

## What did we do in February?

### What did the cows eat?

Given that we had a long stretch of dry weather after a rainy January

that provided grass, the cows were able to graze outside quite often.



We supplemented the grazing with dried forage, a little feedstuff and, when the cows couldn't graze due to wet conditions, grass silage. The heifers grazed when the ground was dry and we continued to move them from field to field to take advantage of available grazing and let the grass recover in grazed fields.

**Recipe of the month:** 🍜 Vegetarian noodles

2 tablespoons virgin olive oil

4 garlic cloves, minced

500 g sliced mushrooms

500 g noodles

2 ½ cups single cream

250g spinach, fresh if possible

1 cup grated cheese

2 tablespoons chopped parsley

Salt and pepper to taste

In a large pan start salted water to boil to cook the noodles.

Heat the two tablespoons of olive oil in a large frying pan. Add the garlic and

cook over a moderate heat until fragrant, about 1 minute. Do not let over brown.

Add the mushrooms, season with salt and pepper and cook, stirring occasionally

until the mushrooms are golden and tender, about 8 minutes. Add the cream,

bring to the boil and then simmer until slightly reduced, about 4 minutes.

Meanwhile, cook the noodles until just under “al dente”, as the noodles will finish

cooking later in the sauce. Drain the noodles, keeping half a cup of the cooking water. Add the spinach to the sauce and let wilt. Add the noodles, the parsley and the cheese and toss well. Add, if necessary, the half cup of water and let the pasta finish cooking in the sauce.

Taste for seasoning and serve right away.

(When we did this recipe at home we added more cream and quite a few more mushrooms)

### **What was the weather like?**

There are an increasing number of signs of climate change on the farm.

Maximum daytime temperatures in February rose to 19.7 ° whilst other

days it snowed on the farm. We had frosts 9 mornings



but minimum temperatures varied from 0.0 °C to 14,7 °C during the

month. We collected 5 litres of precipitation in the rain gauge but –

of these were the result of wet weather in only 2 days, towards the

end of February.

Three calves were born and we sold them on as they were not for

the dairy herd.

We still suffer problems caused by wild boar as they rootle for worms and insects. The only solution we see at present is turn the turf back onto the soil and hope the grass takes root again.



We took advantage of the drier days to top fields and spread slurry.

The peas we sowed in January began to germinate at the beginning of February. So far the netting and sheeting seem to have deterred the rodents and birds that are attracted to pea seeds.



By this we will be able to see the plants had grown considerably and in



Pea plants and other vegetables early in the year as soon as the weather permits



**Flower of the month.** Wavy bittercress ( *Cardamine flexuosa* )





The quality of our milk

flowers of the month: Wavy bittercress (*Cardamine flexuosa*)

/absence antibiotics