the agricultural sector.



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# FOSTERING THE SUSTAINABLE GRAZING IN FARMS

## Learning from practice: farmers' interviews

On the farm, visitors received a presentation about the farm's location and were shown around the main buildings such as cowsheds and barns. They were shown the main innovations of the farmers, they could see the importance of joining cooperatives in order to access non-reimbursable funds and get a better price for selling milk. Among the advantages of sustainable grazing, the following were mentioned: improved soil quality and biodiversity, increased efficiency and productivity, reduced feed costs and increased profitability.

Farmers rely on agricultural machinery like choppers, rakes, and mowers to optimize their activities and achieve higher yields. Specialized equipment is used in animal sheds for milking, generating electricity, and managing liquid waste. In the next period, the facilitating agents from the project will return to the farms in order to create a promotional film for the farm's activities.



## ROMANIA

### Event: Convert grazing into an economically viable practice

The Agraria Fair in Jucu county, Romania, hosted on 24th April 2023 the workshop "Convert grazing into an economically viable practice." The workshop specifically targeted young farmers and students in agriculture, animal husbandry, and rural development.

The workshop included three presentations and a discussion session. The first presentation was given by Prof. Mugurel Jitea, the project coordinator for Romania in the G4AE project from USAMV Cluj-Napoca. He discussed the objectives of the network, as well as grazing and agroecological innovations. He also highlighted planned activities for young farmers, including meetings and international Young Farmers Tours that aim to improve grazing practices strategically. During his presentation, Prof. Jitea provided examples of economically sustainable grazing exploitation. Dr. Eng. Adrian Gliga delivered the second presentation, focusing on the role of grazing, its benefits for animals, and the rational use of pastures.

The final presentation was given by Eng. Florin Burzo, the manager of Agricultural Cooperative Tibles-Somes-Meles.

Eng. Burzo shared his personal experiences as a farmer, highlighting the daily routines, challenges, and achievements on his cow farm. The workshop attracted 76 participants, including students, farmers, professors, and stakeholders. It provided a valuable platform for young farmers and students to gain insights into the economic viability of grazing and to familiarize themselves with the associated best practices.



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# PROJECT MEMBERS ACTIVITY

## GERMANY

During this time, Germany experienced a significant event in the agricultural domain. The noteworthy occasion was the Young Farmers Group Meeting that took place at the University of Göttingen. The primary focus of the gathering was "Current Research on Pasturelands in Low-Mountain Grasslands." This meeting served as an opportunity to collect ideas for a comprehensive survey and to make preparations for the upcoming Young Farmers Tour.



The Grazing4AgroEcology network held its inaugural meeting in April, uniting farmers who are committed to grazing and pasture-based food production. One of the highlighted farms is a successful family-run operation located near Bremen. This farm practices continuous grazing and manages a herd of around 200 cows. Notably, they have implemented a custom-built water hose system and ensured the availability of trees for providing fresh water and shade to the animals.



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### THE NETHERLANDS

In March 2023, the Grazing4AgroEcology project initiated a study group on grazing, hosting its first meeting at Tom Lugtenberg's dairy farm in Olst. Farmers from various regions and management practices came together to explore grazing optimizations, including strategies like feeding fresh grass, measuring grass height, utilizing small plots, and identifying the most effective grazing system. Dr. Deirdre Hennessy, Teagasc presented insights from the Irish context, highlighting how stringent grazing management and robust grass growth contribute to increased profitability for dairy farmers compared to arable or beef farming. The meeting concluded with a farm tour at Tom Lugtenberg's dairy farm.






