



12 dairy farmers localized in the north east of Britany close to Fougères meet regularly in an Agroecological group coordinated by the Regional Chamber of Agriculture. This group exchanges on technical solutions to turn their conventional dairy farming system into a grassland and/or organic dairy system. They meet 6-7 times per year in different events, most of the time on a farm of the group: exchanges of the farm system, training session on technical topics, visit of experimental farm, travel in other region or country... In Britany they are nearly 50 “Agroecological” groups financed by regional and national program with the same organization but on different topics: pesticide, veterinary med, fuel...



Objectives

- Due to the exchanges and comparison between them, the farmers try to improve their technical and economic results
- To turn their conventional dairy system in a grassland and/or organic system
- For the case study meeting: heifers parasitism management

Farmer Motivations

- Understand the organization and results of each farmer and try to catch up the best practices
- Increase their personal knowledge by visits and training session with several experts

Topic selection

- The farmers decide of an annual program
- The coordinator help them to choose the most pertinent subject, organize the meeting, find the experts and manage the program
- The coordinator collect data, analyze and present the farmer’s results

Audience & participation

- Audience for the meeting on parasitism: 6 farmers. This is less than usual due to weather conditions at this period.
- An expert on heifer rand the group coordinator are also present

Demonstration set-up

- The meeting set up on a farm of the group
- During the coffee break farmers exchanged on the grazing management during spring.
- Each farmer present what he did, his problem and his solution to deal with heifer parasitism
- The expert present parasitism cycle, solution to manage it without treatment
- During the visit the farmer present his heifer raising

Evaluation peer-to-peer learning environment:

- A meeting based on farmer practices
- The expert give some global knowledge, solution and tool to deal with parasitism
- Each farmer tell to the group which solutions he will try on his farm and they advised themselves

- A representative meeting of the group organization, with less participant than usual
- A right balance between exchanges on farmers practices, expert presentation
- Each technical solution is discuss and farmers choose which one they will try
- During the visit farmers understand the host farmer system and try to advice him and find solution together

