

# CONTEXT PROFILE

 GERMANY



## FARMER

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## INNOVATION

Seasonal calving and topping



[Video](#)



## MAIN DOMAIN OF THE INNOVATION

Improvement of grassland management



## SOIL TYPE

Peat



## FINANCE/INVESTMENT

Low



## AGROCLIMATIC AREA

Atlantic central



## MANAGEMENT

Pasture dairy



## MARKET

Global



## CLIMATE

Moderate rainfall



## TECHNICAL

Easy



## SOCIAL

Full-time farmer

# CONTEXT PROFILE

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Case Study: DE_08	Agroclimatic Zone								
Item (Key Innovation Elements)	Alpine	Atlantic Central	Atlantic North	Atlantic South	Boreal	Continental North	Continental South	Mediterranean North	Mediterranean South
Pasture management by "Topping"	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	++

+++ Strong transferability
++ Slightly limited transferability
+ Very limited transferability
× Generic information/not relevant

## Implementation Gaps

- The system is topping at 10-12 cm and letting the cut grass stay on the stubble before the animals are let into the paddock requires dry weather. How is the system managed if it keeps on raining day after day?

## Research Gaps

- Different plant species may react differently to topping depending on where the vegetative tiller buds (the leaf primordia or the growing point) are positioned.
- Different plants also differ for how long time they continue to produce new vegetative leaves after topping.

## Suggestions to Adapt

- To be able to adapt the system it must be stated which grass species the farmer uses in his pasture mixture. The reason to marking the agroclimatic zone in southern Europe as limited transferability is that the plant species are very different.

# COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

## INVESTMENT COSTS

Total initial investment costs at start up:	low
• Initial authorisation costs (e.g. sanitary, veterinary, etc.)	low
• Initial advisory costs	low
• Initial buildings and machineries	not applicable/not known
• Initial certification costs	not applicable/not known
• Initial working capital (personal qualification, marketing and promotion, etc.)	low

## ON-GOING COSTS

On-going advisory costs	low
On-going certification costs	not applicable/not known
On-going buildings and machinery costs	not applicable/not known
On-going working capital	low

## BENEFITS RELATIVE TO ORIGINAL SYSTEM

### ◦ Economic

Reduction in energy consumption (electricity; fuel consumption)	none or low
Reduction in input use (fertilizers; pesticides; feed) etc.	mid
Payback period	high
Product value added	mid
Additional farm income through agroecological/agri-environmental payment schemes	none or low

### ◦ Environmental

Animal feed self-sufficiency increase	mid
Biodiversity increase	none or low
Improved nitrogen cycling	none or low
Soil regeneration	none or low
Animal health and welfare improvement	none or low

### ◦ Social

Workload reduction	none or low
Engagement of young generation	mid

# Literature

## English

- McDonald, R.C., 1985. Effect of topping pastures. 1. Pasture accumulation and quality. New Zealand Journal of Experimental Agriculture Volume 14, 1986 - Issue 3.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03015521.1986.10423040>