

# Promoting sustainable dairy production in the Netherlands

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Since 1965 intensive dairy farming

Changing of cattle feed  
to high protein % and low fibre -  
Result: inefficient Nitrogen use and  
ever increasing dependency on  
external inputs



# Environmental problems (pollution, soil degradation, etc) + new policies to handle manure and minerals



# Study groups of conventional dairy farmers: new thinking & joint learning





- Soil as basis
- reduce fertiliser on fields
- reduce concentrates
- feed cow as ruminant again:  
low protein and high crude  
fibre rations





# Leads to healthier soils and environment



# Outcome of new dairy system based on study among 100 dairy farmers

1. Economic efficiency increased
2. Better for environment and climate
3. Healthier animals, increased number of lactations per animal
4. Adapted breeding has led to more robust animals
5. Farmers more relaxed and less stress