



## 15th Meeting of the FAO-CIHEAM Mountain Pastures Network

The utilisation of grasses functional types and of the cumulated sum of temperatures to evaluate permanent grassland digestibility in PDO cheese farms of the Massif Central in France

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INRA and extension services

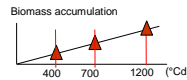
### Objectives

Improve the characterization of the links between species composition of grasslands and their nutritive value :

↳ test the use of the classification of grasses in functional types and of the sum of temperatures as an indicator of maturity stage to evaluate digestibility

### Materials et methods

- A survey of 75 plots distributed in 15 farms
- Measurements at three dates during spring
- On five 0.25m<sup>2</sup> frames (●) along a diagonal
  - Botanical composition : grasses, legumes, forbs
  - Main species of grasses classified according types A, B, b, C
- Grass cut at 5 cm above ground for laboratory analysis using NIRS
  - ↳ chemical composition and digestibility



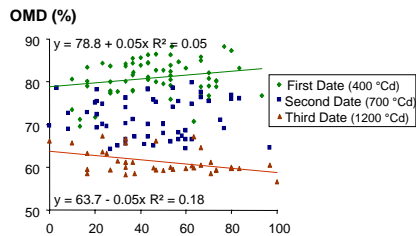
Poster n°39 - Session n°2



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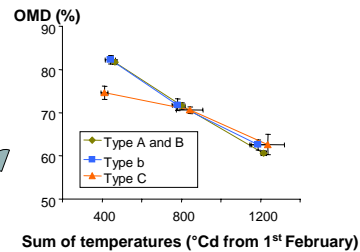
### Main Results

- The 75 plots were highly dominated by grasses
- No relationship between the composition in botanical families and digestibility



Abundance of grasses from type A and B (%)

Tends to increase digestibility for early and to decrease it for late sampling dates



When classified according the most abundant species the decrease of digestibility with the sum of temperatures is lower for type C plots (-1.5 point for 100°Cd) than for type A and B (-2.8 points) or type b plots (-2.6 points)

These results need to be strengthened but encourage the use of functional types and sum of temperature to evaluate digestibility

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