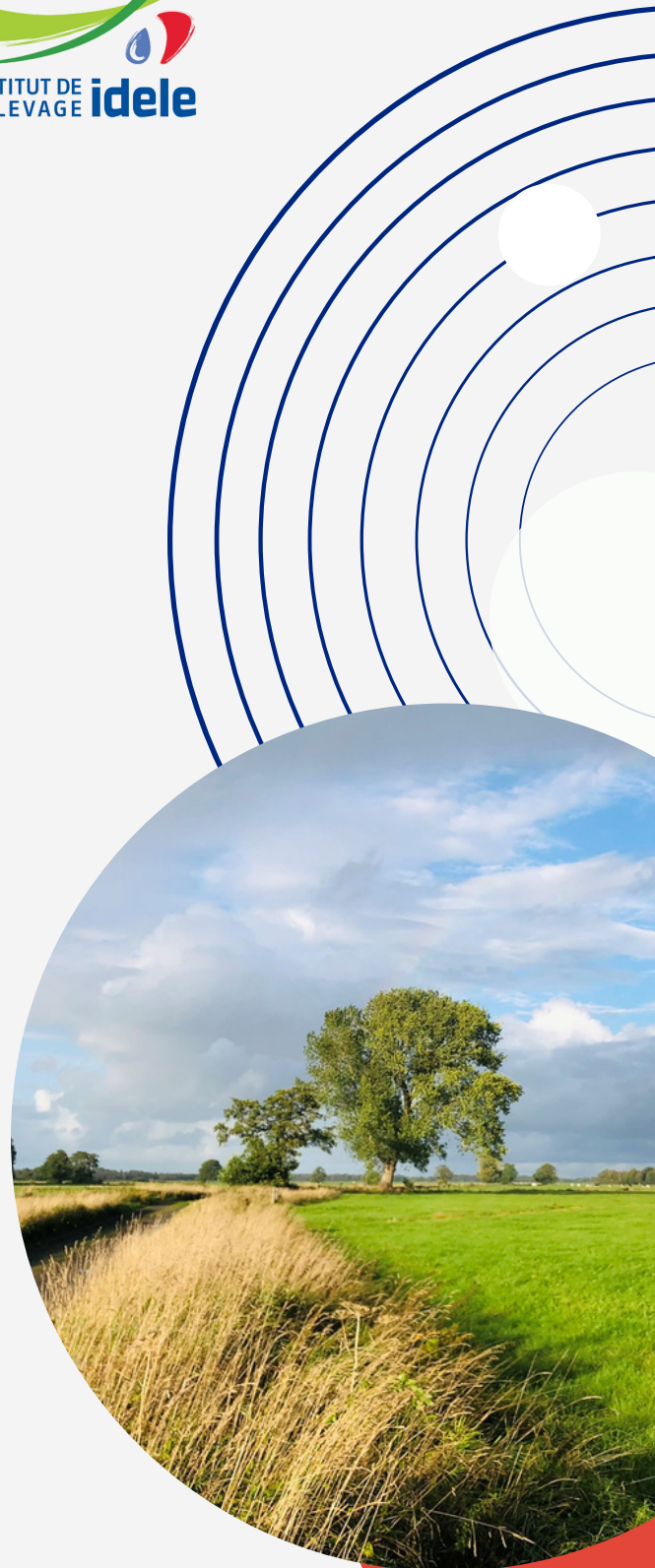


### France

During the month of April in 2023, a significant gathering took place at the renowned Trevarez Brittany Experimental Farm in France. This event, known as the First Young Farmers' Meeting, was meticulously orchestrated by a team of dedicated professionals from France.

The event encompassed various topics including grazing, exploring both its advantages and challenges, and delving into a wide range of related subjects.

To view the complete video, please press the button here 



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## Project members activity



### Sweden

A field visit was conducted on May 22, 2023, at Krusenberg in Sweden to study semi-natural grasslands. The aim was to explore the vegetation variation, plant species, land use effects, and environmental conditions in these grasslands. The visit also included discussions on the challenges and opportunities associated with grazing in semi-natural grasslands. The grasslands in Sweden exhibit diverse characteristics such as varying vegetation types, tree and shrub cover, soil moisture, and soil types. Grazing management practices and historical land use further contribute to the complexity. The field visit included presentations by experts on biodiversity, livestock grazing perspectives, and knowledge-sharing about the location. Participants explored different areas, including old arable land and a rocky hill, experiencing varying flora and discussing their observations. The excursion concluded with a visit to the wetland at Ekoln.



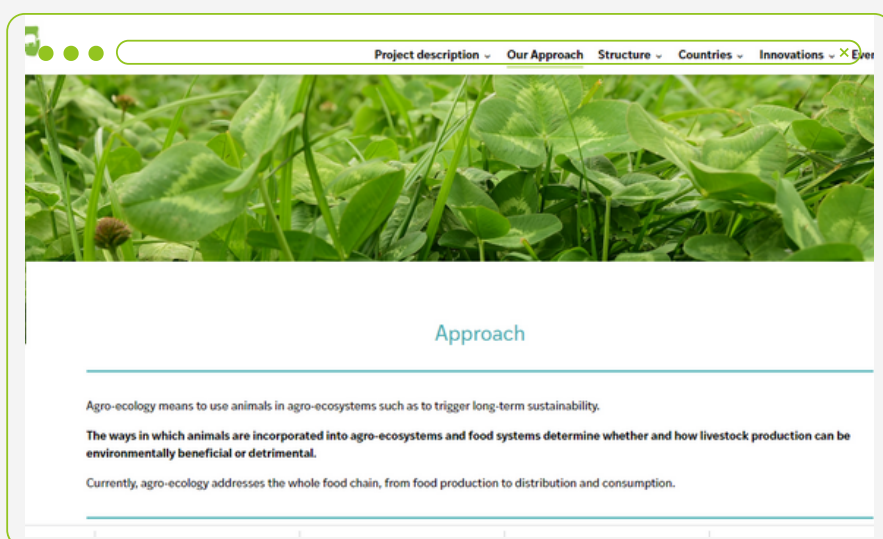
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# VISIT G4AE WEBSITE!

