## The Dutch way: farming without conventional manure

Geert-Jan van der Burgt 27 November 2013



#### **Beginning of this century:**

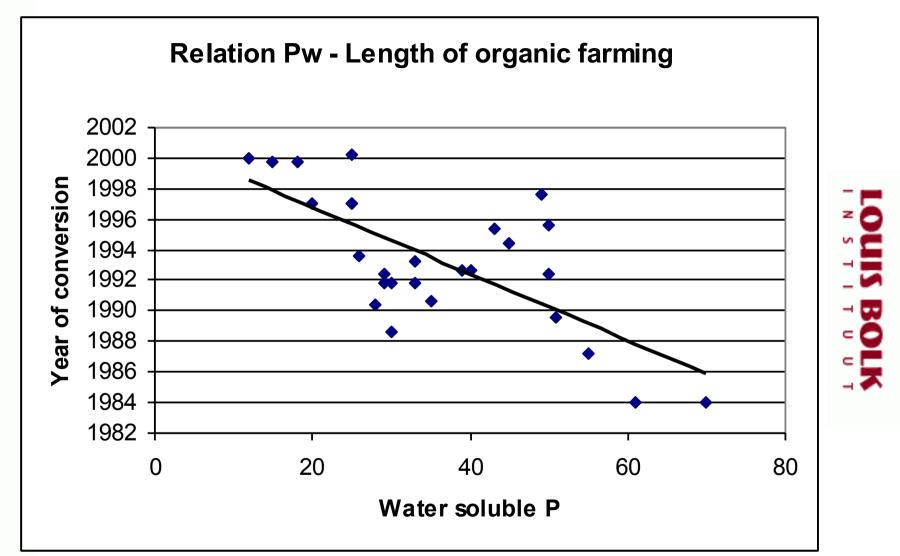
- Many farms (arable, horticultural) use manure from conventional farming
- Manure from intensive conventional farming not allowed (EU)
- Surplusses of P in farm mineral balances



#### Is this a problem?

- Imago: real organic farming
- Risk: input of undesired materials
- Environment: surplusses of P

#### **Accumulation of P**



Adapted from: Bokhorst (2011): Bemesting in de biologische akker- en tuinbouw bij bodems met een hoge fosfaattoestand

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#### **Action!**

- Governmental presure
- Farmers association came with a plan:
- Step by step obligatory more use of manure from organic origin. List of "A" manures (organic), B (conventional, allowed) and C (not allowed)
- Obligation to sell organic manure within the organic sector
- Manure exchange platform

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## Step by step:

Planning

#### Realized

Year	Minimum %	Year	Minimum %
2010	50%	2010	50%
2012	60%	2012	60%
2014	70%	2015	70%
2016	80%		
2018	90%		
2020	90/100%		



## **Expected challenges:**

- Shortage of organic manure
- Disbalance: poultry manure not desired by arable / horticultural farmers (N/P ratio)
- Increased price for organic manure (negative price for organic poultry manure?)



## Adaptation of soil fertility strategies (1)

#### **Dairy farms**

Sell manure, buy P and K (if needed; based on farm mineral balances). Clover-grass does not need N-applications.

Adaptation of soil fertility strategies (2): Arable / horticultural farms

More effective / efficient use of N:

- less manure
- intelligent rotation / crop choice
- intelligent manure choice and application
- increased farm-based N-fixation
- catch crops for N-transfer fall -> spring





#### **Two tools**

- Cut&Carry fertilizers
- Model calculations of N-availability: the NDICEA model

## **Cut&Carry fertilizers**

#### clover-grass or lucerne, cut, and applied ON ANOTHER FIELD

Degrees of freedom\* for Nitrogen (compared to mulching or ploughing):

- Time
  - Amount
  - Location

# Results: see <u>www.louisbolk.org</u> , publications, maaimeststof

\* Van der Burgt and Timmermans (red)(2008). Soil Nitrogen: research and extension. Proceedings QLIF seminar, 13-15 February 2008, Driebergen, The Netherlands







