



ECONOMY OF DAIRY FARMING ON MOUNTAIN PASTURES

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Objective

- The overall objective of the project is economical and ecological sustainable agriculture in mountainous areas taking care of landscape and production areas and produce raw material for high quality food products to be marketed under special area brand designations (AOP).
- The study looks at the economy of milk production based on mountain pastures. Records from dairy farms with and without seasonal mountain production have been compared.

Poster n13 - Session n1



Main Results

- The farm profit and labour income per h was the highest for the seasonal mountain dairying group due to support for mountain dairy farming.
- Output per cow was higher for autumn calving compared with winter and spring calving. The milk yield was higher but the farmers purchased more concentrate feed per cow. These farms had less labour input and lower fixed costs.
- Earlier studies also found that calving in the fall was most profitable with the seasonal mountain dairy system, but competent managers might compete, even with springtime calving.
- With restructuring towards larger dairy farms and farming co-operatives and plenty of land available for hire in the valley, seasonal mountain dairy farming and use of outfield pastures will likely become less important in the future unless governmental payments are granted.
- The governmental payment seems sufficient to encourage farmers to keep on but the payment may not encourage a large production on mountain pastures.

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