The website offers comprehensive information on the benefits of sustainable grazing practices and provides practical tools and resources for implementation.

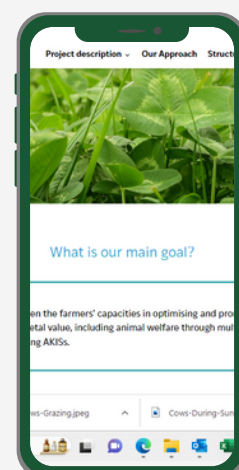


The Grazing4AgroEcology website is dedicated to promoting sustainable livestock farming practices in Europe. It serves as a platform for sharing knowledge, resources, and experiences related to the Grazing4AgroEcology project.

It facilitates networking and collaboration among stakeholders, is accessible in multiple languages, and regularly updated with new research and case studies.

Overall, the website is a valuable resource for promoting sustainable agriculture and grazing systems, supporting the goals of environmental conservation and a more sustainable future for agriculture.

If you want to visit our website click the button here 

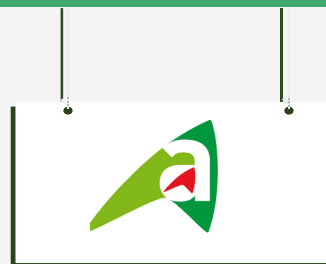


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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 2023



### Prairiales Normandie du Pin

Taking place on June 1st at the INRAE experimental domain in Le Pin, the event aims to address future challenges in livestock farming, with a focus on animal health, climate change adaptation, and crop optimization innovation.



The program includes various activities such as technical workshops, equipment demonstrations, a plant showcase, research presentations, a conference, and a round table discussion involving Normandy farmers and researchers.

### Moorepark Open Day

The Teagasc Moorepark Open Day is a bi-annual event that attracts a large number of dairy farmers from across Ireland. It serves as a platform for farmers to stay informed about new technologies, practices, and research being carried out in Teagasc. The theme of this year's open day is 'Irish Dairying - Securing a Sustainable Future'. Highlights of the Open Day will include a Grassland Village, One Health, One Welfare Village and Infrastructure Village. The Teagasc Moorepark Open Day serves as a valuable resource for dairy farmers to stay updated on the latest developments and best practices in the industry. Keep up to date by following them.



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 2023

### Weidetage



"Weidetage" is an event that is going to take place on June 21 and 22 (Grazing Days) hosted by the Grassland Centre in Ovelgönne, Northwestern Germany, which will include the inaugural Young Farmers Tour. The tour aims to provide workshops, lectures, farm walks, and a social program centered around animal welfare in grazing systems, with topics of discussion including pasture biodiversity and innovative solutions like virtual fencing.

### The second Meeting with Young Farmers



In the autumn of 2023, the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine will host the second meeting with young farmers, aiming to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and ideas and develop strategies to improve agricultural practices. This meeting is an important event in the agricultural calendar, providing young farmers with an opportunity to connect, learn from each other, and enhance their skills and knowledge in the field. Throughout the event, participants will have the chance to meet other enthusiastic young farmers who share the same passion for agriculture and sustainable development in this vital sector.

### Borgeby Fältdagar



Borgeby Fältdagar is an agricultural fair in Sweden that attracts visitors from all over northern Europe. The fair features demonstration crops, exhibitors, experts, practical machinery demonstrations, and seminars. It is a true trade show that focuses on farming as a main interest and occupation. In 2019, the fair had 456 exhibiting companies and 19,650 visitors who were all connected to agriculture businesses. The event is scheduled for June 28-29, 2023, and is an excellent opportunity for professionals in the industry to learn about the latest developments and network with others in the field. Svenska Vallföreningen has an exhibition stand and will discuss with farmers about grazing and the G4AE project.



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# MEET THE PARTNERS



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