

# Feed wedge and cutting window for grazing systems with high levels of supplementation

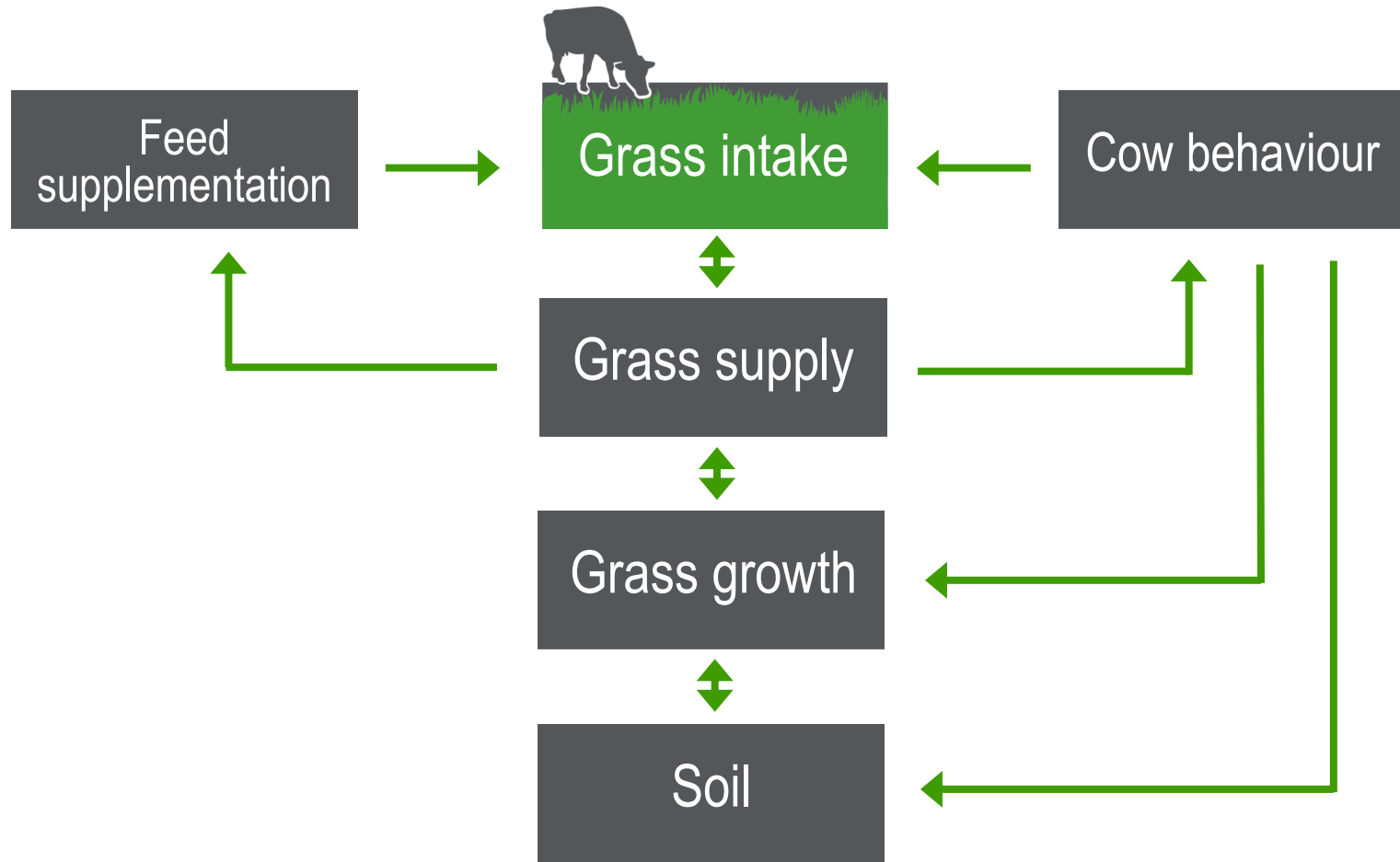
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*Theme 5–Big data and smart technologies in grassland*

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# Components of Amazing Grazing

