

PRACTISE ABSTRACT – BE2



Access to information

How cattle and nature preservation can work together

Nature preservation organisations are generally opposed to cattle farming due to the high environmental and societal impact of meat production. In Diksmuide, close to the North Sea, one farmer has come up with an interesting partnership between his cattle farm and the Flemish nature preservation organisation, [Natuurpunt](#). He introduced a “forgotten” breed of cow into his farm: Salers. This originally French breed of cattle is much more fitted to grazing in rough nature areas and doesn't mind bad weather. The agreement includes the grazing of these Salers on the plots managed by Natuurpunt. This reduces the workload of the nature organisation and reduces the land demand of the farmer. As a consequence of this the Salers are not given any additional food and live on a diet of exclusively grass that graze themselves. The result is sustainable high-value meat with a marketable story behind it. The tough meat certainly isn't for everyone, but the farmer reports positive financial numbers.

Recommendation

This idea could be explored in other highly populated European countries. The most important challenge in this strategy is building the marketing strategy behind it that will lead to compensating the efficiency loss that comes with a limited diet and the additional work in managing the partnership. Selecting the right breed is also very important. Farmers could look for these organisations and their land to see if a valuable partnership could be attained.



Internationally importance

1 – internationally very relevant

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Date of publication: February 2019

Project information

Our website: www.newbie-academy.eu

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](#).



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