

XX INTERNATIONAL
Grassland
CONGRESS
Grasslands – a Global Resource



**University College Dublin,
Ireland**

Sunday 26th June – Friday 1st July, 2005

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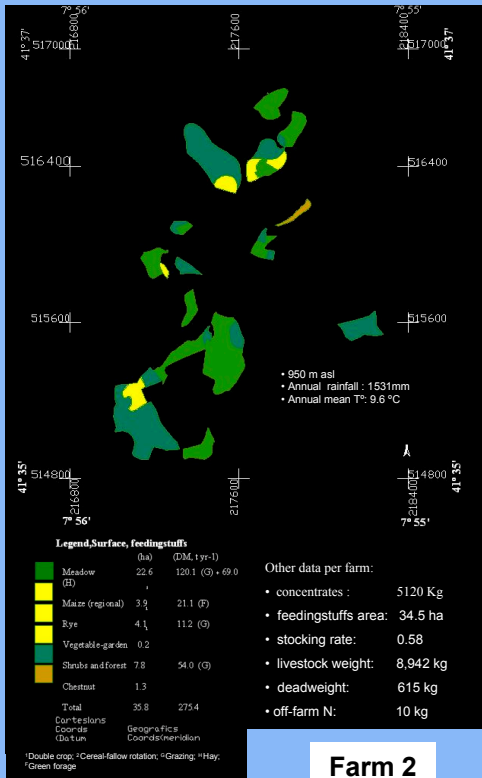
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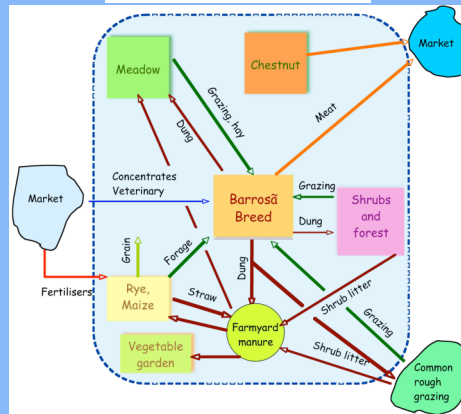
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Farm 1



Flow diagram of Farm 1



Objective

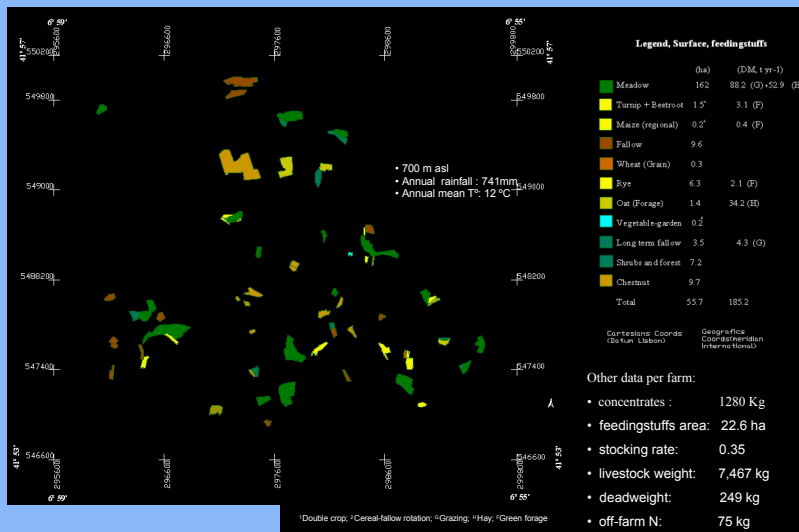
- Evaluate the suitability of two farms for organic cattle beef production



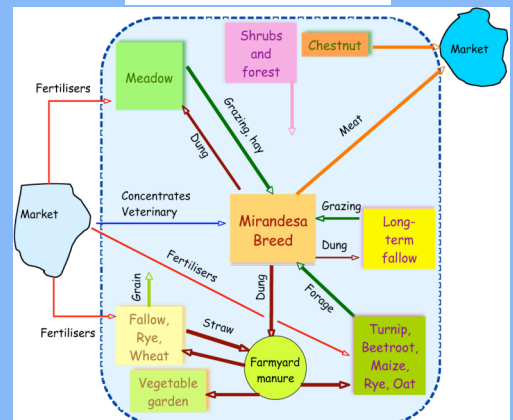
Material and methods

- Two beef cattle farms (Farm 1 – “Barrosã” breed – Montalegre and Farm 2 – “Mirandesa” breed – Vinhais) were monitored for a year (autumn 2002-03)
 - Farm activities, inputs, outputs, yields components and flows were recorded

Farm 2



Flow diagram of Farm 2



Results

- Farm 1 has:
 - a larger area of grassland and other forage crops than F2 (96.4 % compared to 40.6 %)
 - less cropland based on cereals and crucifers (11.5 % compared to 40.6 %)
 - 7-8 times less off-farm nitrogen (inorganic-N fertilisers)
 - higher proportion of grazing in cattle diets (67.3 % compared to 51.9 %)

Conclusions

- Farm 1 seems to better fulfil the specifications for organic animal production