

Olivier Mehuys

“Farming in a way that works with nature, not against it.”



Who is Olivier Mehuys?

- Son of a farmer
- Economics at University Brussels (HUB)
- Decided to start farming
- Agriculture in evening school
- Took over half of the farm 2 years ago

The farm: “Hof Ten Dreve”



Situated



The Farm (2 years ago)

- Arable land: 100ha
 - Hard clay soil



- Grasland: 12 ha



Cattle

- 320 bulls and 10 cows (Belgian White blue)



Bulls

- Food (fresh every day)
 - Mais
 - Potatoes
 - Pulp
 - Barley
 - Concentrate
 - Grass
 - Beer trot
- Fresh straw every day in their box
 - Litter for the land

Bulls

- Selling method:
 - Cattle dealer
 - Slaughter house
 - Intermediary or supermarket

The Farm (today)

- New cattle: herd of 40 “Salers”



The Farm (today)

- Grassland: 30ha
 - 18ha nature grassland
 - 12ha grassland



Salers herd (40 cattle)

- 12 cows each year a calf
- 1 bull
- Characteristics



Salers Herd

- The meat



Salers Herd

- Selling methods
 - Via localfoodbox.be
 - Via boerolivier.be
 - Via farmmeat.be
 - Butcher “De Heerlijkheid”
 - Restaurant
 - The Food Assembly
 - Efarmz



Today and now?

- Take over 2 years ago (half of the farm)
 - Father has the experience
 - Capital intensive!
- Trying to change (need for time and money)
- My motivation:

“How can we as **young** and future farmers **convert** our existing farm (mostly from parents) step by step to an **independent** and **self-sufficient** farm?
(and thus a sustainable farm)

Challenge 1

- **The soil**
 - We all know we need better soil, store carbon in soil, use less pesticides, have more biodiversity,...
- **Solutions?**
 - Need for independent advice! (for example: Regenacterre)
 - Link EU subsidies with healthy soil?
 - Link EU subsidies to activities to reach a more biodiverse and healthy soil

Challenge 2

- **Added value!**

- Farmer loses added value on his farm

- **Solutions?**

- Working together with other farmer(s) (for example: Bart Syryn from De Heerlijkheid)

- Working together with intermediates/supermarkets/online markets (for example: Efarmz)

eFarmz

Challenge 3

- **Young farmers!**
 - We all know we need more young farmers
- **Solutions:**
 - Make farming less capital intensive (for example: mobile hen house)
 - Make land easy accesible
 - Good education! (for example: Slow Food Movement)
 - 2 generations on 1 farm

Thank you for your time and...

Let's make farming attractive again!

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