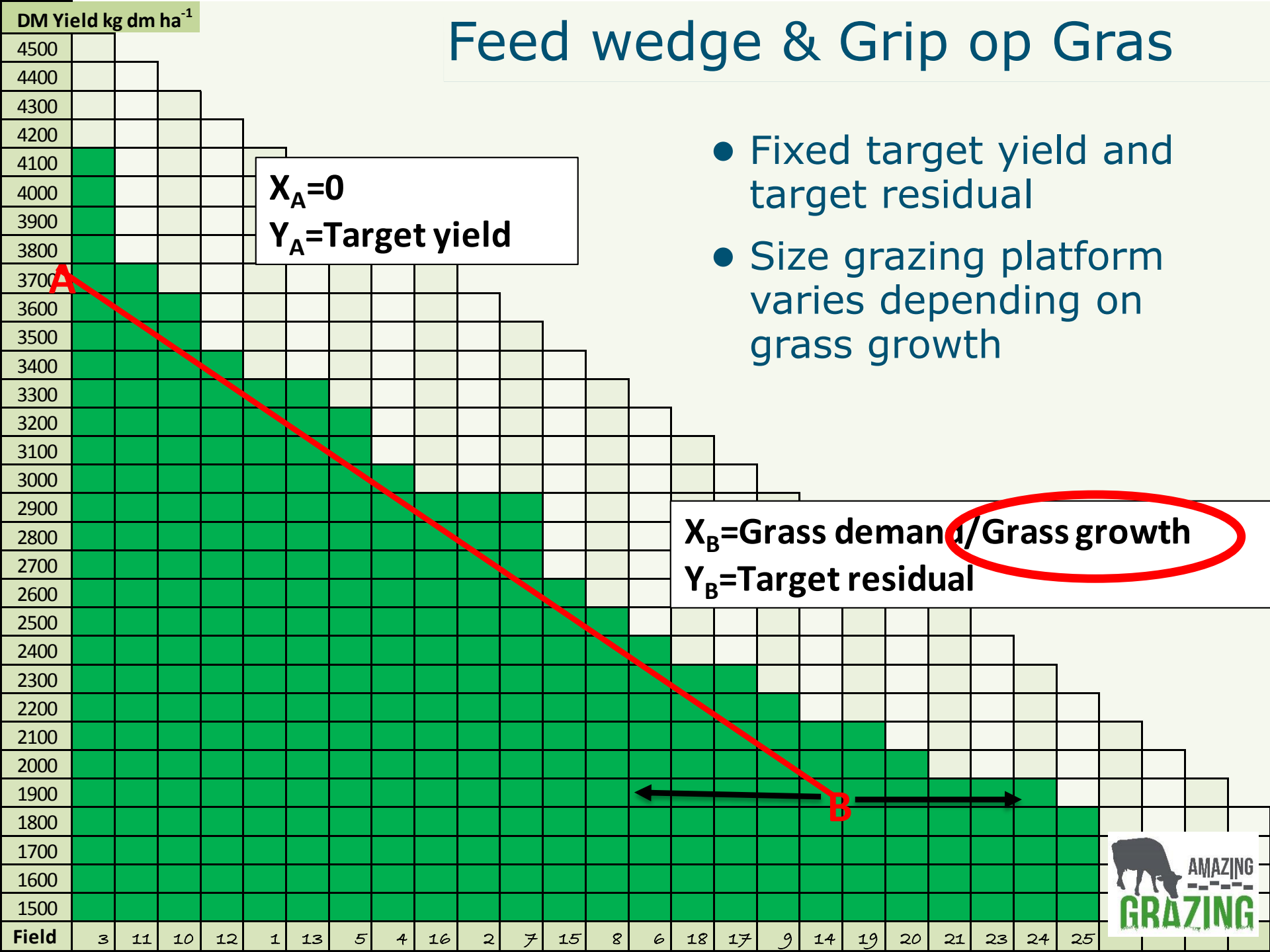


# Amazing Grazing & Grip op Gras

- Optimise on farm fresh grass utilisation for dairy systems with
  - alternating use of grassland
    - by rotational grazing
    - cutting for fodder production
  - high levels of feed supplementation during grazing season
- Grip of Gras combines feed wedge and cutting window
  - Feed wedge to manage grazing platform
  - Cutting window to manage cutting platform

# Feed wedge & Grip op Gras

- Fixed target yield and target residual
- Size grazing platform varies depending on grass growth



