



Resilience for Dairy (R4D) has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No 101000770

Grondman Pilot Farm description Witharen – 2022



Innovations

Environment / Resource efficiency









2008

Participant Ben & (Re)start dairy
Jerry's supplier farm

2015

Cooperation with other dairy and calf rearer

2016

Herd increased from 90 to 210

2017

Start new feeding strategy

Farming milestones

202

Additional land purchase

0

0

New barn with sand and rubber flooring, rotary parlor To increase P-space

Increased grazing and summer barn feeding

The herd

220 dairy cows (28 young stock, 32 calves)Breeds: HF + Brown Swiss/Swiss Red

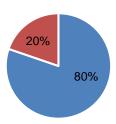
Calving period : all year round,

Age at first calving: 24 months

Agricultural Area

Total 119 ha AA

- 95.5 ha grassland
- 23.5 ha corn production
- +5,5 ha grassland to be added



Workforces

- 1,5 labour units (Full Time Equivalent)
- 220 dairy cows & 1426000 I / 1,5 FTE
- Succession guaranteed

Areas of interest

- · Energy transition
- More milk from grass
- Complexity of the system (soil/animal)

Main buildings and equipments

- 1 x 36 stall rotary
- 1 main free stall 2+3 with sand bedding with concentrate feeding
- Sand filtering and urine storage



Production / Technical results



- 2140000 liters of milk produced, with 5,7 average present vs 6,8 (average total)
- 4.3 % fat & 3.60 % protein content, 22kg concentrate / 100kg milk
- Stocking rate: 1.85 LU / ha forage area,
- 9737 I of milk /cow /year & 18000 I /ha forage area



Strenaths

- Location and flexibility
- Secondary incomes that connect to society
- Reception/workshop area
- Good (internal/external) cooperation, trustworthy
- Stress resilient



Weaknesses



Opportunities

- Influence on public Succession guaranteed Farmers quitting business,



Ihreats

- Unpredictable and erratic policy making
- Trust-based cooperation with partners
- Derogation reduction
- Public opinion and distance with rural areas

Farmer's strategy for a "resilient" system

1) Low energy, energy savings / L milk. 2) Focus on how to keep youngstock rearing outsourced to partner (no youngstock on site in Witharen) 3) Focus on short term strategies and actions to cope with today, opportunistic attitude towards change and future prospective (for succession). Be part of the 25% best in the country on all farm aspects .

Aspirations / Needs for the future

Rewarding systems for innovative applications. Predictable and not changing politics. Political vision. Desires and vision of succession.

Improvement project - objectives



ECONOMY & LABOUR

- Energy (savings)
- Succession

- Milk from fresh grass (summer-grass) feeding
- Technical efficiency



RESOURCE Efficiency



- Increased grazing
- Sand bedding and rubber
- Dry cow management DCAD

ENVIRONMENT ANIMAL Wellbeing



Partners



"Resilience 4 Dairy" is a European project involving 15 European countries and 18 partners. R4D is a thematic network on innovations and aims to support EU dairy farming in these regions where dairy farming is a main economic activity.



R4D pilot farmers are involved in a National Dairy Akis group where needs, solutions and knowledge are exchanged with other farmers, advisors and scientists on their way to build a resilient system. More information https://resilience4dairy.eu/