



Press article

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Innovative strategies for a resource-saving and resilient grassland management

Eight farms in the pre-alpine region dare to take new steps in the direction of environmentally friendly dairy farming. Grassland management shall be adapted to the grassland ecosystem; thus, all ecological, economic and social aspects will be monitored.

The main aim of the project is to investigate how nature-based grassland management can improve ecosystem processes and services which will contribute to climate and resource protection.

The focus lies on a holistic grazing management adapted to the location as well as the precise promotion of active soil life. That includes initial analyses of each site, herd, type of vegetation and infrastructure. These local conditions play an important role for the management.

Grasslands and grazing animals have coevolutionally developed. By observing this interrelation, conclusions can be drawn for a resilient pasture management. The influence of moving herds will promote processes of root growth and soil life, as well as plant and accordingly insect diversity. Longer regeneration phases ensure that various herbs reach maturity and an increased belowground biomass. This again supports carbon sink function and the system stability during increased dry periods.

Knowledge and experience are conveyed through workshops and field days. An online platform for ongoing documentation as well as exchange between farmers is provided. The outcomes, jointly developed by scientists and farmers, will be presented in a practical guideline in the end of the project. It aims to present many different local site conditions so that interested farmers can recognize themselves in the case studies.

Background information

- Christine Bajohr is involved in the Operational Group "Grassland" and coordinates the project from the (farm-) management point of view. She is an expert for holistic grazing systems, soil-life and also runs a dairy farm. Franziska Hanko, M. Sc. (independent scientist) is responsible for the scientific monitoring (soil-life, carbon, biodiversity) and the transferring of the results into the practical guideline.
- There are eight dairy farms from Allgäu, 346 dairy cows, the Hans Lindner Foundation with Albert Eckl, the PIA-Förderverein e.V. and the Academy for Nature Conservation and Landscape Management (ANL) as official, scientific cooperation partners. The carbon investigations are led by Dr. Martin Wiesmeier (Chair of Soil Science at the Technical University of Munich) assisted by Michael Mayerl, M. Sc. .

Contact information

Christine Bajohr, Projektleitung OG-Grünland

info@kuhproklima.de

+ 49 172 76 42 53