# Grazing platform & cutting window

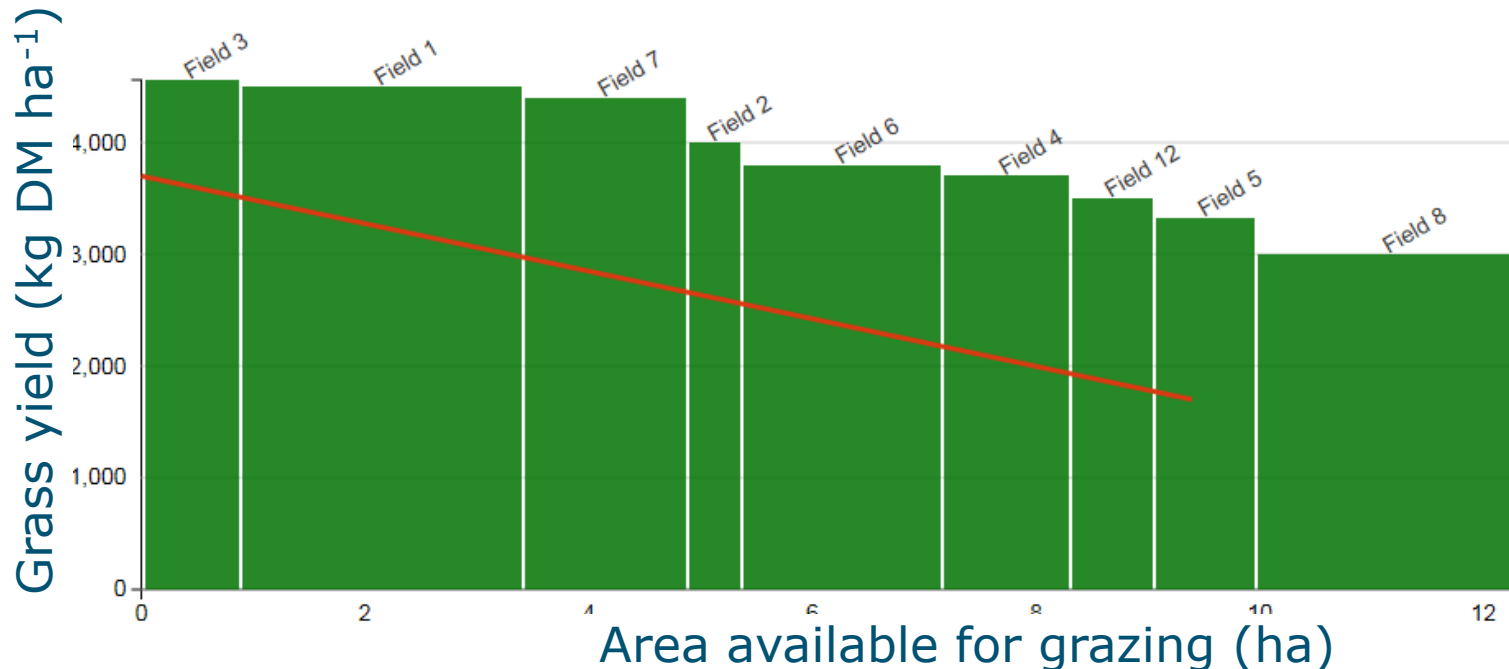
- Move paddocks from grazing platform to cutting platform and vice versa

Change to cutting

Put back

Change to mowing   Not in use   Field 3 (4560 kg dm/ha)

- Mowing pastures
- Field 9 (put back)
  - Field 10 (put back)
- Not in use
- Perceel 11 (put back) (delete)

