

## Innovations

Environment / resilience



**2006**  
Kildalton Ag College

Farm Manager at Teagasc farm for 9 years

**2019**  
More cubicles added.  
Increased cow numbers

**Farming milestones**



**2008**  
Partnership with father

**2017**  
Full time farming

**2022**  
New parlour

### The herd

- Dairy beef farm
- 185 dairy cows
- Breeds : Holstein Friesian
- Dairy heifers 40
- Compact spring calving system
- Age at first calving : 24 months
- All beef calves are brought to stores for sale
- AI & Stock bull

### Agricultural Area

#### 132 ha farm

- 63 ha rented
- All permanent grassland
- Stocking rate: 2.2LU/ha forage area
- Grazing : 1<sup>st</sup> Feb- 1<sup>st</sup> Dec

### Workforce

- Steven & father full time
- His mother & wife help out
- Student for 3 months in spring

### Areas of interest

- Genetics- improving EBI
- Grassland- reduce fertiliser N, incorporate more clover

### Main buildings and equipment

- 25 unit parlour with drafting system
- Cubicle housing for cows
- Calf accommodation for 190 calves and Calving Facilities
- 3 tractors
- Low emission slurry spreading
- GPS fertiliser application

### Production / Technical results

- Yield – 6100 litres/cow
- Feed – 850kg/head
- Milk from forage: 90%
- 4.48% butterfat, 3.72% protein
- Milk solids – 500 kg/cow
- Grass based dairying
- Milk sold to Tirlan



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

*Breeding the most efficient cow, focussing on EBI & the size of the cow, more solids from a smaller cow*

### Aspirations / Needs for the future

*Maintaining cow numbers & improving yield*

### Improvement project - objectives

Long term- improve infrastructure further

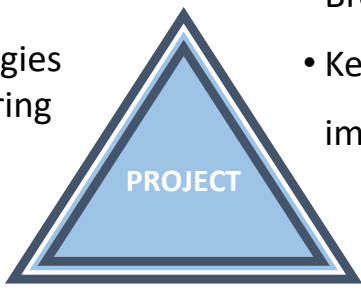
Adapting new technologies such as health monitoring collars for cows



**RESSOURCE Efficiency**



**ECONOMY & LABOUR**



**ENVIRONMENT ANIMAL Wellbeing**



- Breed healthy productive cows
- Keep doing small things to improve biodiversity on the farm

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/>