

Feed wedge and cutting window for grazing systems with high levels of supplementation

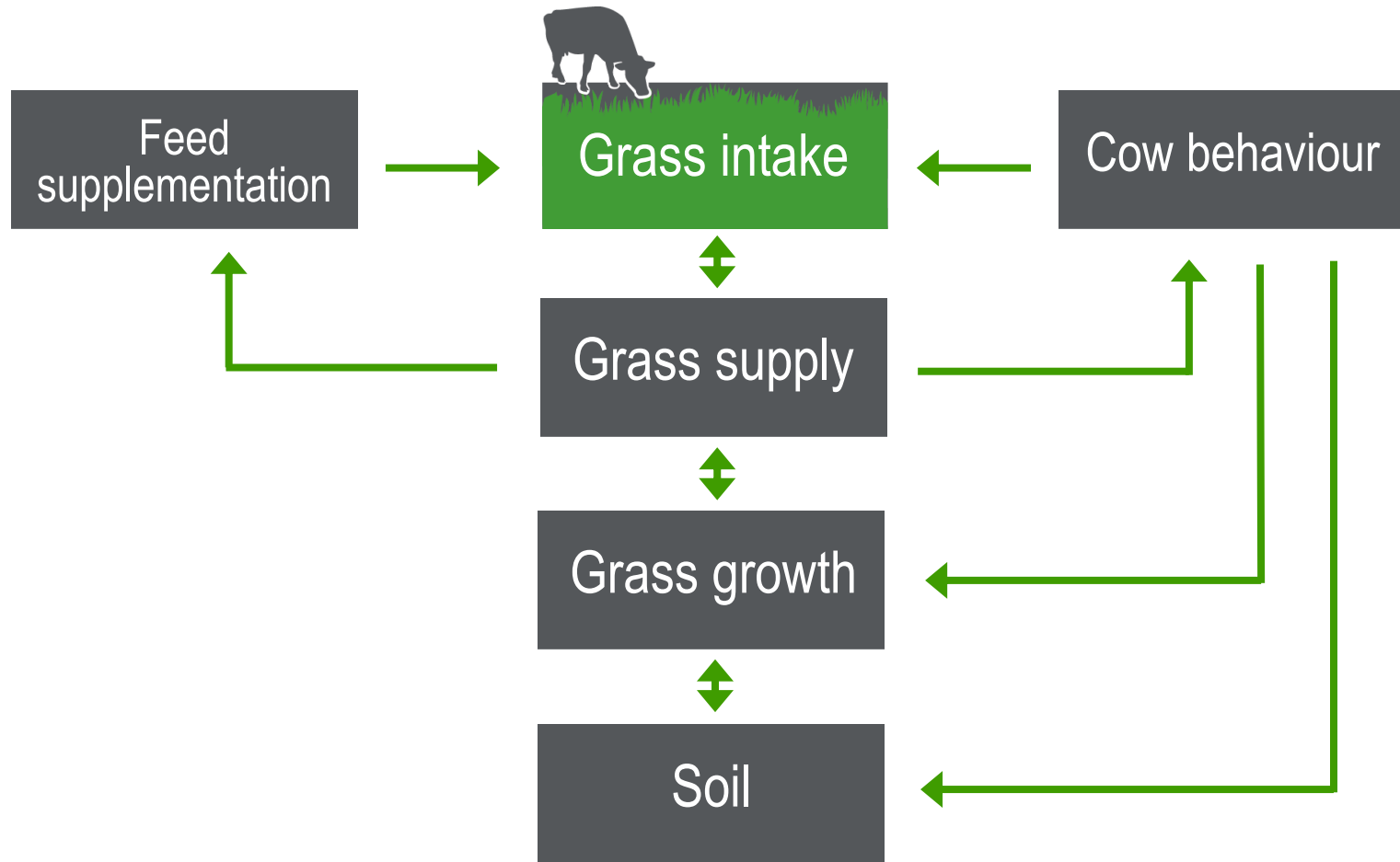
June 20th EGF-2018

Theme 5–Big data and smart technologies in grassland

M.W.J. Stienezen, A.P. Philipsen, R.L.M. Schils en A. van den Pol-van Dasselaar



Components of Amazing Grazing



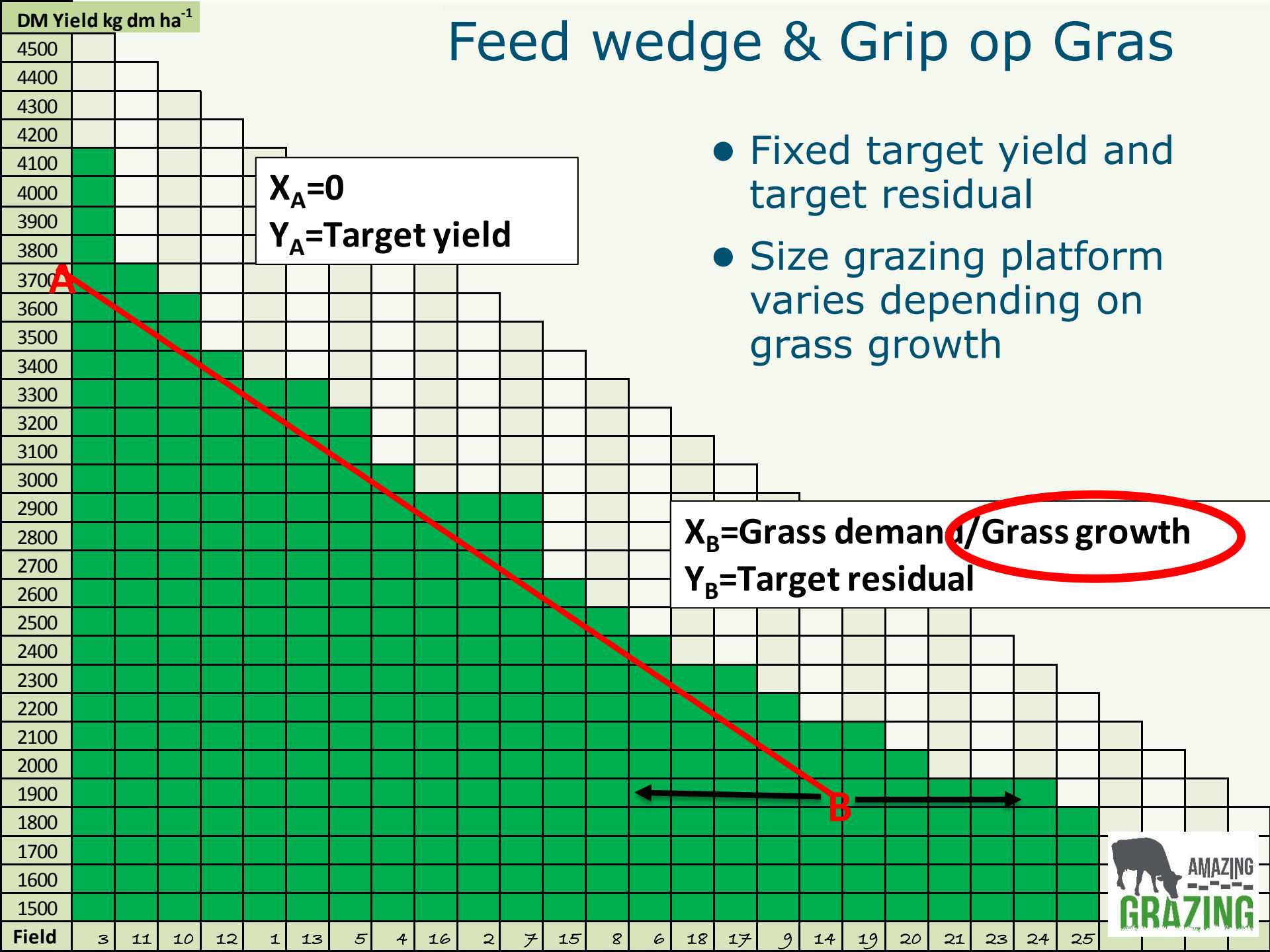
Amazing **Grazing** & Grip op Gras

- Optimise on farm fresh grass utilisation for dairy systems with
 - alternating use of grassland
 - by rotational grazing
 - cutting for fodder production
 - high levels of feed supplementation during grazing season

- Grip of Gras combines feed wedge and cutting window
 - Feed wedge to manage grazing platform
 - Cutting window to manage cutting platform

Feed wedge & Grip op Gras

- Fixed target yield and target residual
- Size grazing platform varies depending on grass growth



