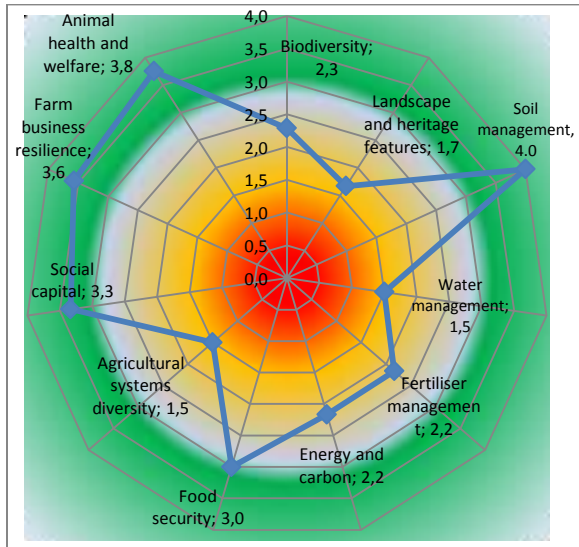


SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR THE ROMANIAN CASE FARM NO. 2



Biodiversity

It is a specialized farm (dairy cows + pasture + some cereals) bordered on one side by a rather important river & meadow vegetation.

Landscape and heritage features

There are no historic and heritage features, the farm houses are rather old and in need of improvement (the farmer actually started rehabilitation after purchase).

Soil management

Although there are no soil management plans, there is no soil erosion and the use of the land is sustainable. Most crops are harvested in early autumn and much of the land is green over the winter.

Water management

There are no water management plans, as the water supply is abundant.

Fertiliser management

Almost no use of inorganic fertilizers. Although the manure is properly stored and applied, it is used empirically (e.g. no soil analysis).

Energy and carbon

The farm has moderate energy consumption (fuel, electric power); there was no conversion of pasture area into arable land. No use of sustainable energy sources, no plans for greenhouse gases management.

Food security

The farm is well integrated into the local economy (all milk is delivered regionally). Overabundant feed supply (almost sole user of the shared common land). Some concentrate feeds (brans, meals) are imported, to balance the diets.

Agricultural systems diversity

It is a specialized farm (1 animal species and 3 crops) which has only one outlet to market the production and no on-farm processing of milk. However, the farmer spotted the problem and considers diversifying.

Social capital

The labour is provided by the family and some hired workers. The farmer is open to visits and public access. The working environment is good in terms of human health and safety.

Farm business resilience

The business is very profitable due to the large nearby market and farmer's decision to sell the milk through a dispensing machine. There's a lack of flexibility because marketing is done through just one outlet, but the farmer considers back-up plans (e.g. local processing of the milk). The farmer is carefully monitoring the business and is open to new information and technical knowledge.

Animal health and welfare

The animals are in good condition due to the low animal load (housing, pasture) and careful maintenance of the stock (use of external consultants, sustainable exploitation of animal stock). Very low rate of lameness, mastitis and other disturbances. Good conditions to perform natural animal behaviour.