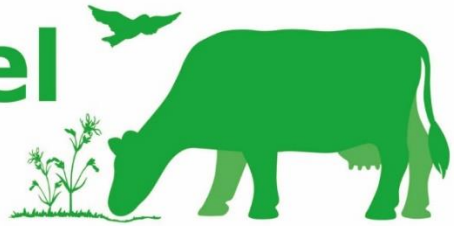
Pitch Stichting Zeldzame Huisdierrassen

SZH
VOOR LEVEND ERFGOED

Update for SAVE – 2024

Traditional livestock breeds in times of climate change

DubbelDoel Natuurlijk



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Background

Challenges:
Biodiversity loss, global warming, environmental pressure (nitrogen), animal welfare

Transition and opportunities:
More extensive livestock farming and agroecological practices in Dutch dairy farming

What type of cow would suit agro-ecological systems?

About the Project

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Which breeding goals and cattle breeds fit in with (the development towards) nature-inclusive circular agriculture, and what is the (added) value of the Dutch dual-purpose cattle breeds in nature-inclusive circular agriculture?

Groningen White Headed

Dutch Friesian

Meuse-Rhine-Yssel

- What type of cows do farmers desire for agroecological farming systems?
- What are the experiences of farmers with native Dutch breeds?

27 farmers participating

Analysis of farm data

Interviews with 15 farmers

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Results so far

	NL average	NL organic	Project farms
Farm size (ha)	60.2	87.2	84.5
Dairy cows (n)	111	91	96
Milk production (kg/cow)	9,148	7,000	5,640
Farm intensity (kg milk/ha)	16,750	7,300	8,533

Based on data of 2021 and 2022

Data analysis

- Large variation in herd environments
- On average, native Dutch cattle breeds were kept in more extensive production systems, with more grazing and more agro ecological land use

	Category 1 (n=7) *Small adaptations for biodiversity*	Category 2 (n=7) *Large space for biodiversity*	Category 3 (n=13) *Biodiversity driven/ central*
Milk (kg/cow/year)	6737	5875	5259
Fertility			
Claw problems (incidence)	0.24	0.11	0.14
Mastitis (incidence)	0.10	0.08	0.11
Veterinary costs (€/cow/year)	76.4	64.6	57.1

Extensive farming and breeding goals

- Robustness, self-reliance and frugality
- Grass and forage utilization, grazing behaviour
- More focus on content than litres, also meat production.
- Udder and claw health (depends on stable type)
- Fertility, especially in spring calving herds

Availability of genetics and data are often limited
Choice for Dutch breeds is not only technical!

2024

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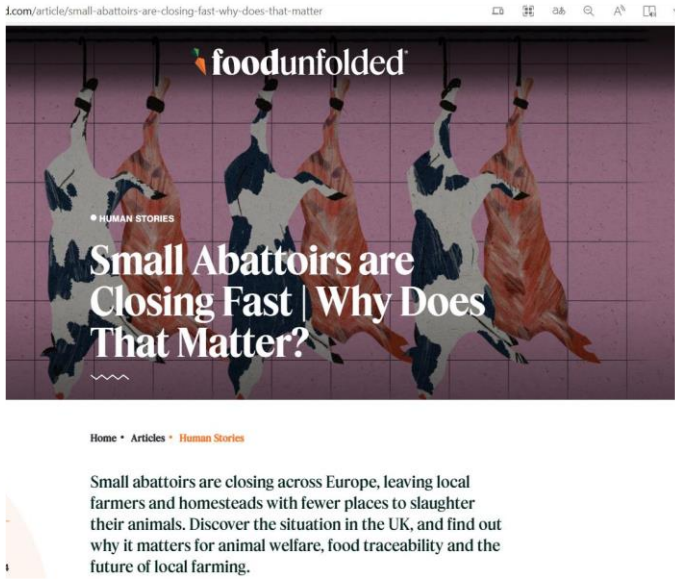
Breeding goal – discussions with farmers
Infographic to publish
Explore follow up possibilities for research

Furthermore:
Expanding network within small scale farming
Education on small scale farming
and short supply chains

'Natuurinclusief' kans voor oude rassen

Welke koe past het best bij extensief?

De sterk melkgedreven Holsteinkoe past niet in alle gevallen bij die systemen.