

Factsheet



Grazing

The meaning of the word grazing is that cows can graze in the field. Grazing contributes to the natural grazing behaviour of the cow. Also it is a characteristic of the traditional Dutch countryside held dear by the Dutch and known all over the world as a typical Dutch trademark. Dairy companies promote grazing in various ways such as bonuses for dairy farmers.

Facts & Figures



Grazing means that all cows are in the field **at least 120 days a year, 6 hours a day**. In the winter time the cows remain in the stable as there is not enough grass out and often the ground is too soggy.



In 2017 80,5% of the dairy companies applied grazing. This is higher than the grazing percentage in 2016.



Because the Dutch dairy sector considers grazing to be important, the grazing covenant was founded in 2012. This covenant was signed by **82 parties**. These parties consist of dairy farmers, feed suppliers, supermarkets, government and civil society.

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How is grazing promoted?



To stimulate grazing dairy farms receive a **grazing premium**. The premiums are paid by the dairy companies to the dairy farms if they provide grazing for their cows.

NIEUWE WEIDERS

Another initiative is the **supervision program** called New Grazers. In this program special grazing coaches help and guide dairy farms who want to switch to grazing. Dairy farmers who join the program, receive two seasons of supervision, support and advice to implement grazing as best as possible into their dairy farm.

What is pasture milk?



Pasture milk is produced by cows who graze, i.e. who are in the field from spring to winter for **at least 120 days a year, at a minimum of 6 hours a day**. More and more dairy companies collect this milk separately and also process it separately. Pasture milk is used to make several pasture products such as pasture cheese and pasture yoghurt.



Products made from pasture milk can be recognized by their **pasture milk logo**. There are several pasture milk logos, such as the logo of the Grazing foundation. Until now the supply of pasture milk is larger than the demand. Because of this products without a pasture milk logo can still contain pasture milk.



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Did you know ...

- ✓ ... dairy companies think it is very important to have the cows out in the meadow? They promote this in several ways such as premiums. Dairy farmers who apply grazing, receive a financial incentive.

- ✓ ... cows spend the winter in the stables? In winter there is not enough grass for the cows to graze, and the meadows are too soggy.

- ✓ ... pasture milk, or milk from grazing cows does not differ all that much from cows who are not allowed to graze? It has a slightly different composition, but the difference is too small to claim that pasture milk is healthier.
