

Access to capital

Inspirational story of the farmer from "Hof ter Meulen"

One of the key limitations for farmers who want to innovate their farm by radically changing its model is the financial burden from previous expansions. The farmer "Hof ter Meulen" faced this exact situation. He had taken over the farm from his father, taking a substantial loan to do so. Even though the first year of production was very good, the second one was catastrophically bad, so much so that he decided to try it a different way. At that time his main activities were conventional pig and young potato plant production. In a span of 10 years he started slowly decreasing his pig herd and managed to completely stop potato farming in only 4 years. With the pigs and potatoes no longer paying back the massive loan, the farmer looked for many alternative sources of income. He combined the following to great success (although the process itself saw many hurdles):

- B&B through the new AirB&B applications
- Local strawberry production (which is very rare in that region)
- Agroforestry
- Introduction of a very strong non-conventional pig breed with in-house butchery
- Short chain sales
- Farm store with own products and from others

This PA does not claim that changing from massive production to small scale sustainable production under financial pressure is easy, but rather that it is not impossible. More on their website (in Dutch) www.hoftermeulen.be



Internationally importance

1 – internationally very relevant

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Project information

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In Newbie we would like to create a large network of new entrants and professionals who work in the field of new entrants into farming across Europe. If you are a new entrant with a farm or if you are a professional working in this field in advice, banking, education, retail, policy etc. we invite you to register on [our website](#).



KU LEUVEN

