



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

# Bryan & Gail Daniels Pilot Farm description Kilmoganny, Co. Kilkenny

Ireland

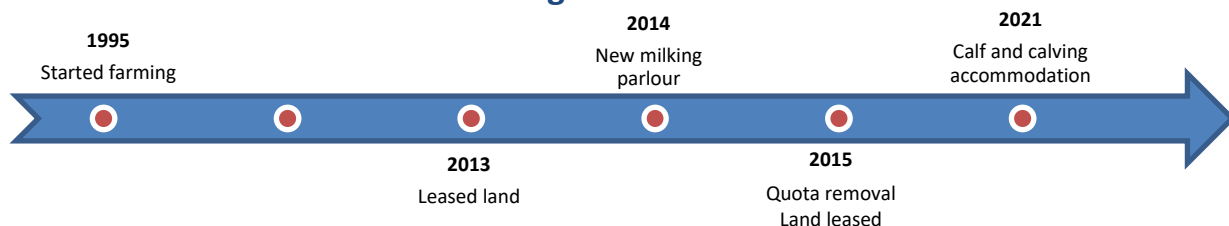


## Innovations

Environment / Precision



### Farming milestones



#### The herd

- 370 Livestock Units (LU)
- 290 dairy cows  
Breed: Holstein-Friesian/British Friesian
- 65 dairy heifers
- 65 dairy heifer calves
- Compact spring calving system
- Age at first calving : 24 months
- 2 times a day milking

#### Agricultural Area

##### 140 ha Farm

- 65 ha rented
- All in permanent grassland
- Stocking rate: 2.7 LU/ha forage area
- Cows graze from February to November
- Calves & heifers graze from March to November

#### Workforces

- Farmer
- 1 full time & 1 student in spring
- 1 relief milker for weekend work
- **Aims: Reduce labour**

#### Areas of interest

- Forage quality
- Sustainability
- Environment
- Animal genetic quality

#### Main buildings and Equipment

- Low emission slurry spreading – trailing shoe & dribble bar
- Variable rate fertiliser spreading
- GPS fertiliser application
- 50 point Delaval rotary parlour
- Cubicle housing for cows
- Calves winter on mats on slats
- Slatted & concrete slurry stores

#### Production / Technical results

- Yield – 5,500 litres
- Feed – 530 kg
- Milk from forage: 4,440 litres
- 4.36% butterfat, 3.72% protein
- Milk solids – 530 kg
- Grass based dairying
- Milk sold to Tirlan
- €0.33/litre cost of production (Including all labour)



## Strengths

- Good quality land
- Herd genetic quality
- Innovative –
  - Breeding - beef calves, sexed semen
  - Pasture - red and white clover reseeding



## Weaknesses

- High altitude (300m above sea level)
- Dependent on leased land



## Opportunities

- Trying to reduce Carbon footprint
- Genetics – more tailored use of sexed and beef semen



## Threats

- Increasing costs
- Public misconception of farming practices
- Environmental legislation

## Farmer's strategy for a "resilient" system

Focussing on breeding a productive, healthy and fertile herd

Reseeding and oversowing with high clover swards.

Making use of precision GPS programming to improve fertiliser efficiency.

## Aspirations / Needs for the future

Focused on reducing fertiliser N dependency – by incorporating clover in pasture.

Breeding strategy change to reduce number of dairy bred calves born and increase the value of the beef cross calves born on the farm.

## Improvement project - objectives

- Maintain a labour efficient work load



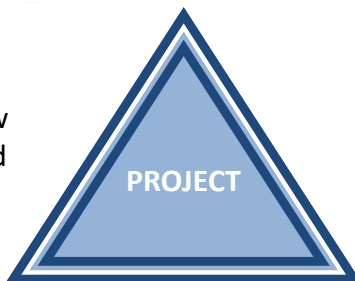
**ECONOMY & LABOUR**

- Optimize dairy gross margin

- Maintain a low level of concentrate input per cow while increasing milk yield



**RESOURCE Efficiency**



- Reduce fertiliser N use
- Breed healthy productive cows
- Breed quality surplus calves

**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/>