



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

# Niall Callanan Pilot Farm description Craughwell Co Galway 2022



## Innovations

Environment/  
Efficiency



**2005**  
Bought 20 ha

**2020-** 60 extra cubicles added

**2021-** Silage pit slab

### Farming milestones



**2002-** Started farming. 70 cows

**2017**  
Purchased additional 18ha  
Built slurry lagoon, extra cubicles, calving pad

**2022 & 2023**  
Rotary parlour & new calf shed

### The herd

- 290 dairy cows  
Breed: Friesian Jersey cross
- 60 dairy
- Spring calving system
- Age at first calving : 24 months
- All AI

### Agricultural Area

#### 150 ha Farm

- 65 ha Leased
- All in permanent grassland
- Stocking rate: 2.4 LU/ha forage area
- Cows & heifers graze from February to November
- Calves graze from 17th March to December

### Workforces

- Farmer
- 1 full time farm worker
- 1 full time calf rearer
- 4 or 5 floating farm workers

### Areas of interest

- Genetics
- Grassland Management

### Main buildings and equipment

- Cubicle shed for 260 cows
- Calf shed, calf accommodation on rented farm
- 44 bail rotary parlour & drafting unit
- Cow monitoring collars
- Machinery: JCB loader, 2 tractors, mower, sprayer, feed wagon
- Fertiliser & slurry is contracted out

### Production / Technical results

- Yield – 5,200 litres
- Feed – 600 kg
- Milk from forage: 4,720 litres
- 4.77% butterfat, 3.82% protein
- Milk solids – 440 kg
- Grass based dairying
- Milk sold to Aurivo
- €0.37/litre cost of production (incl. labour)





**Farmer’s strategy for a “resilient” system**

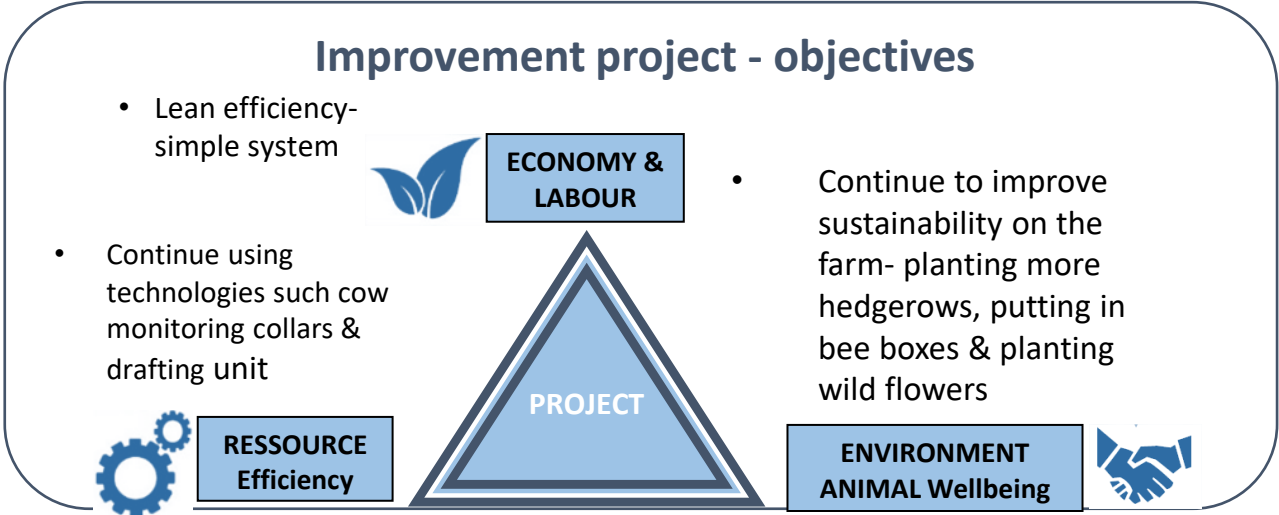
*Attractions of labour- been involved in the local community, been approachable and willing to change*

**Aspirations / Needs for the future**

*Using best genetics*

*Availing of technologies*

*Promoting good mental health & time away from the farm, hobbies outside of the farm*



“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/>