

Feed wedge and cutting window for grazing systems with high levels of supplementation

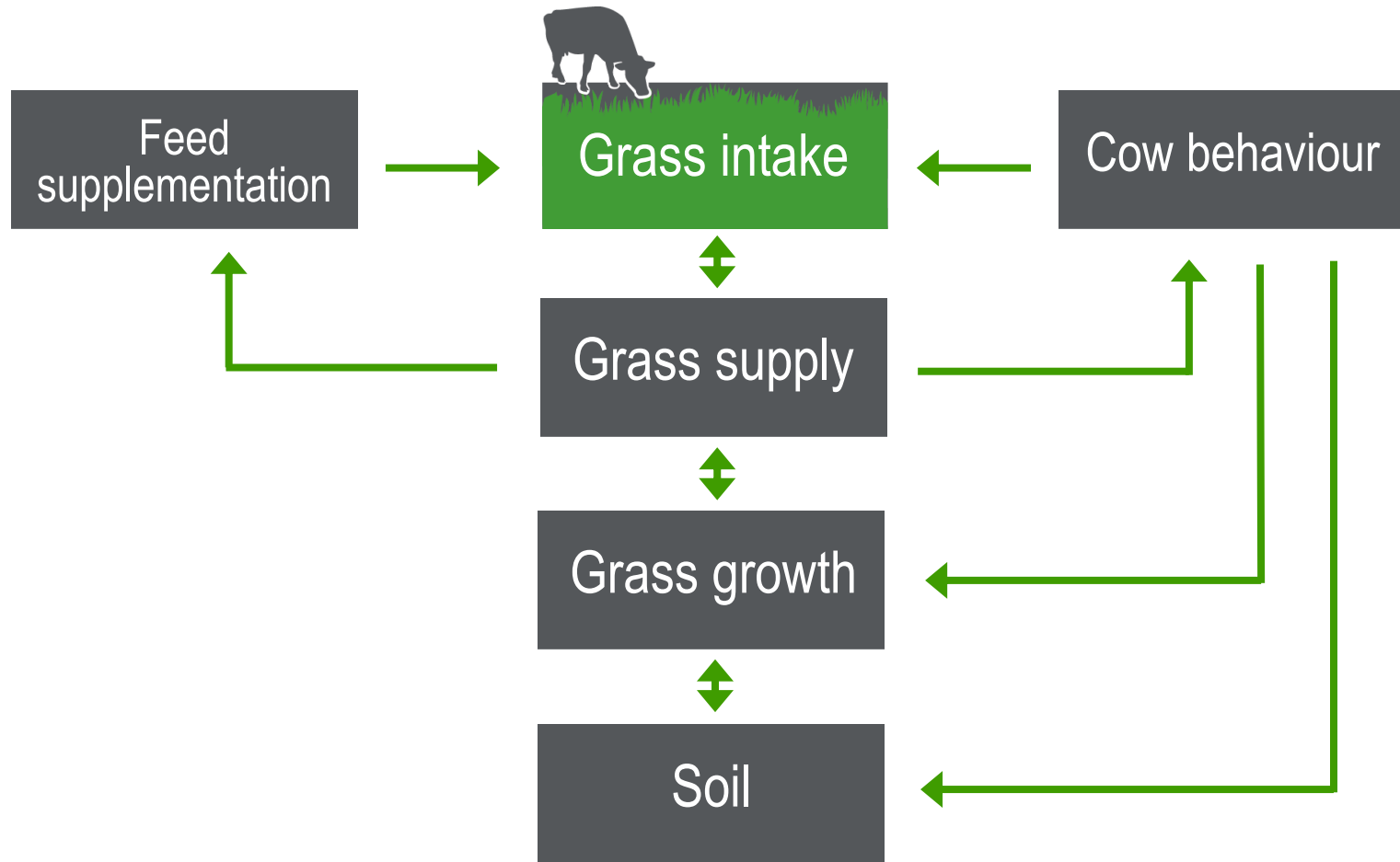
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Theme 5–Big data and smart technologies in grassland

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Components of Amazing Grazing