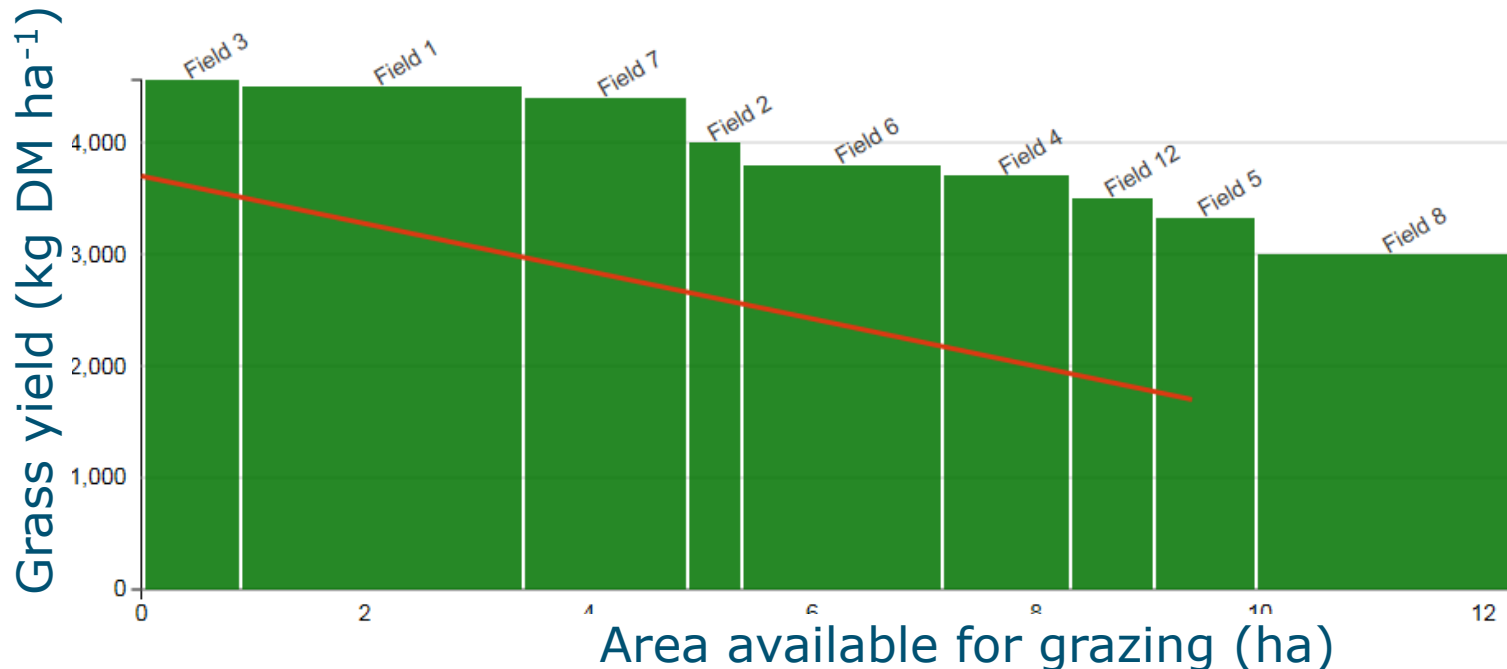
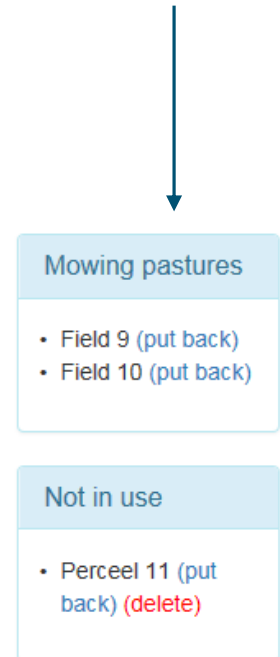
Grazing platform & cutting window

