

ON-FARM DEMONSTRATIONS IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY



COUNTRY/REGION

LATVIA

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MORE INFO

 www.farmdemo.eu
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Field trials and demonstrations on commercial farms in animal husbandry (beef and dairy cattle, sheep, goats) have been organised between 2013-2018 in the framework of the Herbivorous project headed by the Competence Centre in Animal Husbandry of the Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre. This project funded by the National Rural network was aimed at providing systematically organised and thematically comprehensive object-lessons presented to the wider farming community in boosting the efficiency of production in livestock-breeding. **In total 25 field trials on 29 farms all over Latvia have been held, each focusing on a specific topic and mostly lasting for 2 years, with altogether 58 public demonstration events held on these farms.** The programme of Farm days (4-5 hours) included a theoretical and a practical part, **combining an in-doors seminar with an on-farm visit.** Implementation of each trial theme on the selected farm has been pursued in **cooperation with an advisor, a scientific expert and the host farmer.** The case study revealed that challenges have been related to (i) identifying the trial themes deemed relevant by both specialists and individual farmers; (ii) finding the right host by balancing top-down and bottom-up recruitment of potential candidates; (iii) achieving efficient implementation of trial procedures by balancing the funding restrictions, the underlying research agenda, and the partners' differing commitment for engagement; (iv) dealing with the impact of various unexpected (force majeure) factors on the process and outcome of the trial; and (v) addressing the tensions between the quantity of visitors and the quality of learning opportunities at the public events. See www.bscresearch.lv/en/projects/plaid

ABOUT PLAID

The project has been designed to encourage farmers and farm employees to embrace innovations in agriculture by accessing high quality demonstration activities on commercial farms. Demonstration activities may also contribute to network building in agriculture communities, leading to longer term sustainability and economic development in rural areas. However little has been documented on agriculture demonstration activities in European countries and the lack of an inventory or on-line resources have been identified.

All practice abstracts developed by PLAID H2020 project are available in EPI-AGRI official website: <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/peer-peer-learningaccessing-innovation-through>



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