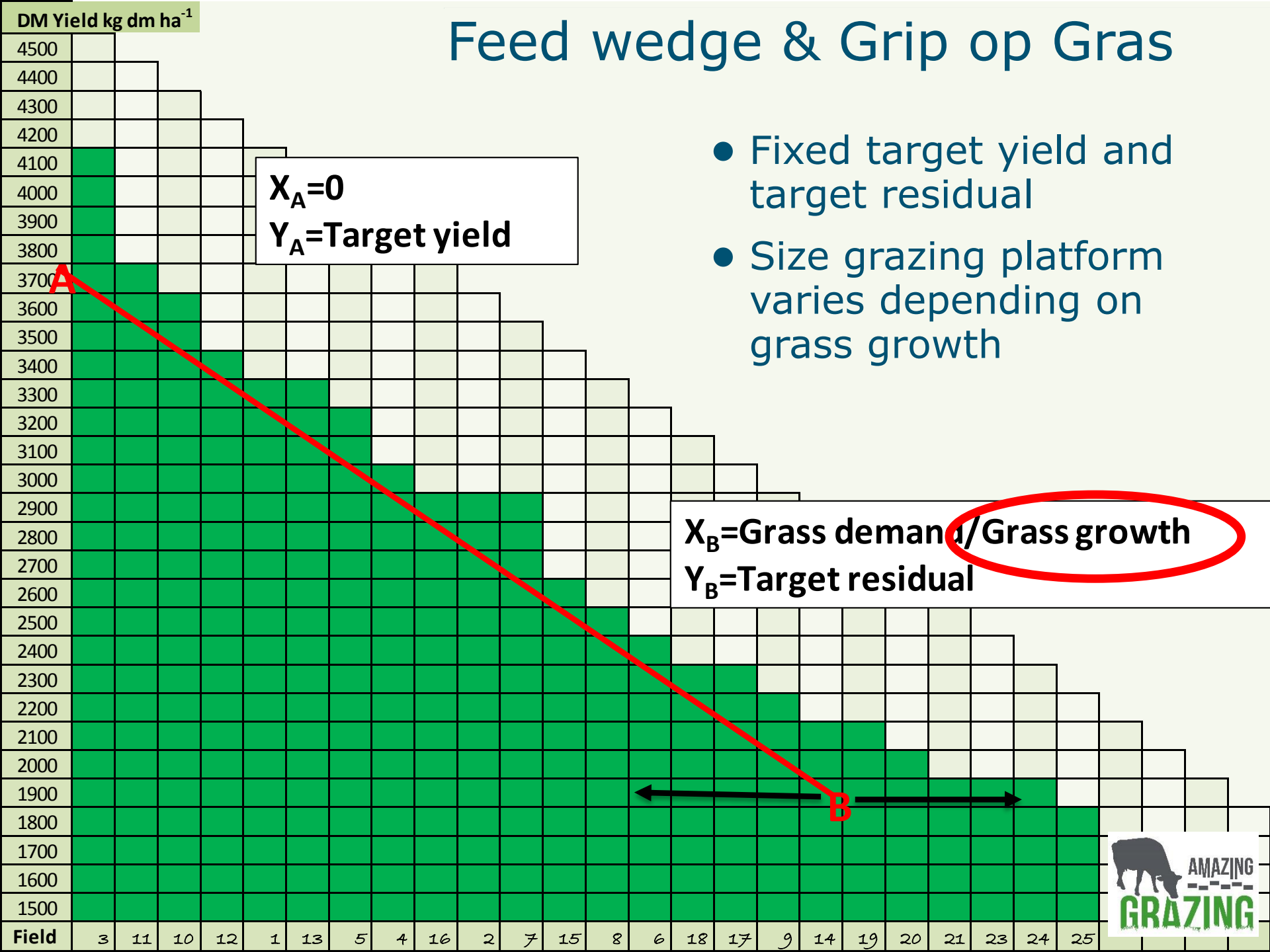


Amazing Grazing & Grip op Gras

- Optimise on farm fresh grass utilisation for dairy systems with
 - alternating use of grassland
 - by rotational grazing
 - cutting for fodder production
 - high levels of feed supplementation during grazing season
- Grip of Gras combines feed wedge and cutting window
 - Feed wedge to manage grazing platform
 - Cutting window to manage cutting platform

Feed wedge & Grip op Gras

- Fixed target yield and target residual
- Size grazing platform varies depending on grass growth



