

**Center for Organic Farming,  
University of Hohenheim (ZÖLUH) (309)**

**“Wandernde Wiese” (Moving Grassland) – How to increase soil fertility  
with a new strip cropping design in organic arable farming**

**Supervisor:** Dr. Sabine Zikeli (sabine.zikeli@uni-hohenheim.de)

**Project description:**

“Wandernde Wiese” (Moving Grassland) is a strip cropping system developed by the farmer Oliver Schmid (<https://wanderndewiese.de/>). In this system, grass / field fodder strips and strips with arable crops alternate on one field. The grass / field fodder strips are maintained for several years before they alternate with the strips for arable crops. The main target of this strip cropping system is to increase biodiversity in the agricultural landscape. In addition, the system could be a solution for stockless organic farms to make use of soil fertility building crops as a direct fertiliser for the arable crops as transfer mulch. So far, it is not known how much biomass the grass strips are producing and how the internal nutrient flows between the grass strips and the arable strips by transfer mulch look like.

The aim of this project is to determine the nutrient flows between grass strips and arable strips for one growing season to gain a first insight in the nutrient transfers to optimize cutting strategies for the transfer mulch.

**Type of project:**

Fieldwork, lab work

**Project duration:**

First fieldwork takes place in spring 2024, last fieldwork presumably in late summer 2024.

**Number of students:**

2

**Other important information:**

Driving license necessary, at least one German-speaking student needed, students should support each other with fieldwork.