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

GAEC de la FROMAGÈRE

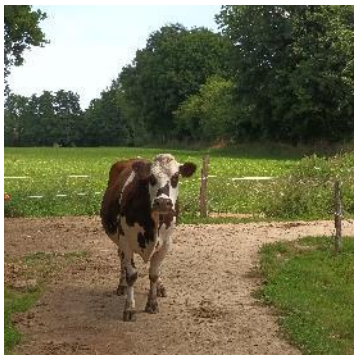
Pilot Farm description

St Martin d'Aubigny – 2021

France

Innovations

Socio-economic Resilience/ Environment



Farming milestones

1993 and 1995
Arrivals of Sandra and then Vincent

2006
Reduction of tillage
Start of no-till

2008
Standardization
64 DC/5 5 00 L/DC

2016
Implementation of dynamic grazing
Measurement of grass height once a week

2020
96 DC/5 4 00 L/DC

2021
Arrival of Astrid
Organization of the grazing system
Installation of 1 boviduc

2022
2 milking robots
Objectives: 120 DCs (dairy cows)

The herd

- 165 LU including 96% milk LU
- 104 dairy cows
  Breed: Normande (100%)
- Replacement rate: 20%
- Calving period: all year round expected
- Age at first calving: 35 months
- AI on Dairy Cows and bull for heifers

Agricultural Area 2021

99.8 ha AA - 97% of main forage area

- 51.9 ha permanent grassland
- 30.9 corn silage
- 6.3 ha temporary grassland
- 3 ha lucerne
- 1 ha meslin for seeds
- 1.1 ha soft wheat
- 5.5 ha corn grain

Workforce & Farm structure

3 HTU (human time unit) and 1 employee
Progressive stop of the oxen because more milk has to be produced. Delegation of desilting and spreading of liquid slurry to a coop (Cuma)
Delivery of milk to the Réo cheese factory for processing PDO products (raw milk camembert, butter, cream)

Areas of interest

- Maximized grazing (good soil conditions) and monitoring of grass growth
- Conservation agriculture
- PDO added value
- Automated milking

Main buildings and equipments

- Building 120 cubicles for DCs + 30 cubicles for 1/2 years old heifers and a mulched litter for heifers over 2 years old
- 29 paddocks of 1 to 2 ha for grazing
- 1.5 km of dirt and/or stabilized roads + water in the plots
- 2 dairy robot stalls since 15/06/2022

Production / Technical results 2021

- 595,000 liters of milk produced
- 41.54 g/l fat & 35.2 protein content
- Stocking rate: 1.79 LU/ha main forage area
- 5,729 l/DC/year and 6,690 l/ha main forage area
- 200 days/year of integral grazing
- 3.7 t DM of stored fodder/LU
- 624kg of concentrates/DC/year (109g/l)
- Operating expenses: 34% gross revenue

Strengths
- PDO
- Fodder autonomy
- Economic efficiency

Weaknesses
- Purchase of concentrates and straw

Opportunities
- Strong involvement in networks and partnerships, especially in PDO

Threats
Climatic hazards
No-till cultures and glyphosate removal may affect
plot contamination

Farmer's strategy for a "resilient" system

Grazing has been a focus for several years: implementation of dynamic grazing since 2016, measurement of grass heights once a week in the 29 paddocks during the grazing/grass harvest season, increase of areas for legume cultures... This focus makes it possible to reduce the dependence on concentrates.

Aspirations / Needs for the future

With the arrival of Astrid in 2021, to continue with the same objective: for this purpose, installation of boviduc to facilitate the access of the DCs to the pasture, starting of 2 stalls milking robot during 2022 with of course, a strong interest for grazing: in parallel, work on the ways to access the pasture, watering, quality of the crops...

These boviduc and milking robots will facilitate the management and the organization of work, which will allow to produce an additional volume with less work for the milking of course, but also for the management of the pasture with the sorting gates!

Projects - Objectives

ECONOMY & LABOUR
- Arrange the labour organization with robot
- Continue to maximize grazing

TECHNICAL EFFICIENCY
- Improve the use of grasslands to integrate more grass in food intake
- Renew temporary grasslands

PROJECTS

ENVIRONMENT ANIMAL WELFARE
- Reinforce animal welfare
- Develop biodiversity
- Reduce energy consumption

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/