



Wietse Duursma

President of the Farmers Board of Cooperative Royal CRV

Title presentation

Circular agriculture in a dairy farmers perspective

Personal info

Wietse Duursma, M.Sc. in Animal Sciences, is a dairy farmer milking 300 Holstein cows in Groningen, The Netherlands. He is Vice-President of the Farmers Board of the Cooperative Royal CRV u.a.



Wietse Duursma was born and raised on a farm in Friesland but, at age of 17 years old, moved to a new location in Bellingwolde, in the province of Groningen, the Netherlands. After Secondary school he got a Bachelors degree in Agriculture, at Applied University Van Hall Larenstein in Leeuwarden. Though he already thought of becoming a dairy farmer, he decided to continue studying and he got his Master degree in Animal Sciences at Wageningen University in 2009, with specialization on Animal Nutrition. That's when his career started as a dairy farmer. In 2011 the farm has been expanded from 120 dairy cows to a farm with new facilities for 300 milking cows. After that in 2015 he acquired responsibility for the farm. With a total production of 3.200.000 kg milk on 92 ha of land and 3 employees working on the farm, his management philosophy is to use innovation and data for producing in a durable and efficient way. For the production of feed and placing the manure he has collaborations with arable farmers so that farming is circular and sustainable as possible. Besides board member of the Royal CRV with 25.000 members in the Netherlands and Flanders, Wietse is also active in local politics and other voluntary activities.

Abstract

The concept of circular agriculture is not always clear to dairy farmers. The term is explained and used in many different ways. Large regional differences in the environment make it tailor-made for every company to give substance to circular agriculture and further sustainability. In addition, political objectives in the field of climate, animal welfare and further reduction of scarce resources sometimes create conflicting regulations. I will indicate how dairy farmers fulfil these assignments, what the challenges are and how we try to move forward in the field of circular agriculture and sustainability. With my own dairy farm as an example, I try to make it clear where the biggest challenge is for circular agriculture and sustainability from the perspective of a dairy farmer.