



# FAIRshare

DIGITAL TOOLS FOR FARM ADVISORS



2018-2023



31 partners



6,99M

Findable, Available, Interoperable,  
Reusable and Shareable

FAIRShare aims to improve farmer engagement with digital technologies through sharing, adapting and enabling more use of digital advisory tools and services (DATS)

**Practice abstract n°64**

**Update PA 13 - Decision support tool to provide insight to ration usage on dairy farms**



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# Decision support tool to provide insight to ration usage on dairy farms

n°64

## Context

The ration on a dairy farm is key for the whole farm output. In order to have a good calculation, evaluation and decision tool, Inagro created a new Excel-based dairy ration program.

- On the one hand, the program is a more extended calculation and evaluation tool than the previous tool that was used.
- On the other hand, it is possible to link the calculated ration with the farm performances.

## Results

The output of rationing and animal and farm performance can be viewed in a clear and simple dashboard. The tool is meant for dairy advisors to calculate the ration for lactating dairy cows, dry cows and heifers. The tool also allows farmers to check their farm performances. Benchmarking of performances for the participating dairy farms is also possible with the dashboard.

The values of this innovative tool for a dairy farmer are:

- To get an insight on how to feed best the different groups of animals on his or her farm,
- The evaluation of the feeding based on the data of the animals,
- The provision of an insight on the costs and revenues of their feeding strategy,
- Allowing them to visualise the evolution of this data when input is modified or output has changed.



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The tool shows in a clear way the performance of the farm and its evolution over time. It enables results to be compared with colleagues and indicates how to adapt the farm management to increase the performance and profitability.

This Excel-based dairy ration program saves all data of each calculated ration and hence contains a huge amount of data that can be used for data analysis. The drawback however, is that Excel will meet its limitations when the amount of data becomes too high. In the future, the Excel-based ration tool will be used as prototype to build the ration tool in another software program that doesn't have this limitation.

## Recommendations

- Show in a clear way the performance of the farm and its evolution over time to allow comparison with colleagues and give indication on how to adapt the farm management to increase the performance and profitability
- Use an Excel-based tool for prototyping and then another software program to store and process a large amount of data



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