## System innovations Cow Power

MAD Aeres Applied University
Dronten
Maarten Vrolijk

November 9th 2016

Livestock Research



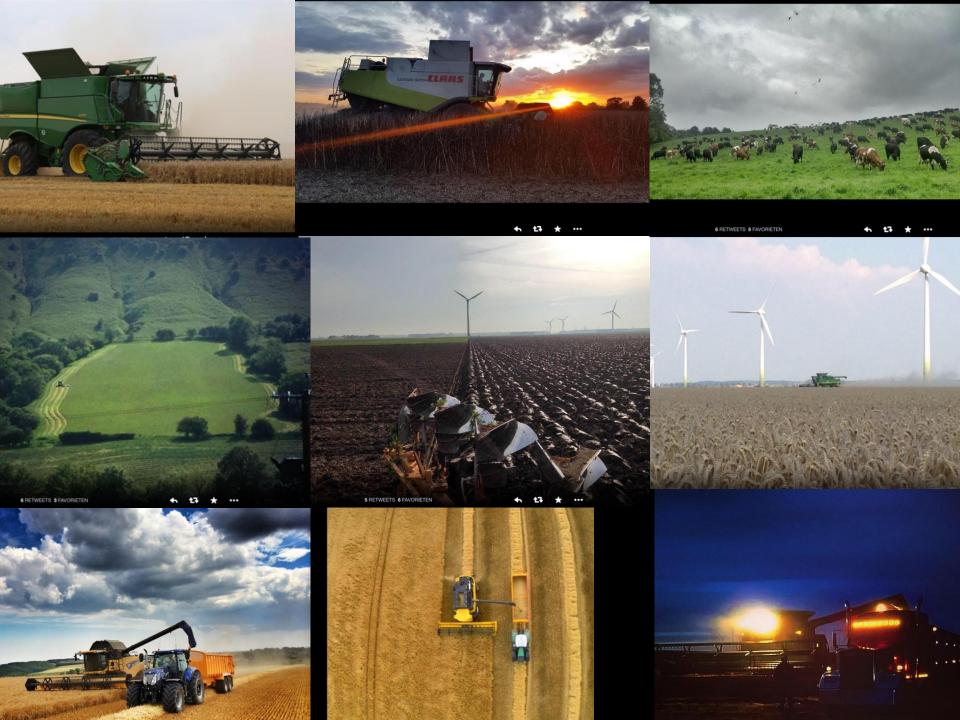


## Agenda

- Feeding the world
- Sustainability
- System innovation
- Different ways to produce knowledge
- Cow Power







## Earth overshoot day

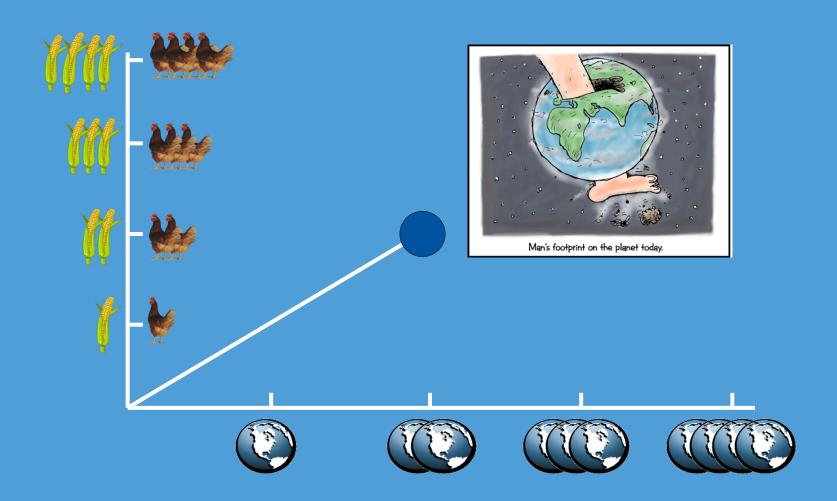
Earth Overshoot Day =

the day we have used all the resources for that year

- **■** 1992 → October 21
- **■** 2002 → October 03
- **■** 2012 → August 22
- **■** 2014 → August 19
- **■** 2016 → August 08

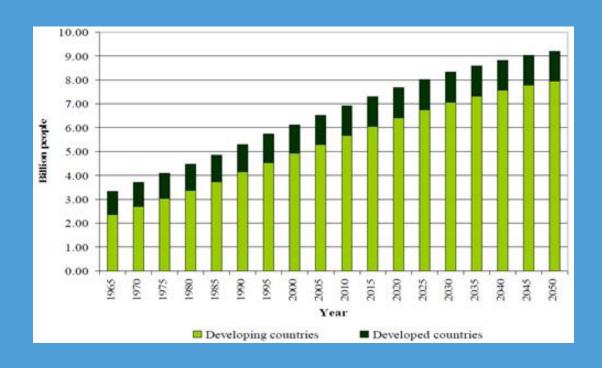


## We are exceeding the carrying capacity





## World Population (1965 - 2050)

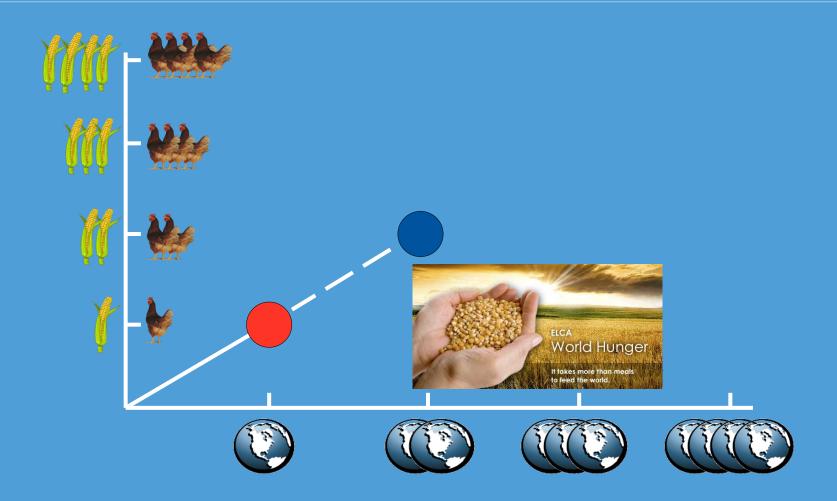


Source:

Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN (2007)

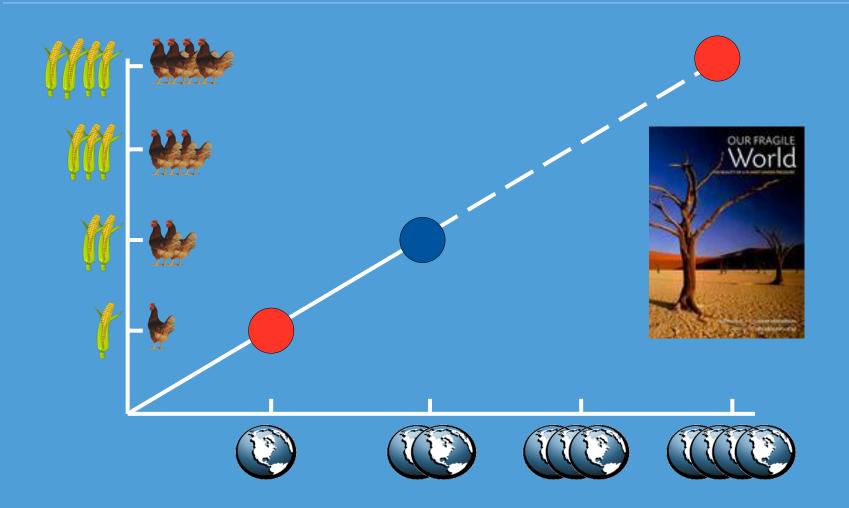


## Just reducing the production creates a problem





## Just increasing the production is not an option







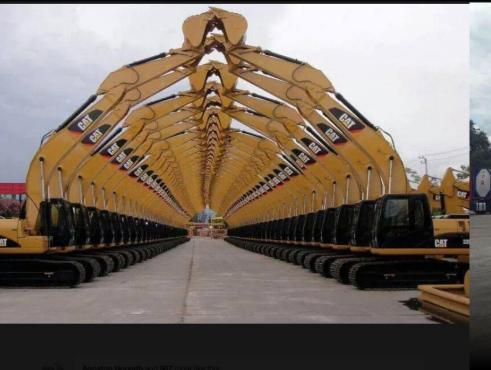








3 RETWEETS 1 FAVORIET ← C→ C→ ···







### SER

# Acceleration of Sustainable Animal Husbandry

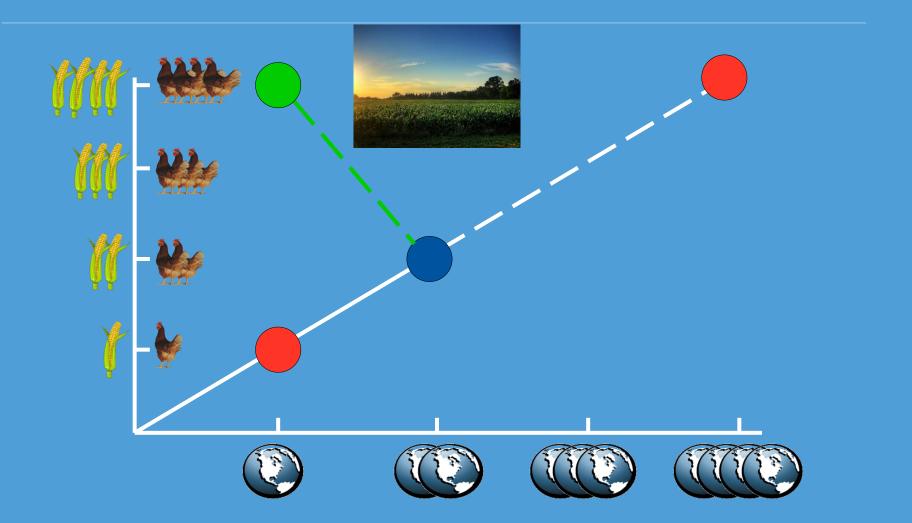
Versnelling duurzame veehouderij

'The burden is no longer acceptable for society'





## But we can make a shift in another direction





## A double task is a challenge for all of us!!



Feeding the world within the carrying capacity of planet earth



2x2

- Doubling Production
- Halving Ecological Footprint



D - CX arianbutcher.com/



The newest generati... ×



home // about us // products // where to buy // conceptstore in the hague // recipes // contact





#### In the media



Aus Food News: 'Meat look-alikes from vegetables swallow up Europe'.

