

BLL template Farm Nature Management Plan BLL Dairy cattle 1 star



Adviser:

Farm name:

UBN:

Date:

1. Measurement

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Is the farm located in low-lying or high-lying NL?	Low / high
Number of lactating cows	
Land surface area in use (in ha):	ha
Of which grassland	ha
Of which arable land	ha
Surface area of farmyard	ha
Total surface area (in use) for dairy farming (ha)	ha
Percentage of grassland	%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in relation to surface area for dairy farming • standard states at least 80% 	
Percentage of permanent grassland	%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in relation to surface area for dairy farming • standard states at least 15% • indicate this on the map 	
Total surface area of grassland accessible as active grazing for dairy cows	ha
Number of lactating cows per ha of grassland available for active grazing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximum 10 per 1 ha 	

CRITERIA NATURE AND LANDSCAPE	
Surface area of herb-rich grassland in compliance with criteria:	ha
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rest period 1 April to 15 June • max. 30% grazed by 1.5 LU /ha and max. • 20 tons of solid manure per ha/year • The rewetted area may be included • Is registered from start of participation in BLL • Indicate this on the map 	
Percentage of surface area of herb rich grassland	%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in relation to the total number of hectares used for dairy farming • standard states at least 5% 	
Fertilising level herb-rich grassland	ton/ha ton/ha
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring (max. 10 tons of solid manure or thick fraction before 1 April) • After June 15 (in total on annual basis, <u>max. 20 tons</u> of organic manure) 	
Rewetted area	ha
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • only applies for farms in low-lying NL • may be included in the surface area of herb-rich grassland 	
Rewetted area within the area of herb-rich grassland consists of the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High water ditches (min. 150 m per ha of herb-rich grassland) • Trenches (min. 150 m per ha of herb-rich grassland) • Marshy area (min. 0.5 ha) 	

Total surface area participation in management packages from Agricultural Nature Management (ANLb) scheme	ha
Surface area (in ha) per package (in compliance with ANLb conditions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grassland with rest period (15 June) 3. Marshy area 5. Herb-rich grassland 13. Grassland with botanical value 	
Total surface area with landscape elements present <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in relation to total surface area in hectares for dairy farming • <i>Indicate this on the map</i> • Surface area of wet elements in ha (specify!) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>E.g. ditch 10 km x 2 m</i> • Surface area of dry elements in ha (specify!) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>E.g. hedgerow 5 km x 5 m</i> 	
Percentage of area of landscape elements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in relation to total surface area in hectares for dairy farming • for low-lying NL at least 2% • for high-lying NL at least 3% 	%
Is openness of the landscape maintained in relation to the baseline measurement? (low-lying NL)	Yes / No
Have ditches been filled in?	Yes / No
Number of metres of planting with native species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least 100 m 	m
One of the farm buildings is suitable for barn swallows to nest and breed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm swallows are nesting on the farm 	Yes / No
Farmhouse or barn (roof tiles) suitable for house sparrows or starlings to nest and breed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House sparrows or starlings are nesting on the farm 	Yes / No
There is at least 1 nest box present for little owls, church owls or kestrels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only for farms in high-lying NL • A little owl, church owl or kestrel is nesting in the nest box 	Yes / No
A nest management plan is observed on the entire surface area of the farm.	Yes / No
Describe the method of nest management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A map hanging in the barns is used • Any nests found are protected as follows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ by creating enclaves of at least 50 m² ○ by implementing a rest period until 15 June ○ by placing nest protectors • Sward is cut from the centre towards the edges • A wide margin (min. 5 m) is cut • Volunteers search for nests (not a stated as a standard) 	Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No

2. Ecological value of own farm

1. What measures do you currently take to promote nature/biodiversity? What is the most special aspect of nature/biodiversity on our farm in your opinion? Please explain why.

