



Innovations

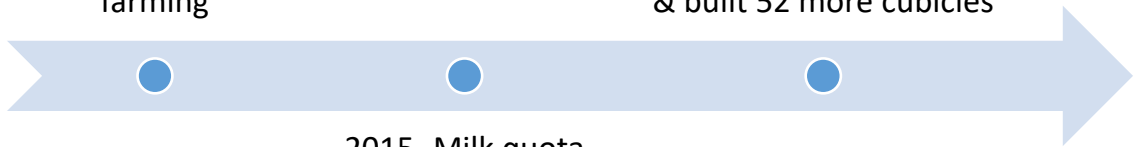
Grassland /Environment



Farming milestones

2000- Started farming

2019- Rented extra land & built 52 more cubicles



2015- Milk quota removal

The herd

- 120 dairy cows
- Breeds : Crossbreeds
- Replacement heifers: 29
- Calving period : Spring
- Age at first calving : 22-24 months
- All AI
- All heifer calves go contract rearer

Agricultural Area

- Own 22 ha
- Renting 33 ha
- All permanent grassland
- Stocking rate: 3.5ha milking platform, 2.2 overall farm
- Grazing season: February to Nov

Workforce

- Farmer & family
- Relief milker- some weekdays, 2 weekends every month
- Student starting in March for 8 weeks

Areas of interest

- Grassland management- reseeding & clover incorporation
- Labour efficiency
- Breeding- E.B.I & sexed semen

Main buildings and equipment

- 12 unit parlour
- Cubicle shed for 150 cows with calving bay for 30 cows
- Calf house- 20 individual pens, automatic calf feeder
- Allflex cow monitoring collars & drafting gate
- Slurry & fertiliser is contracted out

Production / Technical results

- Yield – 6,000 litres/cow
- Feed – 770kg/cow
- 4.55% butterfat, 3.70% protein
- Milk solids - 488 kg/head
- Grass based dairying
- Milk sold to Lakeland dairies
- €0.38 litre cost of production (Incl. all labour)



Strengths

- Cow type
- Grassland management-white clover reseedling
- Labour efficiency- work life balance



Weaknesses

- Rented land is a big expense every year



Opportunities

- Breeding - use of sexed semen
- Trying to reduce Carbon footprint- clover incorporation, LESS
- Renewable energy - solar panels



Threats

- Cost of land, fertiliser, meal
- Milk prices going to fall
- Environmental legislation- need tanks for washings/slurry

Farmer’s strategy for a “resilient” system

Reseeding & incorporate white clover

Using a contractor to apply fertiliser using GPS system, more accurate

Using cow collars for monitoring cow health, heat & reproduction

Aspirations / Needs for the future

Continuing to reseed with white clover and try incorporate red clover into silage ground

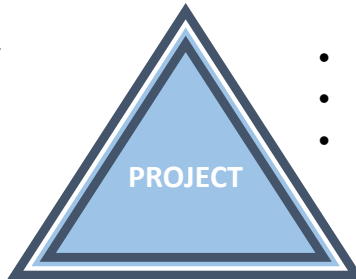
Look into installing solar panels to generate renewable energy on the farm.

Improvement project - objectives

- Maintain a labour efficient work load
- Installing automatic washer in the dairy
 - Keep working on herd fertility



ECONOMY & LABOUR



- Reduce fertiliser N use
- Breed healthy productive cows
- Use solar energy on the farm



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/>