#### **NOMINATION MVO AWARD 2014**







## Signals





## Signals





## Signals

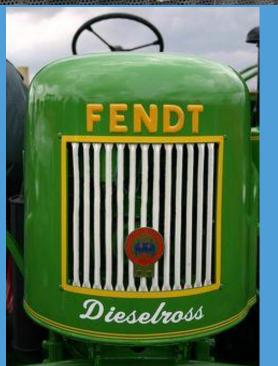














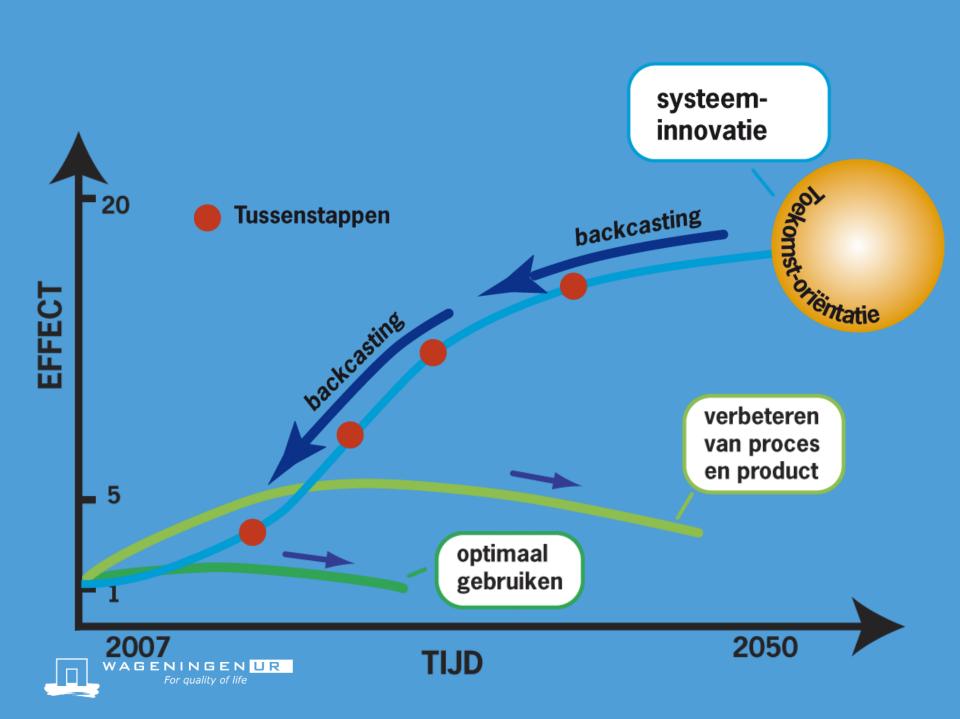
## Sustainability

What is your definition of sustainability?

#### Definition Brundtland:

"Sustainable development is development that meets the *needs* of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own *needs*."





## System innovation

- Multi actor
- Multi level
- Multi disciplines
- Co-creation

We cannot solve our problems with the same knowledge and way of thinking we used when we created them

