

## Young farmer investing in a health monitoring system for cows and low-pressure tyres

A young farmer used CAP investment support for the purchase of a health monitoring system for cows and low-pressure tyres to protect the soil on his farm.

### EAFRD-funded projects

**Location:** Brandwijk, The Netherlands

**Programming period:** 2014-2020

**Priority:** P2 - Competitiveness

**Focus Area:** Farm performance, restructuring & modernisation

**Measures:** M04 - Investments in physical assets

**Funding:**

Total budget:	34 518 (EUR)
EAFRD:	2 846 (EUR)
National/Regional:	2 846 (EUR)
Private/own:	28 826 (EUR)

**Timeframe:** 24/6/2022 - 6/3/2023

**Project promoter:** Corné van Rees

**Email:** [cornevanrees@live.nl](mailto:cornevanrees@live.nl)



### Summary

A young farmer invested in a health monitoring system for his cows that ensures early warnings of emerging health issues and low pressure in his tractors' tyres, which allows him to drive in fields even when the ground is very wet.

### Project results

- The health monitoring system is used on a daily basis. Health issues are now detected much quicker than before.
- The low-pressure tyres are especially useful in February when the first slurry fertilisation is applied. The system has proved to be very efficient.

### Key lessons and recommendations

The process of applying for CAP investment support involves a straightforward application form. This beneficiary was able to prepare the project application himself, which shows that it is possible for young farmers to apply for CAP support without external help. It also demonstrates how young farmers can still make small-scale, vital investments in their businesses despite a less established financial position.

### Context

The peat-rich deltas of the Netherlands are very well-suited for grazing cows and growing grass. The soft, wet soils serve this purpose well, but peat soil requires additional investments and a different type of management compared to drier soils. In this context, Corné van Rees - a young farmer in Brandwijk - used CAP support to make some important, targeted investments on his farm.



## Objectives

One of the aims of this project was to acquire a system that would detect livestock health problems at an early stage. This is especially useful to Corné as his cows graze outside the barn, making them more difficult to monitor.

This project also enabled the young farmer to purchase low-pressure tyres that reduce the pressure of machinery on the soft peat, reducing soil compaction.

A third aim was to purchase a solar-powered electric shovel, which enables a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions associated with farm labour.

## Activities

Project activities included:

- Purchasing 200 health monitoring sensors attached to each cow's collar and connected to an aerial receiver with a control box that generates information about the health and fertility of the herd. This allows the farmer to notice relatively small health abnormalities and take action at an early stage. It is especially useful to Corné since his cows graze outside the barn, making it more difficult for him to keep track of them.
- Purchasing four low-pressure and extra wide tyres. The system is installed on the tractor used for fieldwork and includes couplings and valves that can lower the pressure on the tyres, as well as a compressor with a drive and air tank that can pump them up again. The air pressure in the tyres is measured by sensors monitored within the tractor cabin. This system allows Corné to reduce the pressure on the soil, which helps prevent compaction.

The young farmer also purchased an electrical shovel that uses solar energy, without CAP support.

## Main results

- The health monitoring system is used on a daily basis. Health issues are now detected much quicker than before.
- The low-pressure tyres are especially useful in February when the first slurry fertilisation is applied. The system has proven to be very efficient and helps protect soil quality.

## Key lessons and recommendations

- The young farmer prepared the project application himself. It required some time and detailed reading, but the application form was straightforward, and he argues that farmers can request CAP support without the help of an intermediary.
- In this project, the young farmer aimed to make three investments. Due to longer-than-expected delivery times, the electrical shovel was not able to be included as a project cost, which resulted in a lower-than-expected subsidy amount and increased personal expense and stress for the farmer. Farmers would appreciate more flexibility in this regard because it would reduce the financial risks associated with CAP funded project implementation.



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## Quote

*“Requesting the subsidy myself worked out well, although it required a lot of precise reading.”*

Corné van Rees



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