

# The GRASS HEIGHT: a horses' grazing management tool.



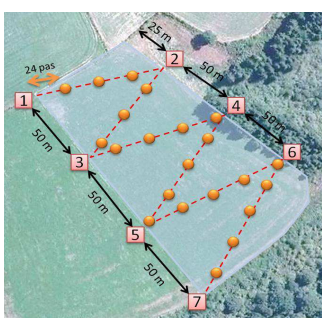
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## objectives:

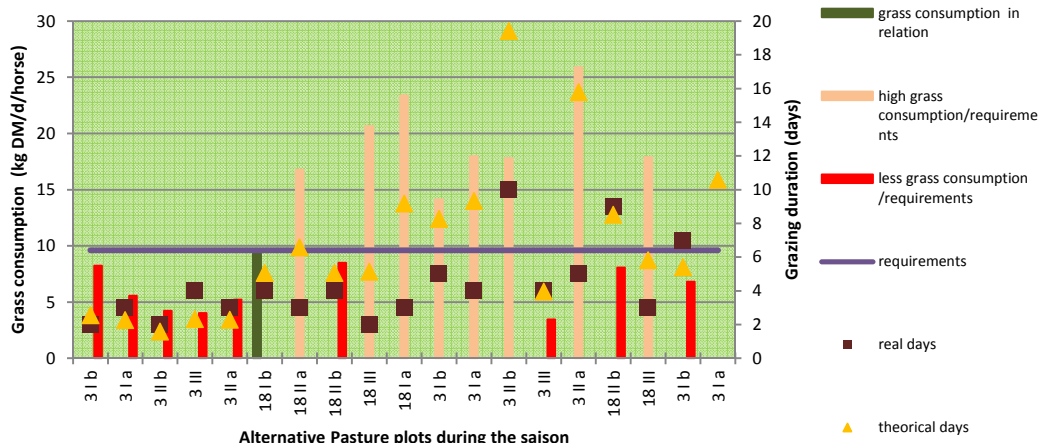
optimisation of the rotational grazing management by the equids, to find out a relevant tool which could decision helping to allow zootechnic performance and plant production .

**Materials:** 200 horses in 7 herds and 130ha divided in 22 pasture plots



Landmarks and transects to plot the grass height in a plot

Grass consumption in comparison with nutritional requirements and the duration of grazing (herd « V »)



## Méthod :

Plotting the grass height each time a herd entering or leaving a pasture plot, taken **10 to 30 minutes** at each change by eye decision expert. Horses weights were measured.



Herbonètre à plateau

$$\text{theoretical reserve days} = \frac{\text{disponibility of grass at the entering}}{\text{nutritional requirement}}, \text{ in days}$$

## Conclusion :

Calculation of theoretical days of grass reserve per plot seem to be a helpful indicator to plan and adjust grazing duration, number of horse and size of the plot to better serve horses' nutritional needs.

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