Albert Einstein



## Innovation quick test

- Flower
- Piece of furniture
- Color







Robot Cowboys replace dogs and cowherds - Newlaunches







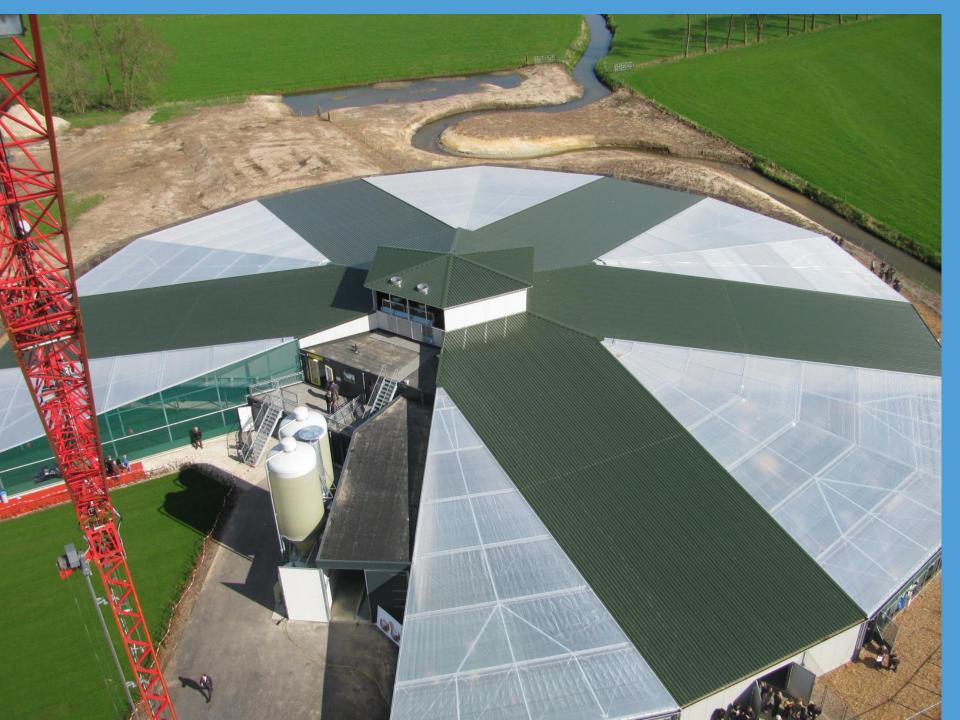


## Animal Husbandry Network









## Windstreek



## Het Kwatrijn de melkveestal van de toekomst

Organisatie **Nieuws** Concept



















Concept



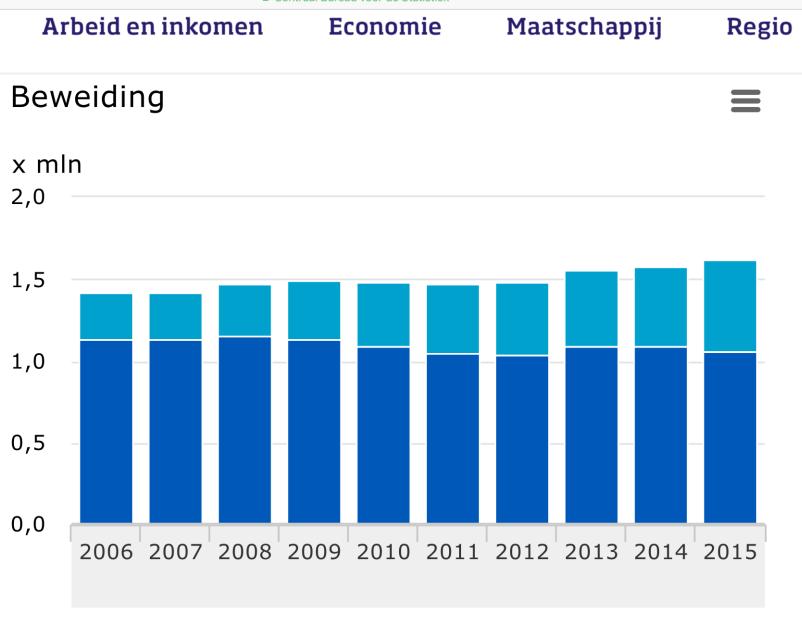


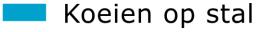












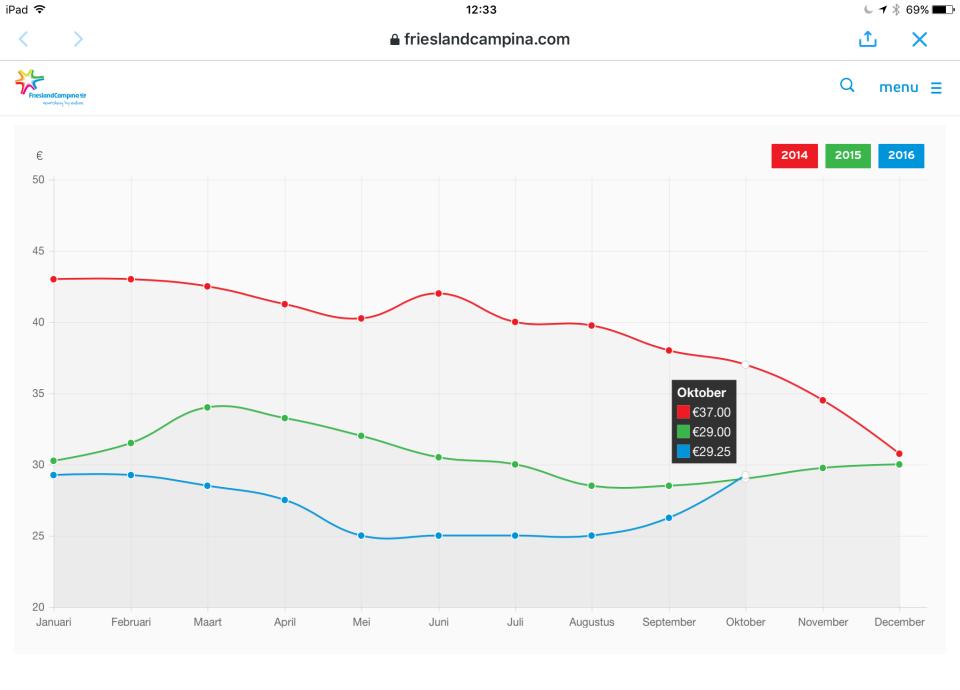


Koeien in de wei





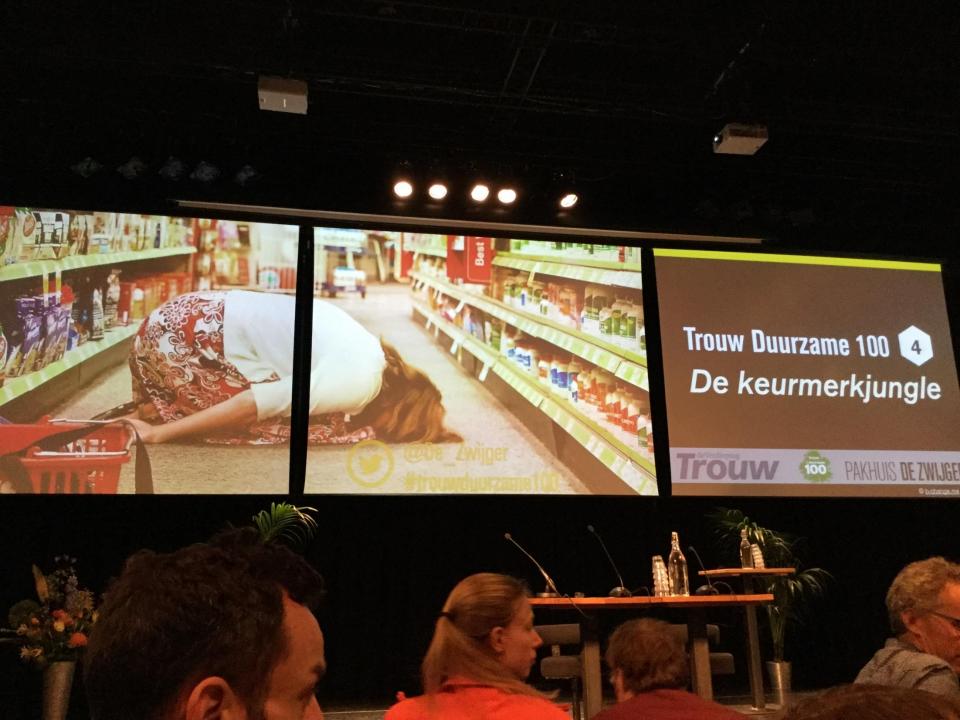




Garantieprijs per maand















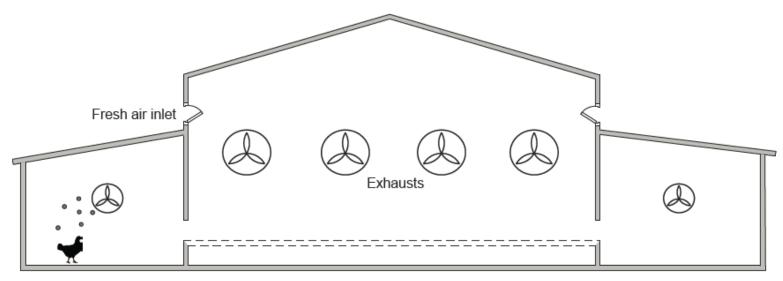
# Dust concentrations and emissions: major concern in laying hen houses

- EU ban on battery cages > shift towards loose housing on litter floors > emissions of PM<sub>10</sub> in NL increased with a factor 17 (1995 to 2014) (Winkel et al., 2016)
- Effects on residents in farming areas: increased prevalence of pneumonia, lower lung function, more exacerbations and medicine use in COPD patients (Heederik et al., 2016)
- Animal welfare problem swapped for air quality problem! (Winkel et al., 2016; Proposition nr. 1)





# Combating dust in laying hen houses by integrated system design



#### Litter room

- Functions: dustbathing and scratching
- Minimal ventilation rate required for the birds and litter quality
- Use of further low-PM design principles and abatement systems inside and/or at exhaust

#### Main room with slatted floors and aviary frames (no litter)

- Functions: feeding, drinking, laying, and resting
- Low PM concentration
- Main ventilation rate
- No abatement of PM needed

#### Source:

Winkel, A. (2016). *Particulate matter emission from livestock houses: measurement methods, emission levels and abatement systems*. PhD Thesis (dissertation), Wageningen University.

# Combating dust in laying hen houses by integrated system design



Fig. 2 — Dust bath unit for laying hens with one-way entrances to sand or turf on conveyor belts at the bottom, and perches that enable hopping to one-way exits in the top. Transparent walls let sunlight in and makes dust bath behaviour visible from the outside.

#### Source:

Van Weeghel et al. (2016). Involving the animal as a contributor in design to overcome animal welfare related trade-offs: The dust bath unit as an example. *Biosystems Engineering* 145:76-92.

#### Agenda

- Feeding the world
- Sustainability
- System innovation
- Different ways to produce knowledge
- Cow Power



## Knowledge-co-creation

#### From

Knowledge production in univeristy / applied research and advisors streaming information to farmers

#### To

Knowledge production in the same context as the knowledge is used, in dynamic and semi-permanent networks (co-creation)



#### Critical successfactors co-creation

- Knowing new roles of each other
- Respect for each other and roles
- Common goal, all actors active
- Common language
- Joint reflection and learning
- Continuous efforts in creating learning environment
- Needs more time and effort than espected, point of trouble
- Celebrate success



## Working together

Researcher Extension -worker Producer/Farmer co-creation WAGENINGENUR

## Critical successfactors working together

- Knowing new role of each other
- Respect each other
- Common goal, all actors active
- Common language
- Joint reflection and learning
- Continuous efforts in creating learning environment
- Needs more time and effort than espected, point of trouble
- Celebrate success



#### Working together: innovation and learning

- Take time for learning (knowledge and process)
- Feel safe and comfortable, to think out of the box / to say I do not know
- Everyone contributes on learning 'climate'
- Free actor has extra focus on this
- Equal does not mean: a copy
- Be aware of all communication languages



## Networks: what's so special?





## Netwerken in de Veehouderij

## Networks in animal husbandry

- 2004 2007
- 125 networks of > 3 farmers and other actors
- 35 knowledgeworkers (knowledge, process, movement)
- More sustainable agriculture
- Knowledge-co-creation, new arrangements
- Farmers articulate the topics, not the researchers
- No theory or approach, but ambition to bridge the gap between research and farmers

#### Free actor

- Knowledge worker (Wageningen UR and other organisations)
- Involved in network but not a member!
- Link to other sources/networks of knowledge
- Reflection and learning process
- Coaching network members but never in the drivers seat
- Other competences needed than usual



#### Output and results



- Permanent coöperation of researchers and farmers
- Results of some networks communicated to >20.000 farmers in EU
- Every week E-communication to 5000 subscribers
- More usable knowledge for sustainable animal husbandry
- Tools and FAN-approach used in courses (~100 trainees in different domains)
- 2008 2010 continued by LNV
- Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension (vol15-2)
- IFSA 2008

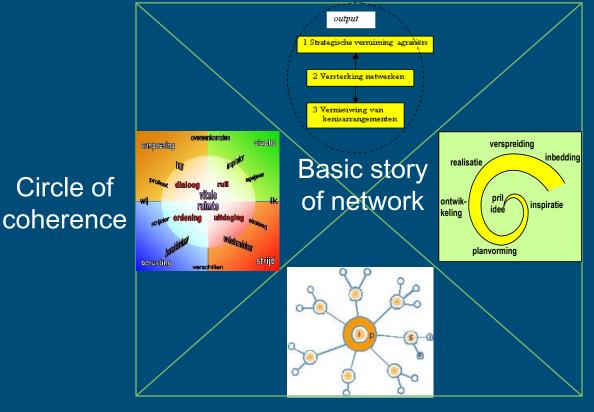




## Methods for reflection & learning

Circle of

#### Effectmonitor



Spiral of innovation

> **Timeline Learning History**

Networkanalysis

Netwerken is kansen ruiken!



















Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension Vol. 15, No. 2, 205-217, June 2009



#### **Language and Tools for Networkers**

#### EELKE WIELINGA and MAARTEN VROLIJK

Wageningen University and Research Centre, Wageningen, The Netherlands

Abstract The network society has a major impact on knowledge systems, and in agricultural and rural development. It has changed relationships between actors such as farmers, extension workers, researchers, policy-makers, businessmen and consumers. These changes require different language, concepts and tools compared to the time that it was thought that science led the way and new findings had to be disseminated to target groups. Also the language of the market, talking about clients and knowledge producers, demand-driven systems and calculable results, is insufficient to describe what actually happens in innovative farmers' networks or to guide knowledge workers in what to do for speeding up such processes. This article describes experiences from a large scale experiment in the Netherlands: the 'Networks in Animal Husbandry' programme (2004-2007). The basic idea was to ask farmers to come up with innovative ideas that could help the sector farther along the track of sustainable development, and then to assist them with scientific expertise. The facilitators were embedded in a learning community and provided with language, tools and methods that grew along the way. After a total of 120 networks and many peer consultation meetings with the facilitators, a huge number of experiences have been registered. Their work required a new generation of tools: as 'free actors' they had to learn how to navigate in unknown areas, recognise at any moment what was at stake and intervene appropriately. The FAN approach emerged: Free Actors in Networks.

KEY WORDS: Innovations, Linkages, Knowledge infrastructure, Networks, Facilitation

#### The Experiment: Networks in Animal Husbandry

Basic Features

In 2003, awareness was raised amongst researchers and policy-makers that, for a more sustainable animal husbandry, it would be necessary to stimulate cooperation between many actors who would have to engage in a process of knowledge as



## Animal Husbandry Network



## Animal Husbandry Network





Closing the research and innovation divide: the crucial role of innovation support services and knowledge exchange" of the Horizon 2020 EU Research and Innovation programme (website)

- Translate scientific knowledge into practical advice
- Integrate practical advice into farmers led innovation process
- Integrating scientific knowledge into producers' networks
- Dialogue between professionals





Closing the research and innovation divide: the crucial role of innovation support services and knowledge exchange" of the Horizon 2020 EU Research and Innovation programme (website)

- Translate scientific knowledge into practical advice
- Integrate practical advice into farmers led innovation process
- Integrating scientific knowledge into producers' networks
- Dialogue between professionals



# 5 principles for the practice of knowledge exchange in environmental management

Journal of Environmental Management 146/2014 337-345 Reed, M.S. et al.

**Design** know what you want to achieve with KE

**Represent** identify users of research / embed

stakeholders in research

**Engage** build long term relations / 2 way dialogue

**Impact** focus on deliverable results as soon as

possible

**Reflect** monitor to learn and refine / share good

& Sustain practices / how continue after project ends?



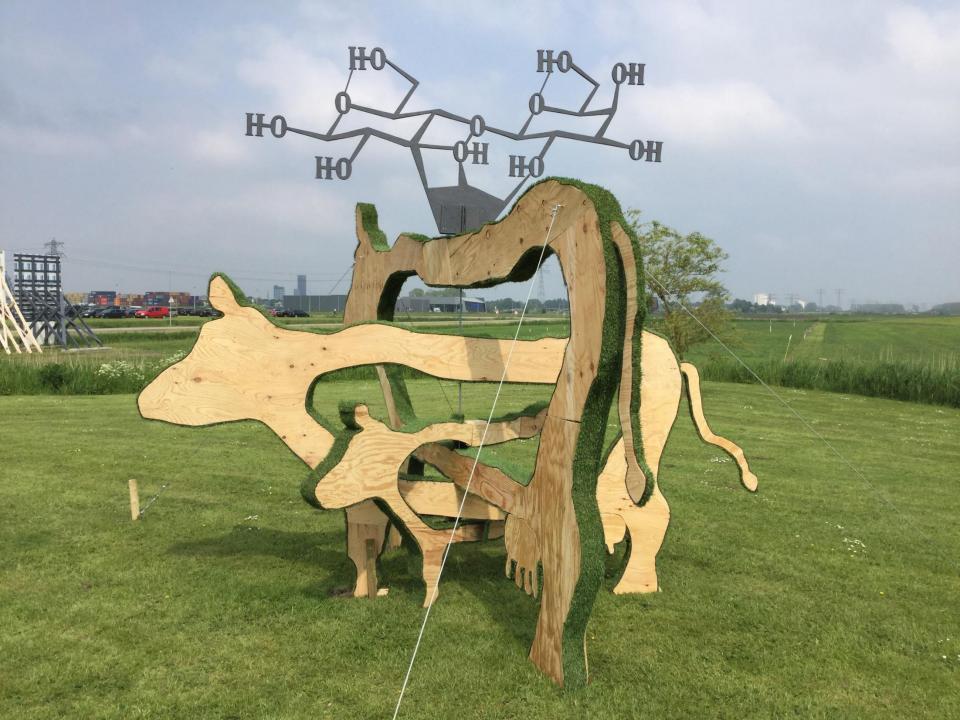


Closing the research and innovation divide: the crucial role of innovation support services and knowledge exchange" of the Horizon 2020 EU Research and Innovation programme (website)

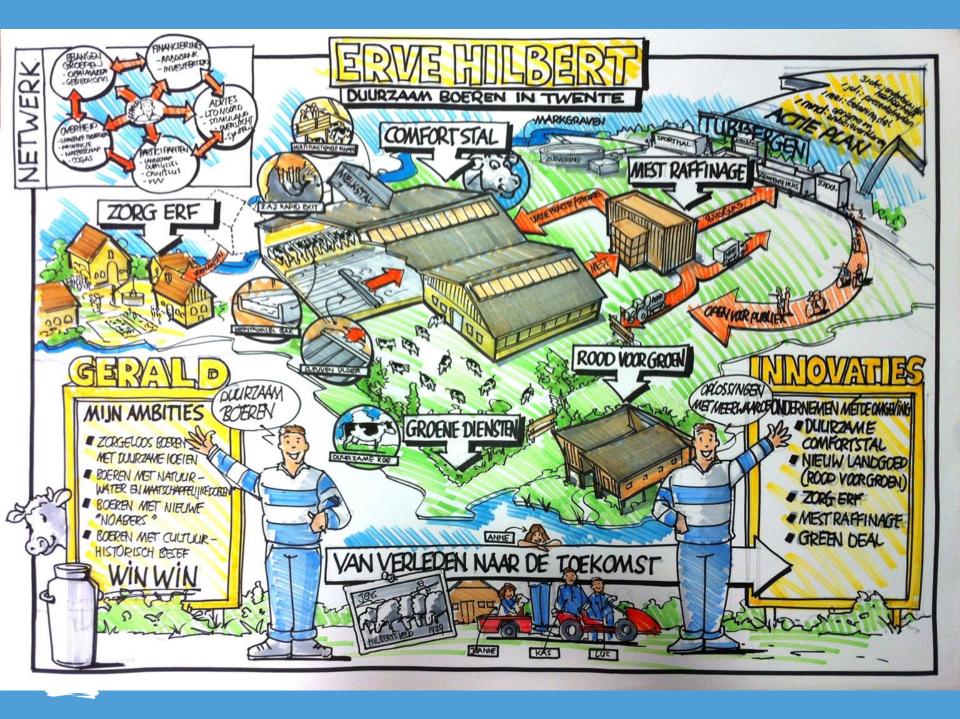
- Translate scientific knowledge into practical advice
- Integrate practical advice into farmers led innovation process
- Integrating scientific knowledge into producers' networks
- Dialogue between professionals

