



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 <u>Craughwell Co Galway 2022</u>



## **Innovations**

Environment/ Efficiency







**2005**Bought 20 ha

**2020-** 60 extra cubicles added

Farming milestones

**2021-** Silage pit slab

**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 Al

## 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)





### **Strengths**

- •Grassland management- Grass10 finalist
- Animal husbandry
- •Environmenthedgerows



#### Weaknesses

6 ha prone to flooding during the winter



## **Opportunities**

Using sexed semen • Availing of technologies through collars
Attracting labour- promoting good farming practises-community involvement



#### **Threats**

Social media pedalling false information Can only control what's inside the farm gate

## 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

## Improvement project - objectives

 Lean efficiencysimple system



 Continue using technologies such cow monitoring collars & drafting unit



Continue to improve sustainability on the farm- planting more hedgerows, putting in bee boxes & planting wild flowers



RESSOURCE Efficiency

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/