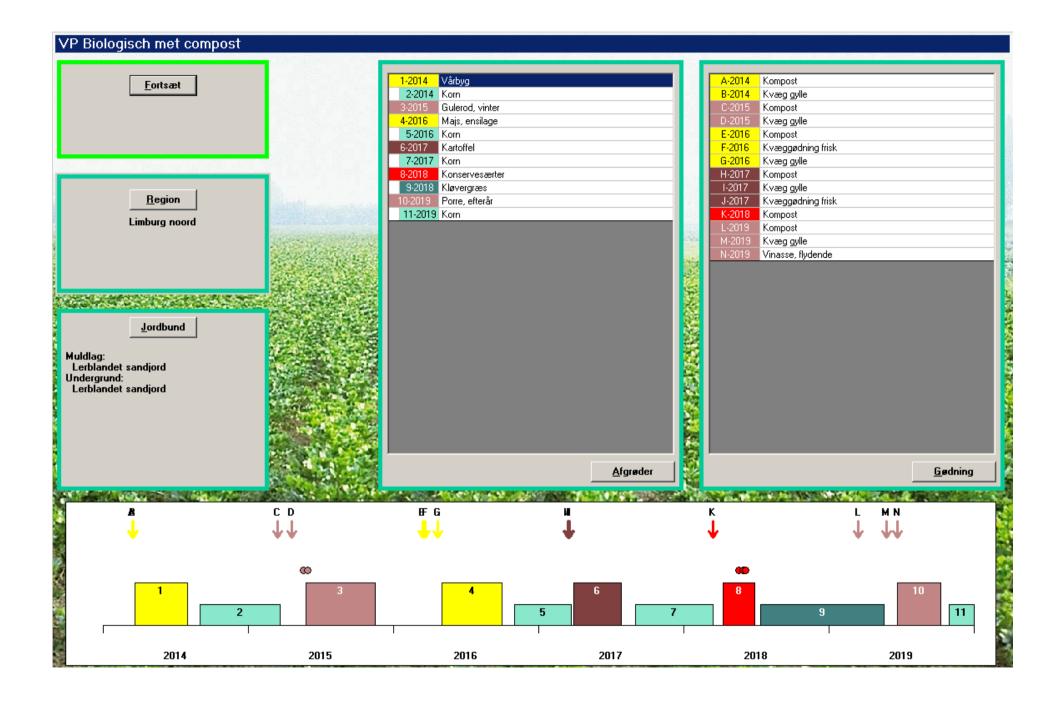


## WWW.NDICEA.NL

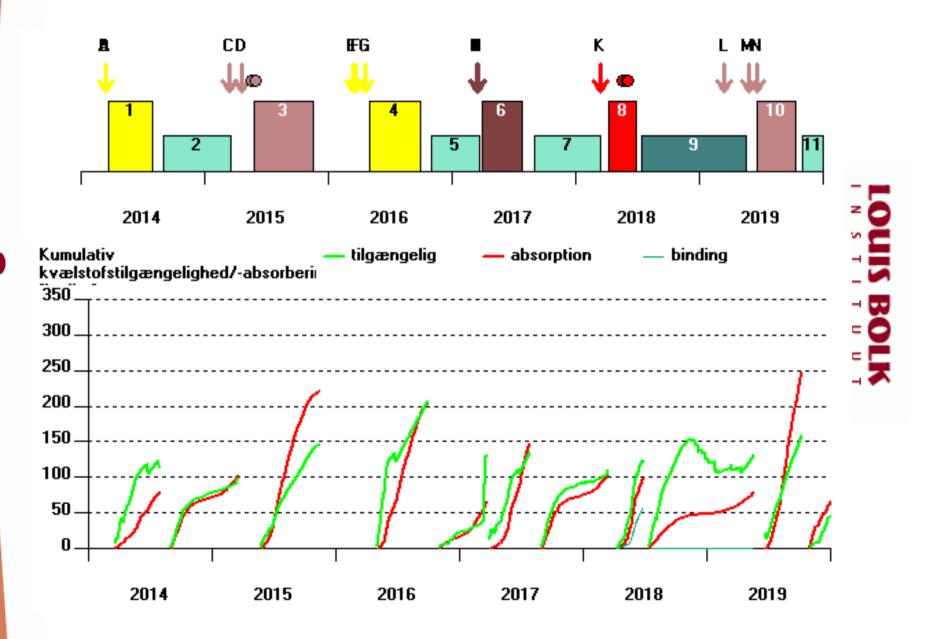
- Free download
- Easy to use
- Danish / English

## Output:

- Nitrogen availability
- Leaching
- Organic matter
- Mineral balance



**NDICEA** 



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#### **NDICEA**

Kvælstof: kumulativ udvaskning og denitrificering undergrund [kg/ha]. 175 \_\_\_\_\_ 150 125 100. 75. 50 25. 0 -25 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

Organisk stof i muldlag [%] - Forløb 1 4,3. 4,2. 4.1 4 3,9. 3,8 3,7 3,6. 3,5 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

## **NDICEA**

## Example of use of C&C fertilizers and NDICEA:

Burgt, G.J.H.M. van der, M. Bus (2012)

 PlantyOrganic; Design and results 2012. Report 2012-048 LbP. Louis Bolk Instituut, Driebergen. 37 p.

http://www.louisbolk.org/downloads/2709.pdf

10 reports hard-copy available here

#### **Thanks for your attention**

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