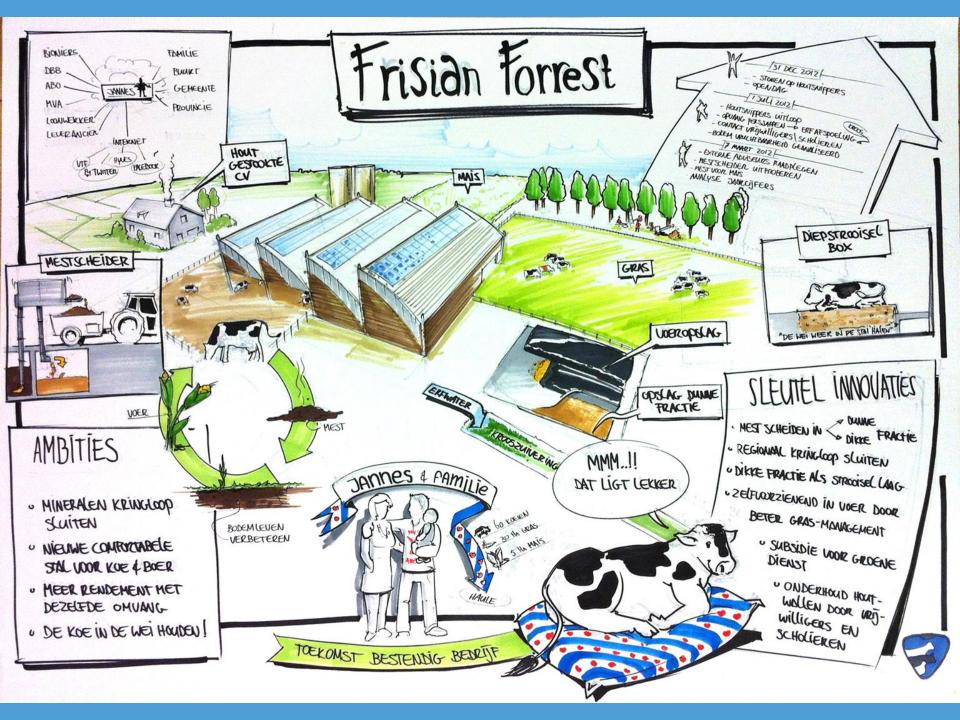


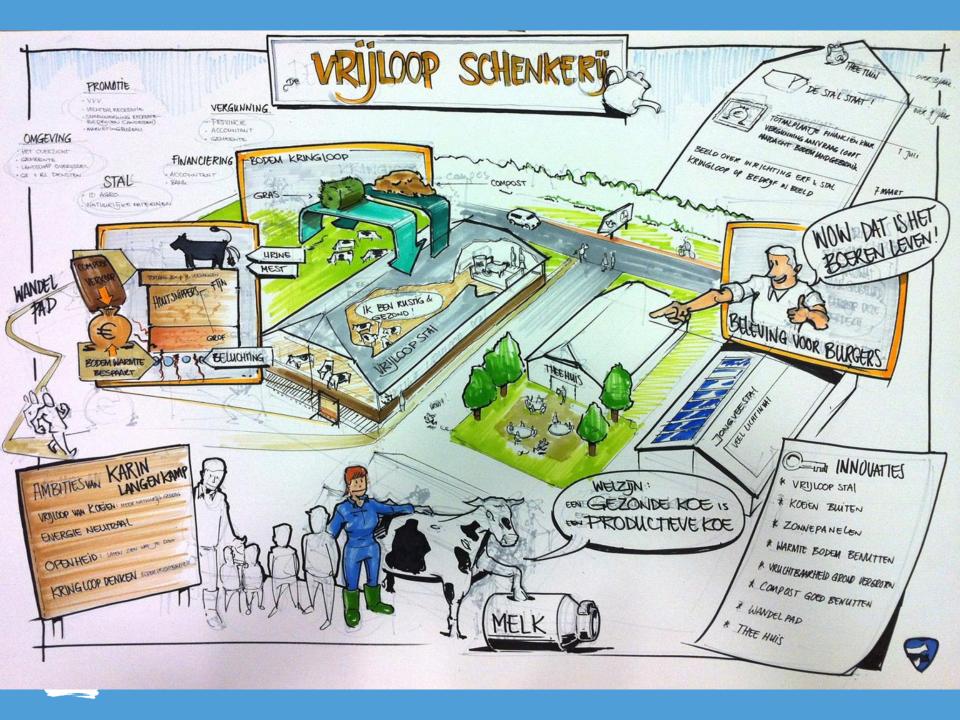












### From science to realisation



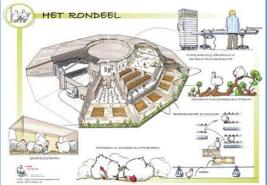






### DAKMAGAZINE











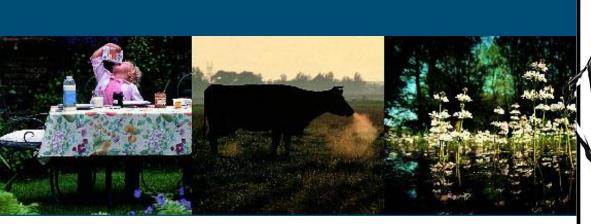
### Agenda

- Feeding the world
- Sustainability
- System innovation
- Different ways to produce knowledge
- Cow Power



## Cow Power

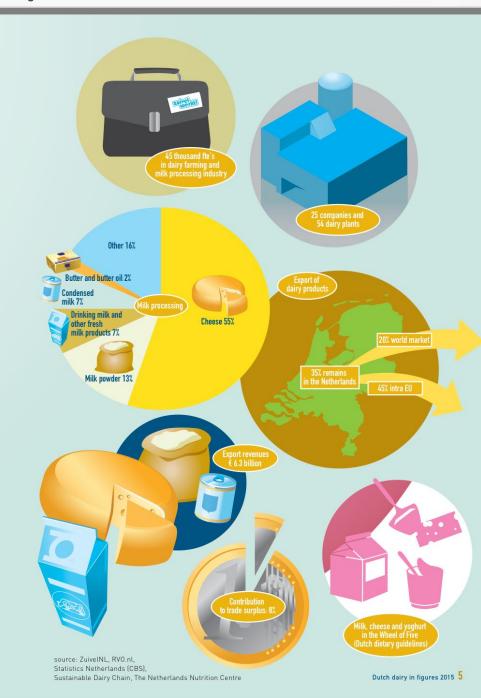
# System innovation in dairy husbandry











### Sustainability issues in Dutch dairy farming

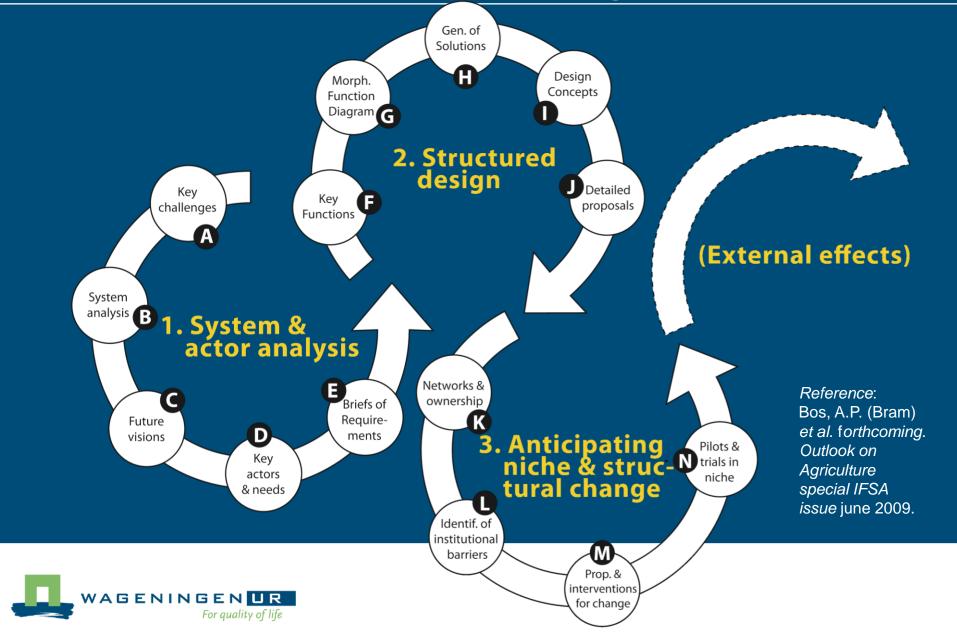
- Environment
  - Local: manure surplus, ammonia, nitrate, dust; Global: climate change
- Animal Welfare
- Economy
  - Profit & continuity
  - Labor (quantity & quality)
- Use of natural resources & biodiversity
  - Global footprint, LCA, north-south relation
  - Limited resources (energy, minerals)
- Health (of man and animal)
  - Veterinary risks; antibiotics and residues; hormones
- Landscape
  WAGENINGENUR
  For quality of life

### The problem & the challenge

- Traditional approach and experience: small adaptations of current systems hardly improve welfare
- Welfare improvements are often in contradiction with economy & environment
- These goals cannot be met at the same time
- Solution & approach:
  - Design for inspiration and stimulation for sustainable development
  - Use adequate design method & redesign
  - Set aside current assumptions and be reflexive



### Approach: Reflexive Interactive Design (RIO)



### Goal of the design concepts

Not an blue print, nor daydreams

Inspiration and agenda for present and future

Make plausible that far reaching goals are in reach and can be combined



### Apparent contradictions

Apparent contradictions between BoR and other requirements in *current* systems:

- Space per cow versus cost of infrastructure
- Space per cow versus emissions of ammonia
- Feeding for health versus feeding to increase mineral (N & P) efficiency



### Opening up the solution space

- Some contradictions in dairy husbandry
  - Animal welfare vs environment
  - Animal welfare vs economics
  - Environment vs economics
  - Sharing costs of investment vs 'one farmer business'
  - Farming in urban areas vs economics
  - More manure = more costst

### Brief of Requirements

- The farmer
  - qualitatively, global, focus groups
- The citizen / consumer
  - NextExpertizer ® -method
  - 98 interviews, quantitatively
- The environment
  - Requirements much higher than policy targets
- The dairy cow
  - BoR
  - and Cowel: model to compare husbandry systems



### BoR defines requirements, not solutions

- BoR is solution-free
- Main benefit: opens up the solution space
- Increases the chance of synthesizing requirements, that seem to be contradictory in current systems and practices
- BoR and the system analysis are leading for determination of the key functions



### BoR: important design attributes

- Number of resting places
- Feed quality
- Negative conditioners & stray electricity
- Freedom of movement & behaviour
- Size of resting area
- Handling of animal
- Temperature humidity index (THI)
- Floor type of walk ways
- Floor type of feeding alleys
- Light intensity daylight hours
  - brown: most critical ones -



