

Grindstad Timothy:

Case on on-farm management of the local forage strain

text by Petter Marum and Merja Veteläinen



Farmer Tollef Grindstad (Photo: Oddrun Karlstad)

Timothy (*Phleum pratense* L.) as a crop

- The most important forage crop in the Nordic area

Origin of the Grindstad timothy

- From the farm Grindstad in the south-eastern part of Norway
- In the 1860's seed from Scotland was imported to a neighbouring agricultural school farm. It was probably from this seed that the Grindstad variety originated.

Use at the beginning

- Hay and the best part of the meadow to produce seed for the next generation
- In 1916 the first registered seed was sold



Further developments of Grindstad

Farmer breeding

- Scientific bred varieties outyielded Grindstad in the early 1960's and its seed production was almost stopped
- Inspired by a lecture by Prof. Erling Strand in 1962 the farmer from then on harvested his seed fields after they had been cut for silage for two years. The seed was harvested the third year. At that time cutting the forage for silage was a new method.



This method stressed the plants more than the traditional hay harvest. The seed harvested in the third year was used to establish new fields the following year. This management of the meadows has been followed since the 1960's.

Grindstad success on the 2000's

- Today Grindstad is on an official variety lists of Norway, Sweden and Finland and extensively cultivated in these countries, which allows Grindstad timothy's further development in the changing climate.