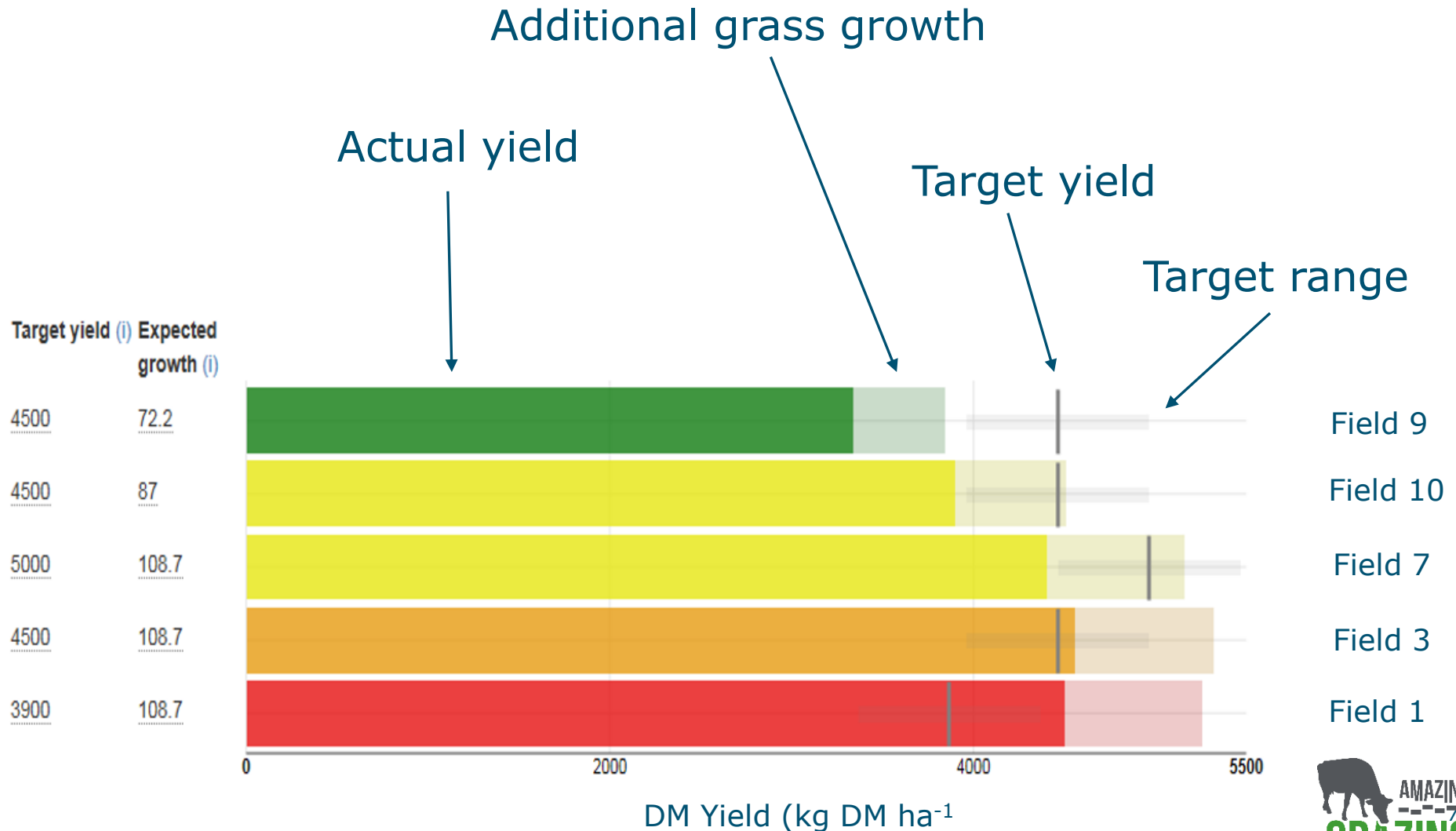


# Feed wedge & expected grass growth

- Feed wedge is calculated with expected grass growth
- Expected grass growth is
  - reference for farmers
  - the average grass growth on a certain date during the growing season depending on actual yield
  - grass growth model in Dairy Wise
  - adjustable to simulate the effect on grass supply

# Cutting window

- To optimise moment of cutting



# Development & testing

- Prototype
- Developed with advisors, farmers and researchers
- Tested between April and July 2017 by 10 dairy farmers and advisors
- Half of them was familiar with estimating DM yield and the use of a feed wedge, the others were not
- Participants provided feedback weekly
- Free to use at [www.akkerweb.eu](http://www.akkerweb.eu)



# Results & discussion

- Difficult to identify farmers and advisors for test
- Experienced farmers used Grip op Gras in management
- Highly appreciated
  - Combination feed wedge and cutting window
  - Adjustable expected grass growth
- User-friendliness has to be improved
  - Input of data
- Utility and user-friendliness associated with level of experience in measuring DM yield and use feed wedge
  - More experienced farmers had fewer problems

# Conclusion

- Concept of feed wedge and the cutting window was appropriate and satisfactory
- User-friendliness has to be improved
- To support the needs of a wide range of farmers with varying experience in grassland management with data, the several functionalities of Grip op Gras should become available separately

# Amazing Grazing!!!

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