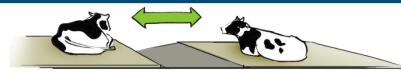


SHELTER AGAINST HEAT, RAIN AND WIND



SPACE FOR LOCOMOTION, FREE CHOICE AND NATURAL BEHAVIOUR



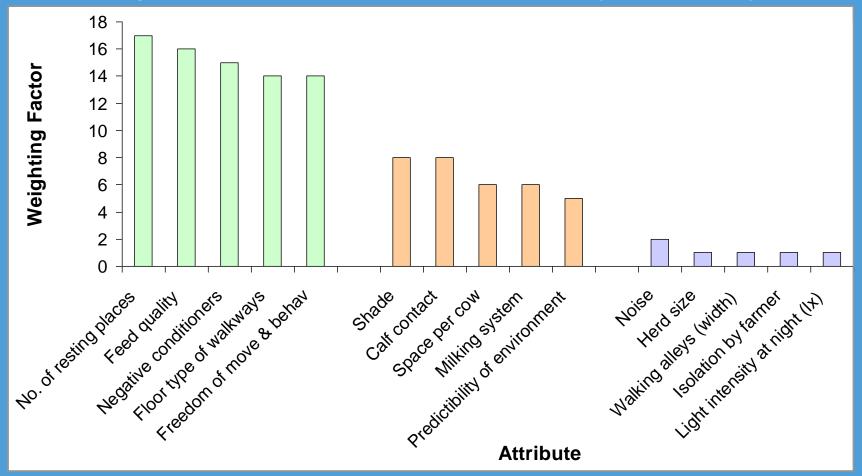


### The COWEL model

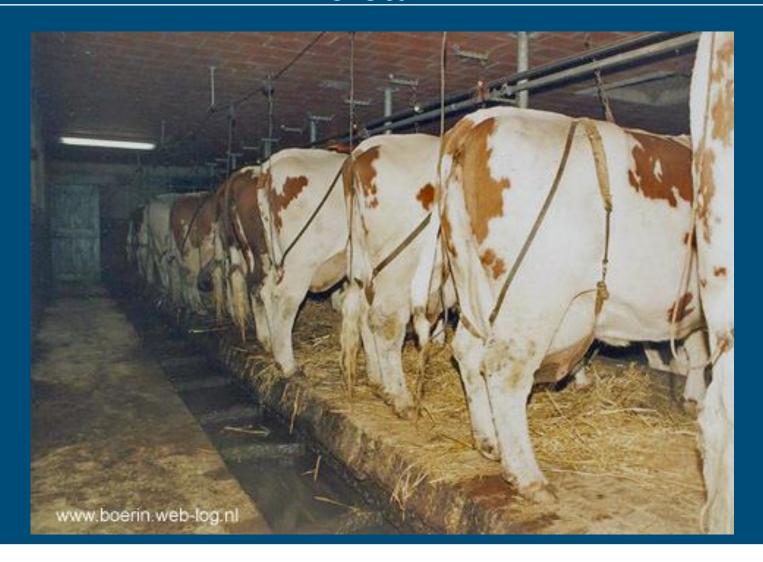
- Each attribute has one or more levels (e.g. different bedding materials, ranging from best to worst: pasture, straw/sand, mattress, mat, concrete)
- COWEL links levels of the attributes with animal welfare effects (positive and negative): using 12 weighting categories:
  - Pain, illness, reduced survival, decreased fitness, HPA (hypoyhalamic-pituitary-adrenocortical) axis, SAM (sympathetic-adrenal-medullary) activation, aggression, abnormal behaviour, frustration & avoidance
  - natural behaviour, preference and demand

#### Welfare scores: WF of the attributes

The top 5, mid 5 and last 5 attributes (42 in total)

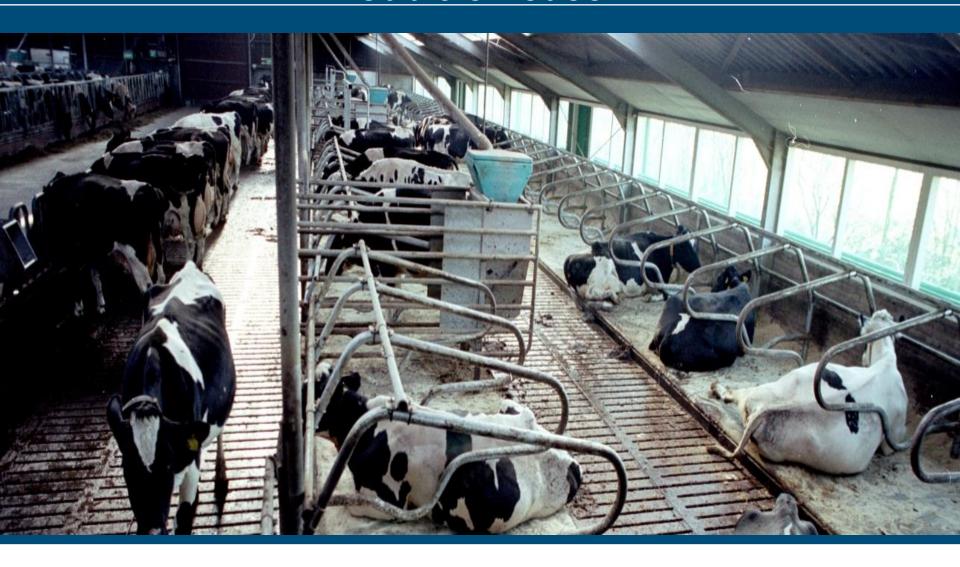


## Tie stall





## Cubicle house

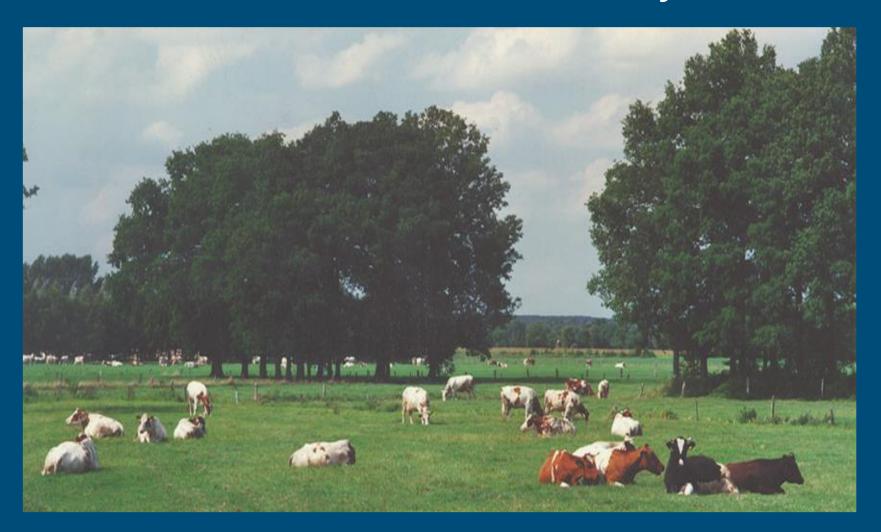




## Straw yard

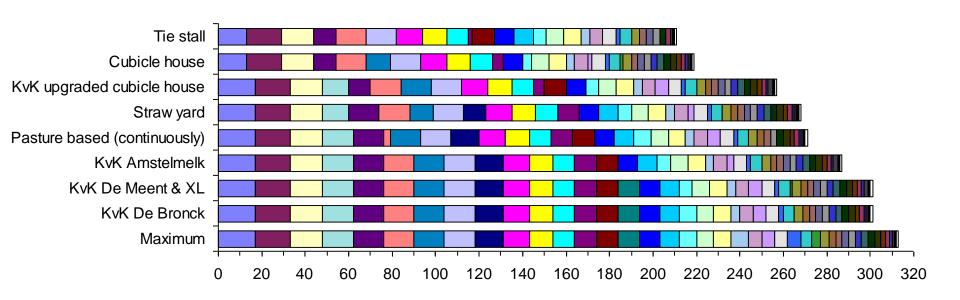


## Pasture based (continuously)





### Welfare scores: housing system benefits





### BoR dairy cow: some examples

- Number of resting places:
  - >1 per cow
- Freedom of movement & behaviour:
  - ≥ 360 m<sup>2</sup> per cow
  - Indoor and outdoor access
- Size of resting area
  - Free resting place (no obstacles)
- Floor type of walk ways
  - Friction, roughness, hardness



### BoR Citizen / Consumer (critical elements)

- Enough space for free movement of cows
- Animals well treated (like brother and sister)
- Feed is fresh and on natural basis
- Willing to pay little higher price for animal welfare
- Natural environment for animals
- Animal products (milk, meat) are tasty
- Fair and sustainable production process
- Professional attitude of farmers
- Enough margin for farmers, to make a good living
- Quality assurance by regulations / Q-programs



## Increased impact by





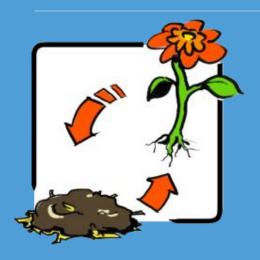
#### A. All needs of the cow



- Enough space all year round
- Enough resting place(s)
- Freedom of choices
- Sufficient floors
- Locomotion
- No stress treatments or injuries
- Enough feed / good quality



### B. Minerals are useful products



- Use of plants
- No power of feed
- Separate feaces and urine
- No artificial fertilizer
- More organic drymatter and better quality of life in soil