Grazing platform & cutting window

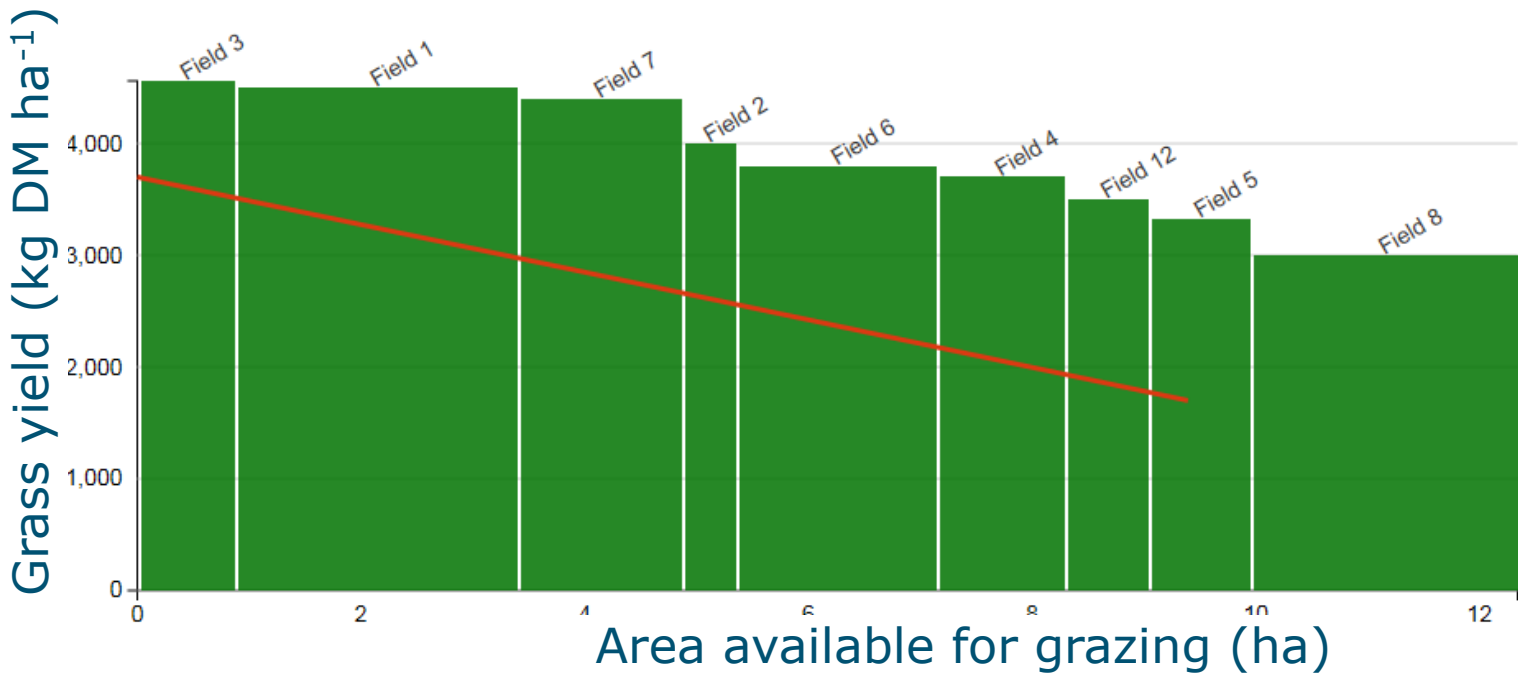
- Move paddocks from grazing platform to cutting platform and vice versa

Change to cutting

Put back

Change to mowing Not in use Field 3 (4560 kg dm/ha)

- Mowing pastures
- Field 9 (put back)
 - Field 10 (put back)
- Not in use
- Perceel 11 (put back) (delete)