2. Which species are present on your land and in the farmyard? How many?

SPECIES	NUMBER
Breeding birds	(breeding birds in breeding pairs)
Winter birds	
Reptiles and amphibians	
Butterflies	
Small mammals	
Other bird and animal species	
Other natural and landscape elements of value	

3. Is your farm part of a collective or other form of cooperation aimed at promoting nature? What is the name of this collective? What is the scope of this collective and what are the target species?

4. What is the quality of the herb-rich grassland and landscape elements?

5. Are there any protected nature areas close to/adjacent to your land?
If yes, what is the name of the nature manager and the organisation?

6. What are the target species that require your focus?

7. What measures could you take for the benefit of these target species?

For example:

Create a marshy area

Increase the herb-richness of grassland

Create nest site for farm swallows

Hang up nest box for kestrel, church owl

Increase quality of herb-rich grassland, landscape elements, nest sites in the farmyard

Annex 1 Map of your land with natural elements

- Include scale, legend, and compass
- Indicate sites of herb-rich grassland, and if applicable marshy area/wet elements
- Indicate sites and types of ANLB package
- Indicate sites of landscape elements
- Other sites of ecological and landscape value on land and farmyard
- Special sites of ecological and landscape value directly adjacent to your location

Annex 2 Practical tips for good meadow bird management

For the fact sheets visit <https://www.vogelbescherming.nl/bescherming/wat-wij-doen/op-het-platteland/weidevogels/onderzoek-weidevogels>

1. Limit applications, or do not fertilise. At low fertilisation levels, fast growing grass species such as perennial ryegrass will not be able to compete with the herbs. This will promote growth of other grasses and herbs. Fertiliser must be applied after the breeding season, with the exception of solid manure, which can also be applied before the breeding season. *See fact sheet 'Soil quality and fertilising'*
2. Deplete the soil quality by cutting and removing the cuttings. In the first few years by repeatedly cutting/removing more than 3x/year. Over time, this can be reduced to 1x or 2x/year. When cutting and removing the cuttings, watch out for bird nests and chicks! *See fact sheet 'Cutting'*
3. Create a high groundwater level – A high groundwater level slows down heating of the soil and the effects of fertiliser. This in turn slows down the establishment and growth of vegetation and creates more structural variation and diversity. Preferably already raise the water level to ground level during the winter period. *See fact sheet 'Rewetting'*
4. Pasture access- Grazing, combined with an adapted fertilisation application, creates varied patterns of short and long vegetation development. As a result, prey animals are more widely available and cover for chicks is also provided. This especially benefits lapwing, redshank and oyster catcher chicks. This will only apply with production level of less than 6 tons of dm/ha/year. In many cases however, soil quality depletion is preferable. *See fact sheet 'Pasture access'*
5. Create ditches - Ditches that retain water introduce variations at plot level between patches of vegetation that heat up early or late in the season. This creates varied patterns of short and long vegetation development. Ensure the ditches are full of water in March-April-May. *See fact sheet 'Rewetting'*
6. Sow a herb-rich mixture – When a poor source of seed leads to a low proportion of herbs and flowers in the grassland, a good option is to sow a herb-rich mixture. Apply the seed in August or September and use seed native to the region. Make sure the soil is suitable to start with (high groundwater level, no fertiliser applied in spring, frequent cutting and removal of cuttings). If the soil is not suitably prepared first, the seeds will not establish (waste of money, unsatisfactory results, disappointed farmer). *See fact sheet "Grassland management"*

Why is silage/forage made from herb-rich grassland ideal to feed to cattle?

1. Herb-rich grass is more palatable and tastes better.
2. It has more structure than highly productive grass and maize.
3. It is healthy because it contains herbs, minerals and trace elements. As a result, the cows have better immunity and require fewer antibiotics.
4. Trials conducted in dairy herds reveal that adding 25-30% of herb-rich grass to the ration does not reduce the milk yield. Adding herb-rich grass increases the forage intake, as the rumen passage of the ration is slower.
6. Herb-rich hay is also beneficial for the rumen development of calves.

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