

ICT and (new) Farm business management "a farmers perspective"

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Our Dairy farm in the Netherlands: features

Family Farm, since 1939.

Dairy farming in co-operation with my

father. (63 years old)

- 85 dairy cows (MRY breed)
- 36 ha of grassland
- 10.5 ha of maize (fodder crop)
- Production of 620,000 kg milk/year



History of ICT on our dairy farm

- 1982: proces computer for concentrate feeding
- 1985: Pilot farm for testing a prototype management programme, IMAG-Wageningen University
 - Prototype IMAG developed into Argos and Uniform Agri
- 1991: Switched to Agrovision (MIS)
 - Integration of financial software
 - Perspective for automated input
- 2004: Started milking with AMS
- 2009: Experiments with remote sensing
 - Crop and soil fertility management



Why ICT on our farm?

- Personal challenge to lower costs (on concentrate use)
 - Linking concentrate use on milk production
 - Accurate distribution of fertiliser and manure
 - Insight in cow health
- Saving time in administration
- Flexible time management

→ Conclusion: more flexible and less labour, less costs



Goals dairy management (MIS)

- 1. Data collection (business, technical, legal, complementary info)
- 2. Data exchange
- 3. Data analysis
- 4. Benchmarking (dutch dairy farmers)

Data characteristics

- 1. Milk production and quality
- 2. Breeding
- 3. Health and medicine use
- 4. Feeding
- 5. Fertiliser and manure use
- 6. Cattle registration
- 7. Pasture management
- 8. Financial administration

Daily use of ICT













Automized input

Direct farm data (trough proces computers)

- Milk production
- Milk quality (AMS)
- Concentrates intake

External data (trough the internet)

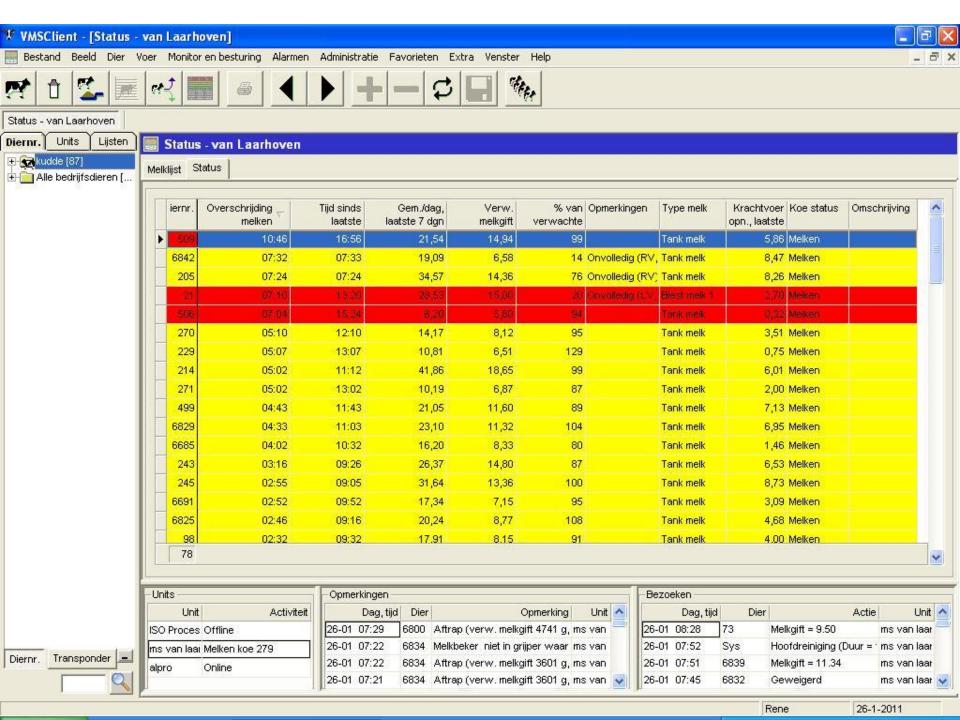
- Breeding data
- Milk quality (dairy company)
- Medicine use (vetenarian)
- I&R information
- Invoices



Manual input

- 1. Breeding information (inseminations, bulling)
- 2. Health treatments
- 3. Fertiliser and manure quantities
- 4. Roughage quantities
- 5. Irrigation quantities
- 6. Supply and discharge of cattle
- 7. Stocks
- 8. Invoices (partially manual)









Dutch colleague dairy farmers: an impression

Need for data analysis and benchmarking seems high, **however**

- Low extensive use of ICT and administration tools
 - Complicated
 - Limited to legal requirements (I&R, accounting)
 - Family partner/external advisor
- Time spent on input is very limited
- Farmers <35 are better users of ICT



Situation in arable farming

- Development in precision farming
- Development in remote sensing and satellite information
 - Crop growth,
 - Water management,
 - Soil fertility
 - Pest control
- Data exchange in the Agro Food chain with supply and retail

Needs

- More automated input
- Easy acces to information: where ever, when ever
- Customized information (users perspective),
 - eg. alerts
 - eg. innovations
 - eg. legal developments
- Crop related aspects better integrated with MIS



Dreams

On the spot management and business advice:

Real time information on crop production and nutritional values

Real time benchmarking/data exchange with co-farmers