### C. Share €, labour and land



- Space for cow without an expensive stable
- Shared investments in milking parlour, machines, land, etc
- Co-operation
- Higher yield in grass- and cropproduction
- Energy production
- Higher quality of labour
- New functions



### D. Soil is ecosystem

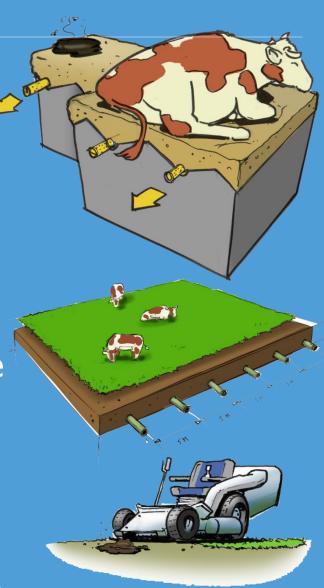


- Use organic drymatter in manure
- Intensivation and extensivation on the same farm
- Optimize management of N fertilizer (quantity, type of fertilizer, exact gifts at right place, etc)
- Minimize tillage
- No soil compression

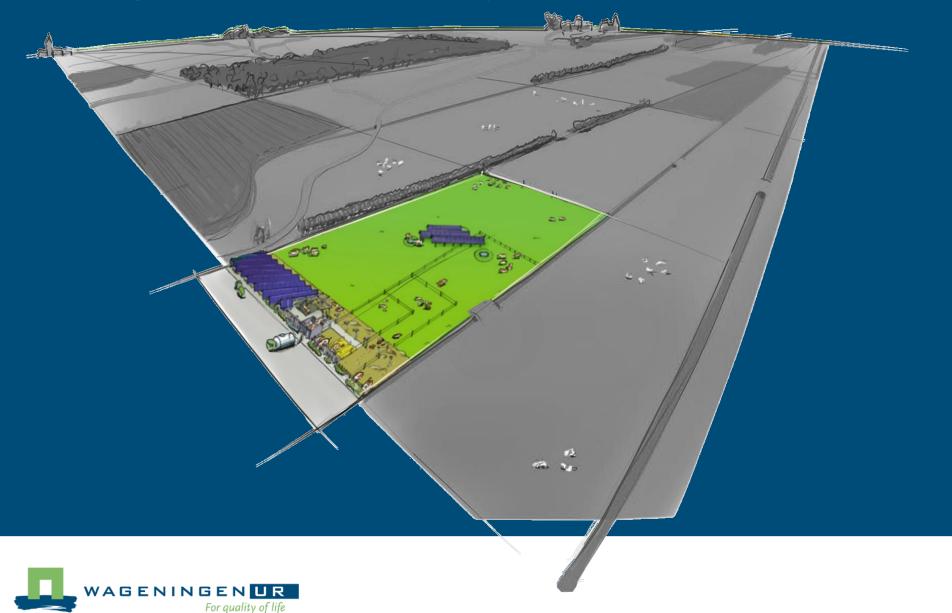


### Key solutions to overcome contradictions

- Allow for much more space, but cheap
  - Equip all areas with dry, nonslippery floors
  - Outside and inside as one continuous whole
  - Limit 'inside' to basic shelter
- Keep faeces and urine apart in the system
  - Various solutions possible on floors and grounds
  - Process them as separately applicable fertilizers
- Remove faces and urine from the system