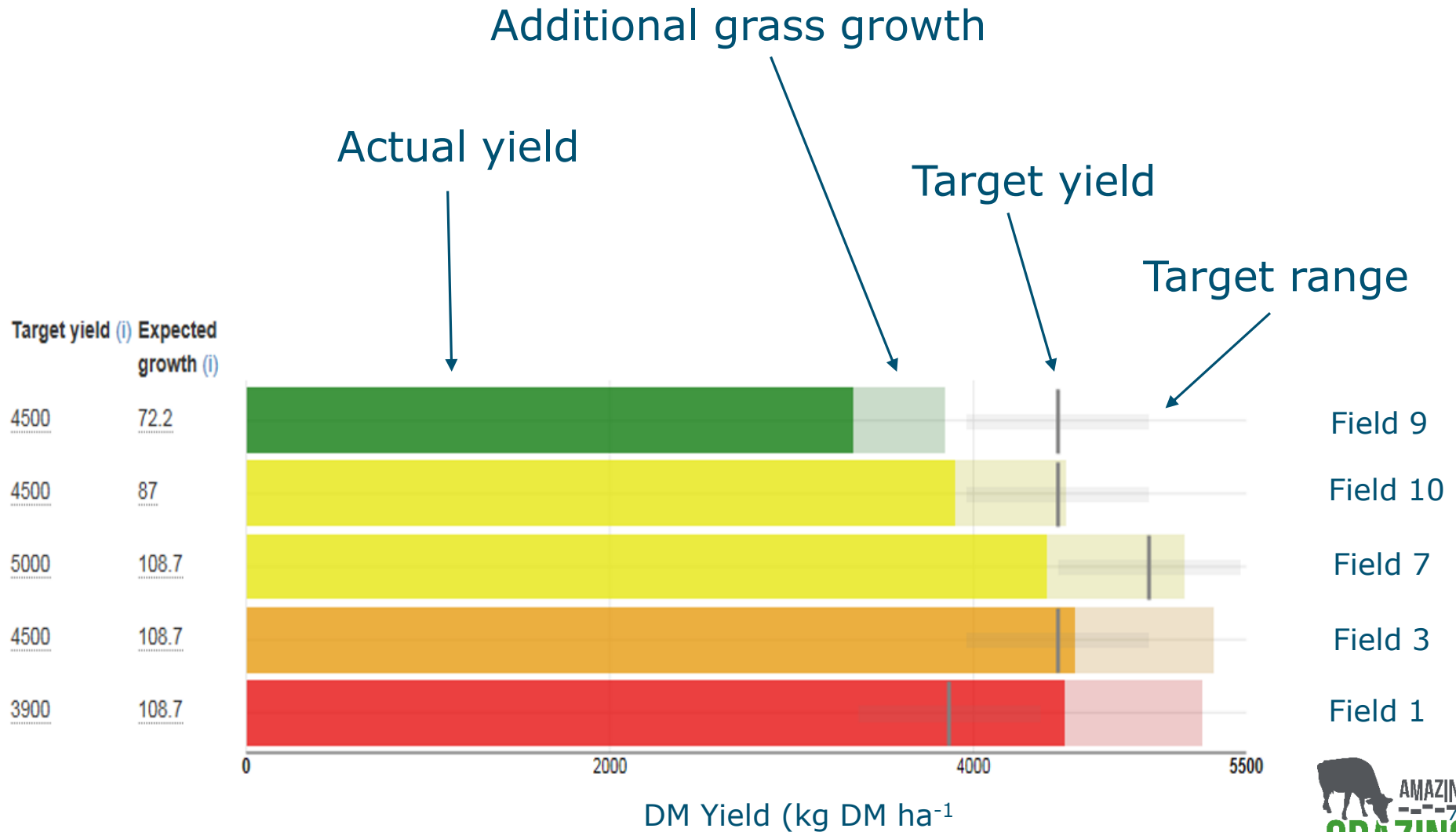


Feed wedge & expected grass growth

- Feed wedge is calculated with expected grass growth
- Expected grass growth is
 - reference for farmers
 - the average grass growth on a certain date during the growing season depending on actual yield
 - grass growth model in Dairy Wise
 - adjustable to simulate the effect on grass supply

Cutting window

- To optimise moment of cutting



Development & testing

- Prototype
- Developed with advisors, farmers and researchers
- Tested between April and July 2017 by 10 dairy farmers and advisors
- Half of them was familiar with estimating DM yield and the use of a feed wedge, the others were not
- Participants provided feedback weekly
- Free to use at www.akkerweb.eu

Results & discussion

- Difficult to identify farmers and advisors for test
- Experienced farmers used Grip op Gras in management
- Highly appreciated
 - Combination feed wedge and cutting window
 - Adjustable expected grass growth
- User-friendliness has to be improved
 - Input of data
- Utility and user-friendliness associated with level of experience in measuring DM yield and use feed wedge
 - More experienced farmers had fewer problems

Conclusion

- Concept of feed wedge and the cutting window was appropriate and satisfactory
- User-friendliness has to be improved
- To support the needs of a wide range of farmers with varying experience in grassland management with data, the several functionalities of Grip op Gras should become available separately

Amazing Grazing!!!

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