

Table 1

Location and characteristics of the eight nature reserves under study in Belgium. Four reserves already had an existing artificial shelter installed by the reserve manager; in the remaining reserves we placed artificial shelter five to eight months before the start of the experiment. In one reserve, one artificial shelter (A) was installed by the reserve manager and another (B) was installed by us.

	total area (ha)	vegetation or landscape type	% natural shelter	artificial shelter					max. n° cattle	cattle breed	sex and age ³ of GPS cow	H	S	
				recently installed?	orientation open side	roof material	roof insulated?	roof height						area (m2)
KH: 51°5'N, 5°21'O	7.4	lowland pasture	17	yes	SE	galvanised steel	yes	2.8 m	24	5 ²	Aberdeen-Angus	♂ (ox), 11 years	0.93	0.22
VV: 50°52'N, 4°59'O	63.0	alluvial meadows and some deciduous forest	31	A: no, B: yes	A: S-SE, B: SE	A and B: galvanised steel	A: no B: yes	A: ± 2.8 m B: 2.8 m	79	10 ²	Aberdeen-Angus	♀, 8 years	2.88	0.68
MS: 51° 0'N, 5° 1'O	15.8	meadows and deciduous forest	37	no	S-SE	galvanised steel	no	± 2.5 m	46	5 ²	Galloway	♀, 9 years	1.88	0.45
EB: 50°51'N, 3°38'O	63.2	deciduous forest surrounded by scrubs and grassland	54	yes	SE	galvanised steel	yes	2.8 m	24	15	Oost-Vlaams Wit-Rood	♀, 2 years	0.99	0.24
KE: 50°46'N, 5°29'O	29.0	mosaic of marshes, grassland and scrubland	55	no	W	brick tiles	no	± 3.0 m ¹	24	10	Heck	♀, 15 years	2.29	0.55
HB: 51°11'N, 3°53'O	143.4	wooded heath landscape	73	yes	SE	galvanised steel	yes	2.8 m	24	16	Galloway	♀, 10 years	1.30	0.31
HP: 51°11'N, 4°20'O	34.7	mosaic of reeds, scrubs, grassland and deciduous forest	74	yes	SE	galvanised steel	yes	2.8 m	24	10	Galloway	♀, 11 years	2.39	0.57
BB: 50°56'N, 4°48'O	47.5	mosaic of scrubs, grassland and deciduous forest	83	no	E-SE	brick tiles	yes	± 4.0 m ¹	60	10	Galloway	♀, 8 years	1.10	0.27

KH: Katershoeve, VV: Velpvallei, MS: Molenstede, EB: Ename Bos, KE: De Kevie, HB: Heidebos, HP: Hobokense Polder, BB: Beninksberg. H= Shannon Wiener Index, S= structural diversity index. ¹Height of the ridge of the gable roof . ²In these herds, no fertile males and thus no calves were present. ³At the start of the experiment, in 2011.

