HerbValo – knowing the valorisation of grass on your grassland

Need/issue: Grassland and grazing management.

Aim: To manage the grassland's production and valorisation during the season or the campaign..

How to implement:

This tool includes two different files. A printed file enabling the systematic recording of information concerning the chosen parcels (every time the animals are at pasture or during mowing). An Excel file whose role is to process the data gathered (on the printed file) to evaluate the quantity of valorised grass per parcel. The results can then be calculated for a month, a season as well as a year, depending on your choice.

Description:

- HerbValo is a tool that estimates the quantity of valorised grass at the paddock's scale.
- It enables to determine what practices can impact positively or negatively on the valorisation of the grass (early grazing, etc.)
- It combines the paddocks and a detailed grazing plan. It also takes into consideration, the feeding practices, the collected quantities of hay and animal types.
- For each cycle, calculations involve: the multiplication of the **number of days spent at pasture** (number of animals x length of the stay) **by** the **flock's average intake**, (itself calculated using a tool taking Into account applied pasturing

Expected benefits:

Being able to assess the amount of grass valorised by a herd at pasture for each parcel should help building the farmers' confidence in their practices and provide them with some ideas on how to valorise their grass. Thanks to this tool, practitioners could adapt their parcels' management system:

*   by comparing parcels' valorisation levels,

*   as an indicator for over/undergrazing.

*   enables the comparison between different production systems (sheep vs. cows, etc.).

*   evaluate what benefits could bring some of the resources that are available in the plots (leaves and young stems of shrubs).

HerbValo is a calculation method as well as a tool enabling the recording of annually valorised grass (in kg DM/ha/year). It is not necessary to perform any direct measurement in the grassland (no measurement of the grass' length).

Prerequisites and/or limits:
The implementation of this tool requires basic knowledge of Excel and the farmers' practices recording.

Country: **France**

Meat sheep

Category of Animal: All

Topic:

	Health
	Nutrition
	Management

Level of solution:

	Knowledge
X	Practical

Source of information:

R. Delagarde, H. Caillat, J. Fortin (2017). HerbValo, une méthode pour estimer dans chaque parcelle la quantité d'herbe valorisée par les ruminants au pâturage. Fourrages, 229, 55–61.