## Design example: bird's-eye view of *De Meent*

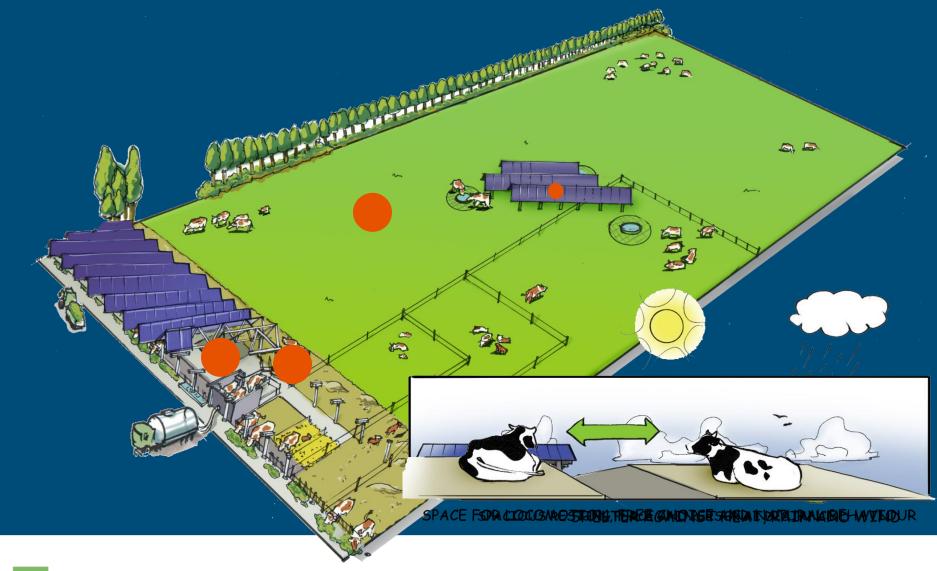


## De Meent

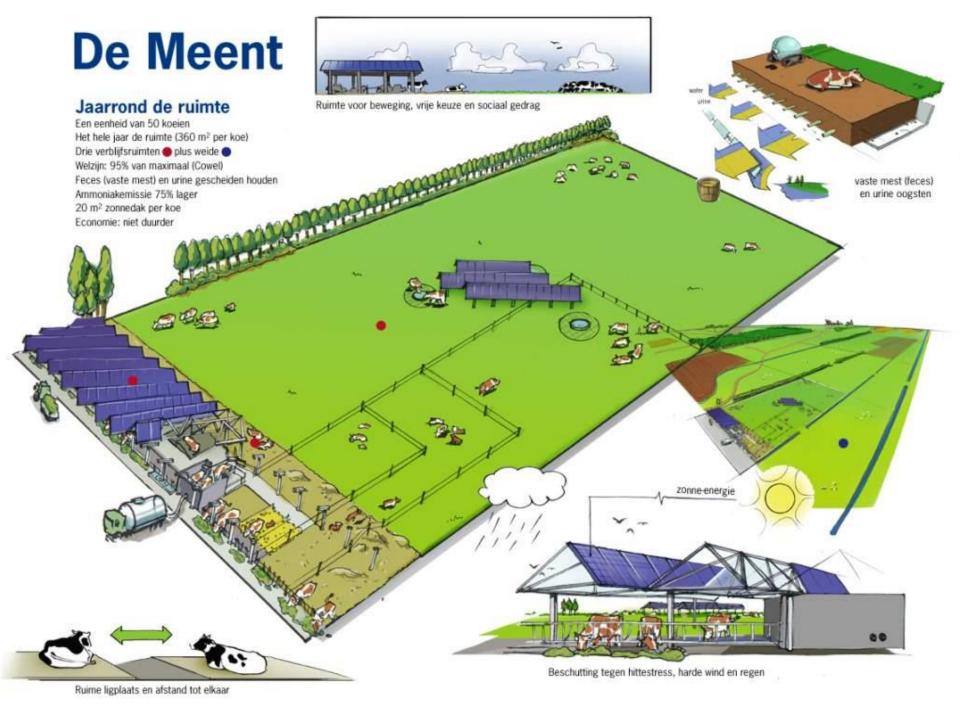




### Three permanently accessible zones

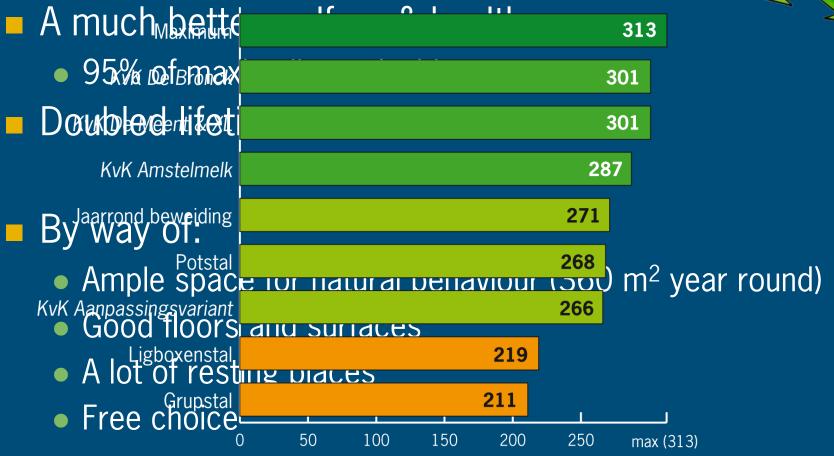






### Results for the cow







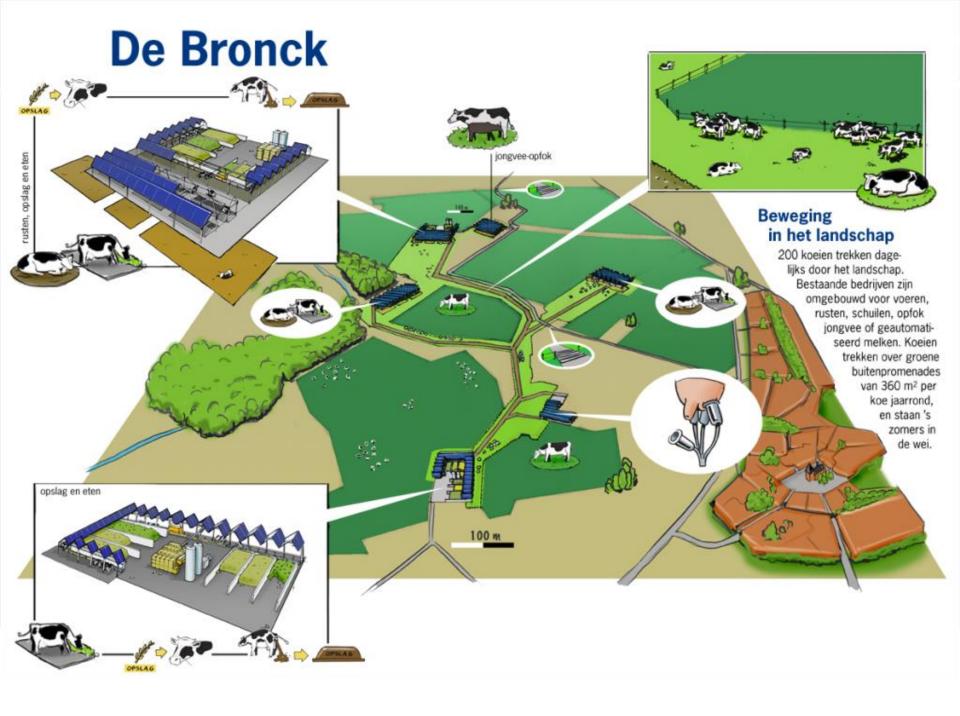


### Results for the environment



- Energy neutral
- Reduction of greenhouse gases: 50-75%
- Climate neutral if efficiency PV-cells doubles
- Reduction of local emissions of nitrogen (NH<sub>3</sub>) with 75%.
- Smaller ecological footprint of (concentrate) fodder production.
- By way of:
  - Keeping faeces and urine separated
  - Precision fertilization; no artificial fertilizer needed
  - Utilizing regional leftover streams, restricted pasturization
  - Combine solar energy with shelter
  - Manure digesters without adding components (co-products)
  - Focus on ecology of a living soil





#### Results for the farmer



- Economically competitive
- Labour flexibility; time for a social life
- Compatible with Natura 2000 and peri-urban area
- By way of:
  - No expensive buildings or cellars
  - Sharing of capital goods, land and labour
  - Automation
  - Increasing soil yield by precision fertilization and irrigation
  - Very low ammonia emissions





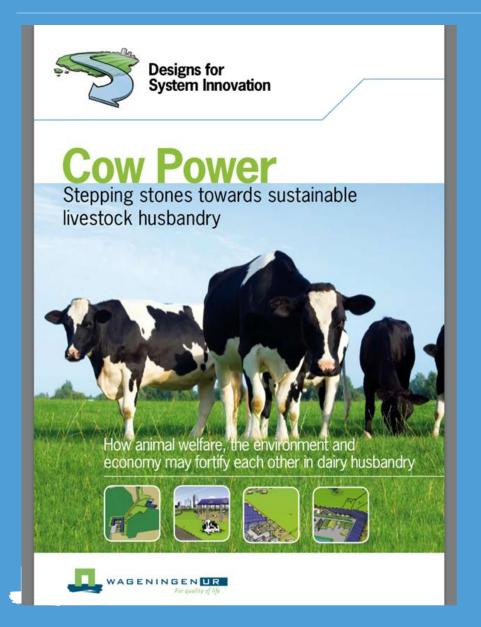


### Results for society

- Interweaved with other societal functions
- Fits in Natura 2000 and peri-urban area
- Responds to important societal requirements towards animal husbandry
- By way of:
  - Fulfil the needs of the dairy cow
  - Transparency: open systems
  - Sharing land functions
  - Very low ammonia emissions
  - Cows in pasture; cows outside year round

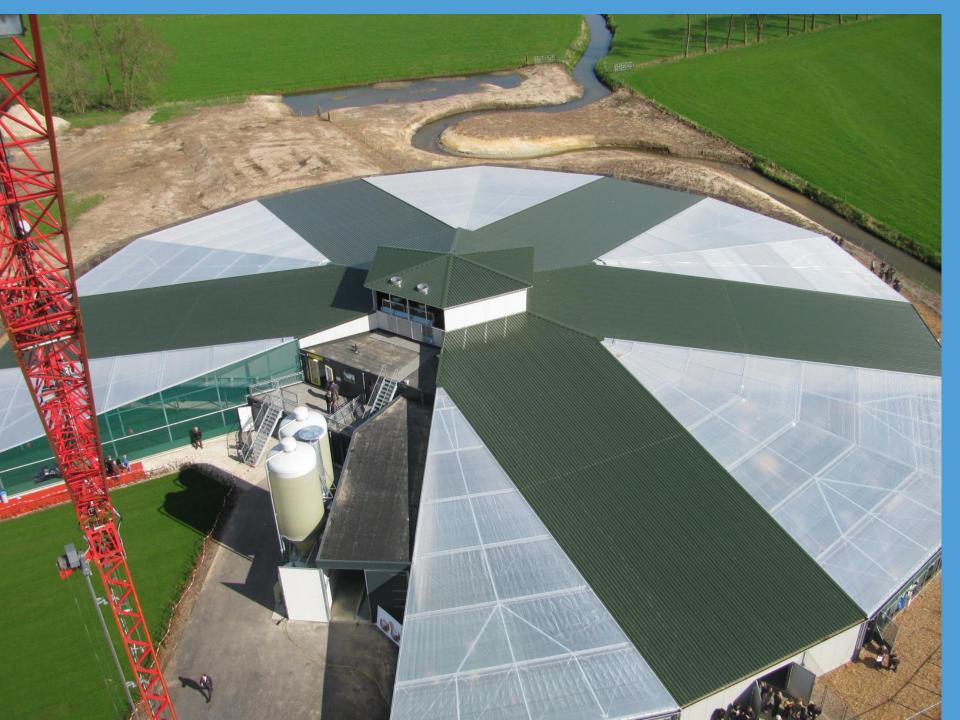


#### Cow Power



http://edepot.wur.nl/12251









## Venco Campus





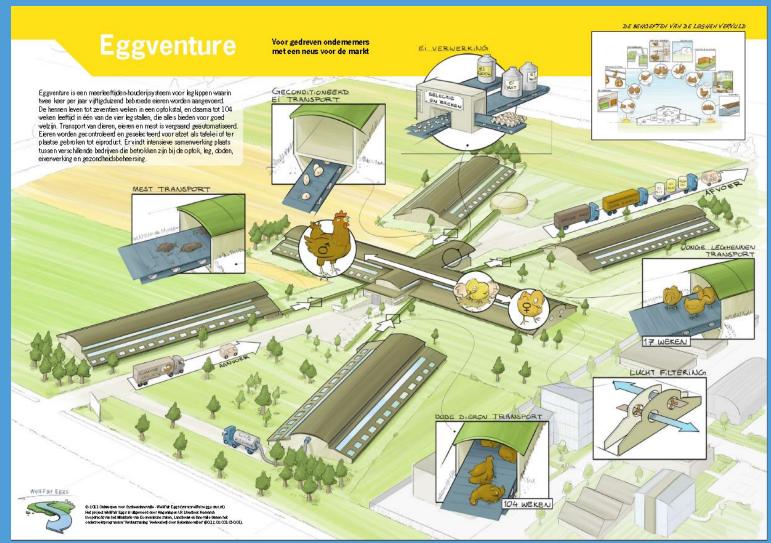






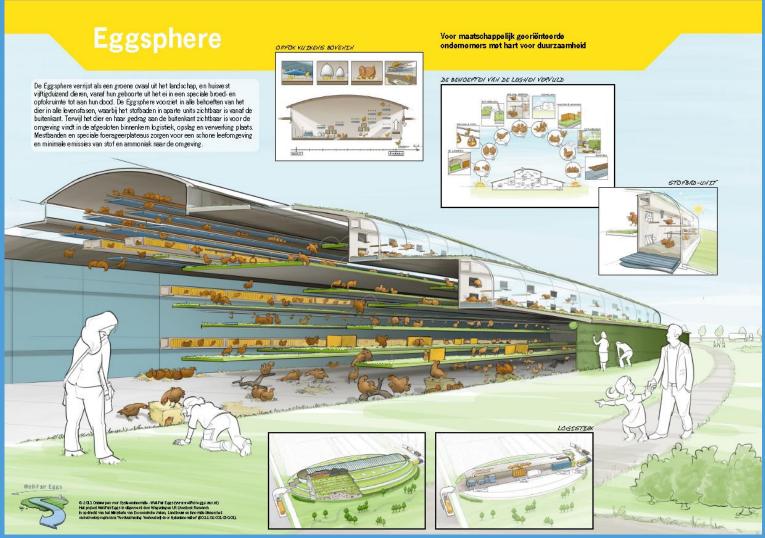


#### Egg venture





### Eggsphere





### Sum of parts



## Windstreek



















### Cow Garden





# Cow Garden







#### More information



maarten.vrolijk@wur.nl T +31 317 480485 @marvrolijk

