

Research Opportunity for Master's Thesis:

Organic Farming and Cattle Grazing Access in an Automated Milking and Grazing System

Within the scope of the GreenDairy project (<https://www.uni-giessen.de/de/fbz/fb09/forschung/zentrenundprojekte/greendairy>), we are offering a unique opportunity for a master's thesis research focused on organic agriculture and the impact of grazing access for cows within an automated milking system with automated pasture access. This project aims to compare two different feeding intensity levels: high input and low input.

Objective: The main goal of this research is to compare the two systems in terms of animal behavior, access to grazing, and intake of fresh green forage. This study seeks to understand how different feeding strategies affect the dairy cows' grazing habits and their intake of fresh pasture.

Hypothesis: It is hypothesized that cows in the low input system, which do not receive corn silage and are given less concentrated feed, spend more time grazing in the pasture and have a higher intake of dry matter from the grassland.

This thesis will contribute valuable insights into sustainable farming practices, focusing on how automated systems can support organic farming principles and enhance animal welfare by promoting natural grazing behaviors. Interested candidates should possess a strong interest in sustainable agriculture, animal behavior, and data analysis.

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