- Move paddocks from grazing platform to cutting platform and vice versa

Change to cutting



Put back

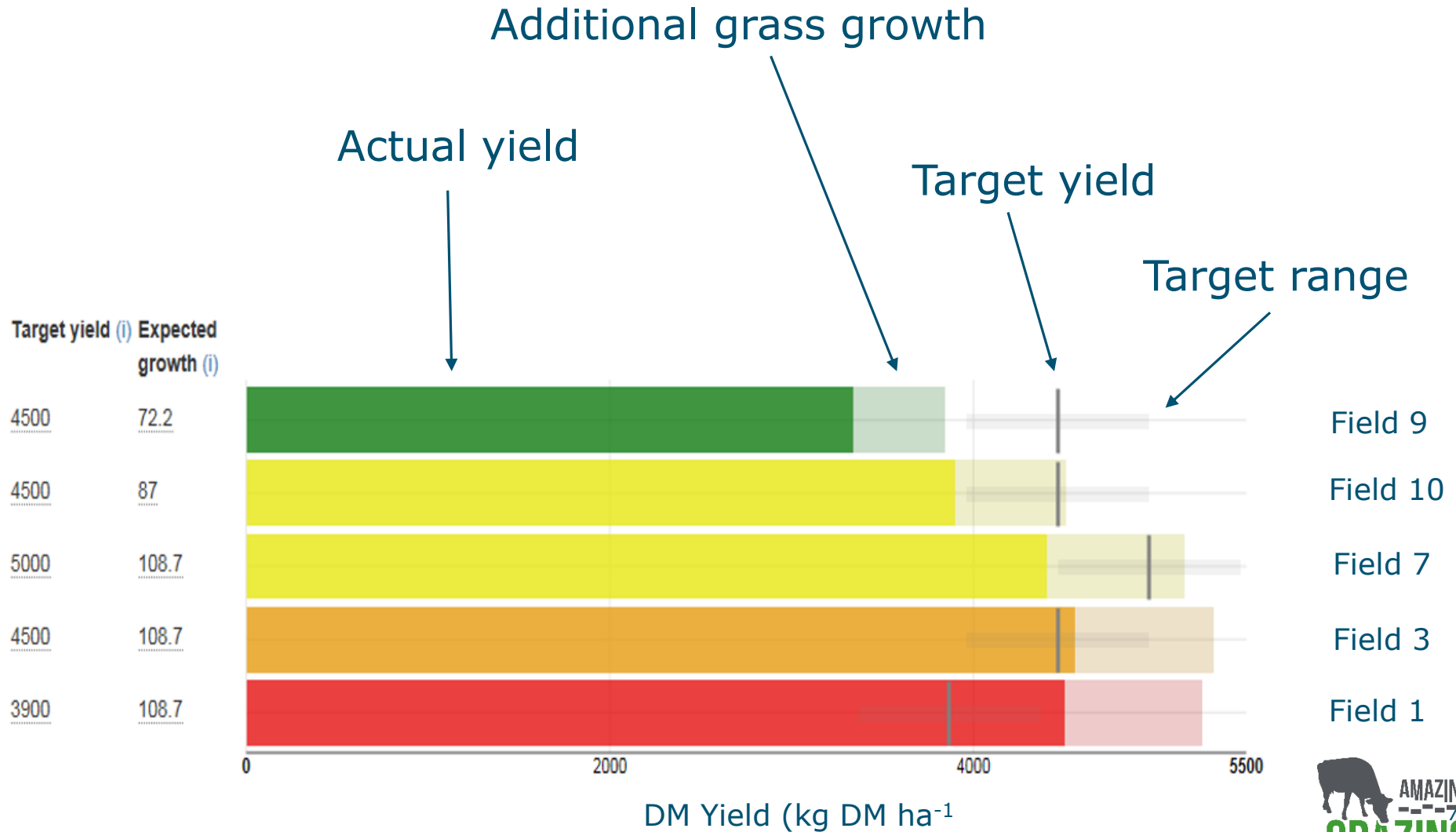


Feed wedge & expected grass growth

- Feed wedge is calculated with expected grass growth
- Expected grass growth is
 - reference for farmers
 - the average grass growth on a certain date during the growing season depending on actual yield
 - grass growth model in Dairy Wise
 - adjustable to simulate the effect on grass supply

Cutting window

- To optimise moment of cutting



Development & testing

- Prototype
- Developed with advisors, farmers and researchers
- Tested between April and July 2017 by 10 dairy farmers and advisors
- Half of them was familiar with estimating DM yield and the use of a feed wedge, the others were not
- Participants provided feedback weekly
- Free to use at www.akkerweb.eu

Results & discussion

- Difficult to identify farmers and advisors for test
- Experienced farmers used Grip op Gras in management
- Highly appreciated
 - Combination feed wedge and cutting window
 - Adjustable expected grass growth
- User-friendliness has to be improved
 - Input of data
- Utility and user-friendliness associated with level of experience in measuring DM yield and use feed wedge
 - More experienced farmers had fewer problems

Conclusion

- Concept of feed wedge and the cutting window was appropriate and satisfactory
- User-friendliness has to be improved
- To support the needs of a wide range of farmers with varying experience in grassland management with data, the several functionalities of Grip op Gras should become available separately

Amazing Grazing!!!

Amazing Grazing is funded by:



Duurzame Zuivelketen is gezamenlijk initiatief van:



nederlandse zuivel organisatie

Partners in Amazing Grazing:



Amazing Grazing is realised in cooperation with:

