

* Minimising use of fossil fuels

Different factors influence the possibility of reducing the amount of fossil fuel used to feed dairy cows, an important requisite for agroecologically orientated farms:

- Local production, preferably from each farms' own lands, which minimises energy costs in the transport of feed and forage supplements.
- Grazing, given that although the action itself implies using energy, this is renewable. Harvesting forage nowadays in the Basque Country implies using fossil energy and, thus the number of days during which cows are stabled should be minimised and number of days during which they graze maximised. Grazing also means that natural fertilisers (cow excrements) are spread without recourse to fossil fuels, which have to be used when slurry or manure have to be transported from cow barns to fields or when mineral fertilisers are spread on grazing lands.

mowing grass



muck spreading

3.2- The relationship between dairy cow feeding regimes and the environment:



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Dried alfalfa from Palencia: 250 km



Fresh grass and clover fodder from the farm: 2 km

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Cows grazing farm pastureland: 0km



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