

# Ruminant Cross Visit

## Grazing and self-sufficiency in organic livestock farming

**PAYS DE LA LOIRE, FRANCE**

**22 – 23 October 2026**



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The OrganicAdviceNetwork project aims at building a strong network of advisors with organic competences across Europe. As part of this mission, the project organizes cross visits for agricultural advisors to meet, exchange and share their innovative organic farming practices.

Join us for this Organic Advice Network Cross Visit on Ruminant! A comprehensive 2-day farm tour focused on grazing and self-sufficiency in organic livestock farming. Discover practical experiences, key challenges, and effective strategies for achieving autonomy and optimizing grazing in organic livestock systems.

### **What you can expect from this cross visit**

This cross-visit offers participants an in-depth look into organic grazing and self-sufficiency farming practices for ruminants in France. During this visit, you will:

- Explore the principles and benefits of dynamic rotational grazing and full grazing.
- Discover support methods and group facilitation tools used by French advisors to assist organic farmers.
- Learn about integrating cover crops into crop rotations and their utilization through grazing systems.
- Engage on a farm visit to understand how grazing can be adapted to the specific needs of small ruminants.

## DAY 1 – 22 October 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
8:30 - 9:30	<b>Welcoming participants</b>	Welcome coffee Presentation of the visit theme and program Icebreaker game Introduction to OrganicAdviceNetwork project and ruminant agricultural context
9:30 - 12:30	<b>Visit 1 to the experimental farm in Thorigné d'Anjou (49, Fr)</b>	Presentation and analysis of a dynamic rotational “all-grass” grazing system: paddock design, grass growth monitoring, stocking rate management, and key levers to enhance feed self-sufficiency in an organic livestock context.
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch on site	
14:00 - 17:00	<b>Workshop</b>	Collaborative workshop on support methods and group facilitation tools used by advisors in France and respective countries of participants with organic farmers
17:00 - 17:30	<b>Reflection on the first day</b>	Summary of key learnings and takeaways Presentation of the Day 2 program

## DAY 2 – 23 October 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
9:00 - 12:00	<b>Visit 2 to an organic dairy farm with grazing system - Biau Chemin des Landes, Nort sur Erdre</b>	Integration of cover crops into crop rotation and their use in grazing systems
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch on site or at a nearby restaurant	
13:30 - 16:00	<b>Workshop</b>	Collaborative workshop about technical and economic monitoring tools for livestock farms used by advisors in France and respective countries of participants
16:00 - 17:00	<b>Reflection on the second day and conclusions</b>	Participant’s exchange on lessons learnt and sharing specific experiences, challenges, and opportunities from their national or regional context. Feedback and closing session.

## Practical Information

### Requirements

Participation to the entire cross visit program. There is no possibility to arrive later or leave earlier, except for local participants.

### Participants

Agricultural advisor supporting organic farmers or farmers in conversion as well as, advisors or young graduates willing to gain competences in organic advice are welcome to join this cross visit. Maximum 18 participants.

### Registration

You will be asked to provide some personal information, a brief description of your interest in joining this visit and your capacity in covering your travel costs. Participation is not guaranteed, because the number of advisors who may join the visit is limited. Participants taking part will receive a confirmation message.

**First-round registration deadline: 20 August 2026; Confirmation of application: 3 September 2026**

The registration deadline might be extended in case of undersubscription.

**Link to Registration:** [Cross Visit Ruminants: Grazing and self-sufficiency in organic livestock farming, France – Fill out form](#)

### Travel costs

In case you do not have budget to cover your travel costs, the project advisory partner in your respective country can reimburse part of your travel costs. Eligible countries for cost reimbursement are FR, DE, IT, BG, EE, DK, AT, CH, HU, ES, PT, HR, RO, IE, NL, SE, FI, CZ, PL, GR, SI, RS. Eligible costs for reimbursement are transport (train, flight), accommodation (2-3nights), social lunch and dinners, up to a limit of 400-800 EUR/participant. Once your participation to the cross visit is confirmed, you will receive more detailed information by the advisory project partner in your country about the conditions for cost reimbursement.

Costs during the Cross Visit are estimated to 250 EUR including accommodation and breakfast for 2 nights. Lunch and the social dinner are offered by ITAB. This estimation does not include the food and transport expenses to reach Angers.

### Contact information

For any additional information, please contact:

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