

Field based animal breeding.

Report from SOLMACC activities at Hånsta Östergärde 100km north of Stockholm Sweden.

The farm cultivates 160 hectares of arable land. It is in organic production since 1987. In the farm there is also a small animal husbandry with beef production, sheep, outdoor pigs and laying hens. The farm also has 57ha forest and about 10ha permanent pasture.

On the farm we do 4 activities in the SOLMACC project to mitigate climate change

- Alley cropping in Agroforestry.
- Relay cultivation.
- Field based animal breeding.
- Cultivation of winter peas.

Field based animal breeding.

To see if we can:

- Mitigate climate change.
- Decrease leakage of nutrient.
- Extend the pasture season.
- Reduce transports.
- Achieve good animal welfare.
- Find low cost breeding systems

We keep cattle in the fields with access to movable shelters in autumn winter and spring time. The movable shelters can also be used to lock cattle up when it is needed.



The shelters are easy moved with a tractor.



Silage and straw remain and are stored in the fields where it is produced. The animals pasture in the autumn until snow is covering the grass. The manure will stay in the field where it should be spread.



Straw is added in the shelters every day.



The cattle often rest in straw beddings in the open field.



The height of the beddings have not reached half a meter when the shelters are moved. The beddings are cold and not composted. We suppose the nitrogen can be kept better and we can minimize leakage of nitrous oxide, the energy and humus can be kept.



We spread the nutritious beddings just before spring seeding of grain.



The manure is mulched down in the soil within 10 minutes after spreading.



Directly after the field is ploughed, harrowed and seeded with spring grain.



We have the opinion that we have good nutrition care and good yields.

As we don't compost the manure over the summer we suppose we have more nutrients left for the grain.

We minimize transport of feed, straw and manure.

The shelters don't need concrete, a material which is problematic from climate point of view.

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