



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

Didier Thiry Farm Organic farming General meeting 2021 (data 2019)

Belgium



Innovations

Socio-economic
Resilience /
Environment



The herd

- 225 Livestock Units (LU)
- 90 Prim'Holstein (100 %)
- 20 dairy heifers
- Calving period : all year round
- Age at first calving : 32 months
- Calving interval : 448 days
- Terminal crossing except on primiparous cow



Agricultural Area

- 91,62 ha AA
- 86,15 ha permanent grassland
- 5,47 ha of meslin
- 100 % of forage area



Buildings

Dairy cows

- Old building : sleeping area on slurry
- Milking parlor : 2x6 side opening
- Automatic Feed Station : 1 station

Heifers and calves

- Individual boxes for calves
- Collective boxes on slurry

Workforces :

- 2 labour units : farmer + 0,5 wife + 0,5 mother

Production

- 617 000 liters of milk produced
- 20 liters / 2 days to local bakery
- 4,36 % fat & 3,30 % protein content
- Stocking rate: 2,36 LU / ha forage area
- 6 100 l of milk produced / cow / year
- 6780 l of milk / ha forage area



Aims and constraints

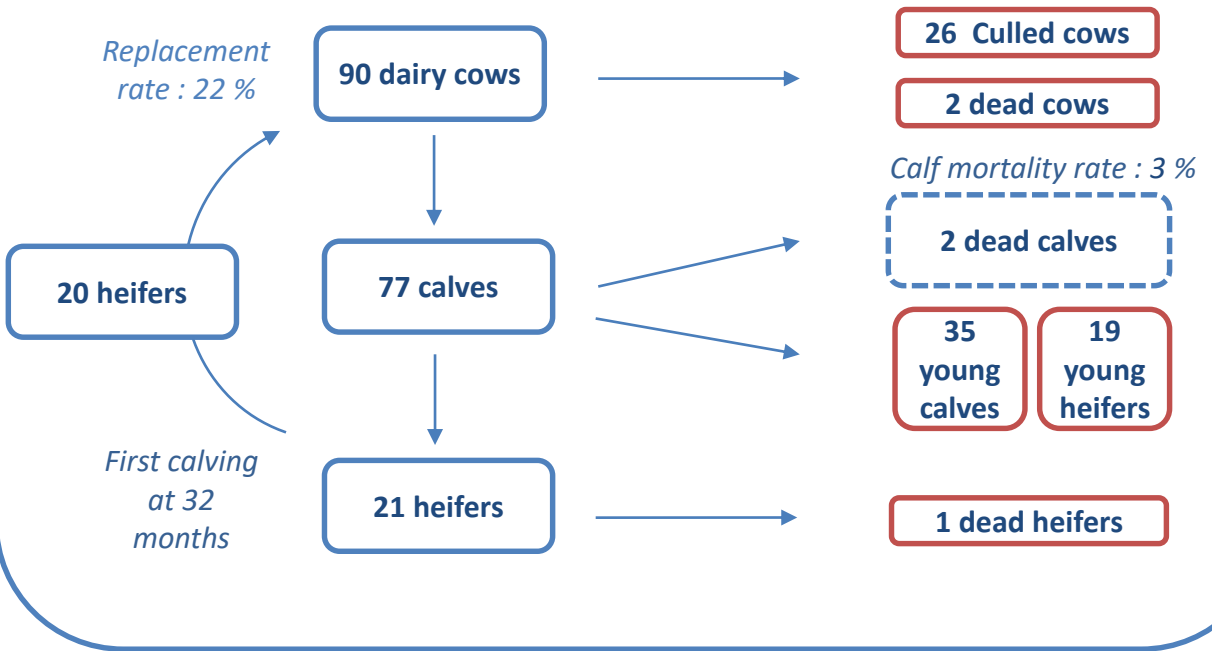
- Look at economic optimum
- Natura 2000 area
- Maximum valorization of grass

Climate (last 10 years)

- 953 mm rainfall / year
- Average T° in winter : 4,6°C
- Average t° in summer : 13,6°C

Dairy Cattle

sales

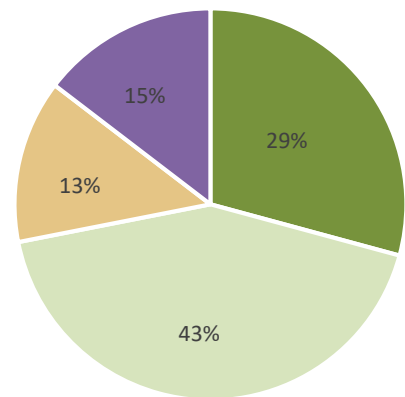


Dairy cow nutrition

FORAGES	Kg DM / dairy LU/ year
Grazing grass	2340
silage grass	3420
meslin	1080
TOTAL	6840

CONCENTRATE	Kg DM / cow/ year
Transition concentrate (C2)	1000
Production concentrate	180
Corrective concentrate	180

Forages (Kg DM/LU/year)



■ Grazing grass ■ Grass silage
■ Meslin ■ Concentrates

Milk produced in total, ECM corrected (kg)	617 374
kg of concentrates / cow / year	1 800
g concentrates / kg of ECM produced in total	250
kg of home grown concentrates / total concentrates consumed by the dairy cows	0 %

Other specifications :

- Summer diet : pasture (day – 2/3 of the diet) – silage grass (night – 1/3 of the diet)
- Winter summer : silage grass (2/3 of the diet) and meslin (1/3 of the diet)



Strengths

- Good skills to valorise grass
- Continuing training
- Large reflection about the management
- Economic performance



Weaknesses

- Old buildings
- Mother's retirement
- Rent land



Opportunities

- Organic market



Threats

- Not owner of his land (concrete access way)
- Dairy landscape is moving fast, with number of dairy cattle decreasing
- Natura 2000 area

Strategy of the farmers / Resilience

Areas of interest / Aspirations / Needs for the future

Improvement project - objectives

- Reduce work load
- Reduction of cost production
- Energy reduction



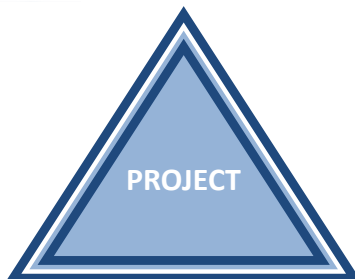
ECONOMY & LABOUR

- Valorisation of farm production

- Organic farming
- Surry valorisation



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 : www.eurodairy.eu