



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

# David Brady Pilot Farm description Stradone Co Cavan

Ireland



## Innovations

Genetics/  
Environment

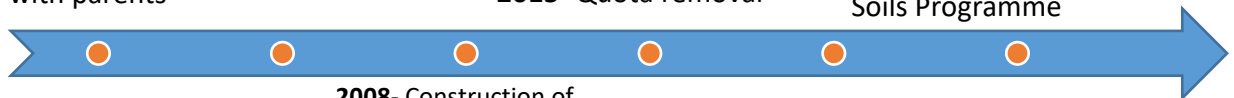


## Farming milestones

**1997-** Starting farming with parents

**2015-** Quota removal

**2016-** Joined Teagasc Heavy Soils Programme



**2008-** Construction of slatted shed & silage walls

→ Expanded from 70 to 110 cows →

### The herd

- 110 Dairy cows  
Breed: High E.B.I Holstein Friesian
- 25 dairy heifers
- 25 dairy heifer calves
- Compact Spring calving system
- Age at first calving : 24 months

### Agricultural Area

#### 80 ha Farm

- 20 ha rented
- All in permanent grassland
- Stocking rate: 1.9 LU/ha forage area
- Cows graze from February – November (weather depend)
- Calves & heifers graze from March - November

### Workforce

- Farmer
- Parents
- Student during the springtime

### Areas of interest

- Genetics/breeding
- Heavy soils
- Sustainability/environment

## Main buildings and Equipment

- 10 unit parlour
- Cubicle housing for cows
- Calf shed with timber slats
- Slatted & concrete slurry store
- Cow monitoring collars
- Tractor & loader
- Low emission slurry spreading
- GPS fertilizer application
- Track machine

## Production / Technical results

- Yield – 6515 litres
- Feed – 1.1 tonne
- 4.44 % butterfat, 3.63% protein
- Milk solids – 545 kg
- Grass based dairying
- Milk sold to Lakeland Dairies
- €0.41 litre cost of production (Incl. all labour)



### Strengths

- Excellent management of herd
- Herd genetic quality
- Genomic testing of herd
- White & red clover reseeded



### Weaknesses

- High rainfall area
- Heavy soils farm
- Fragmented yards
- Crossing 2 roads



### Opportunities

- Trying to reduce carbon footprint
- More selective breeding
- Using more sexed semen
- Use of SenseHub cow monitoring collar system



### Threats

- Labour
- Increasing costs
- Banding/renting land
- Environmental legislation

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

*Breeding a productive healthy herd with high kgs of milk solids  
Continuing to reseed every year, including white & red clover*

## Aspirations / Needs for the future

*To have a central farmyard and construct two underpasses*

## Improvement project - objectives

- Full time employee on the farm

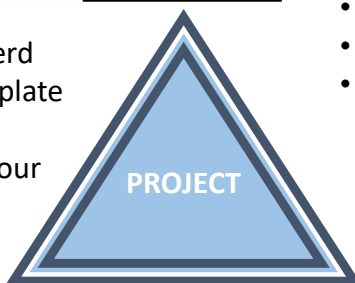


**ECONOMY & LABOUR**

- Genomic testing of all herd
- Installing solar panels & plate cooler
- Doubling up 10 unit parlour



**RESOURCE Efficiency**



- Planting more parcel areas for forestry
- Hedge cutting plan
- Breeding better stock - making use of genomics

**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/>