



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

GAEC Pré en Bulles Pilot Farm description Hillion – 2021



Innovations

Socio economic Resilience / Environment







2019

Dominique Madec and Benoit Cabaret take over the farm 2022 Farming milestones

1 employee hired - adhesion to a group of employers

2018

Organic farming

2019
Adhesion to French
environmental measures
MAEC SPE 12/70

2020

Suckling calves

2022

Orchard planting

The herd

- 57 LU
- 51 dairy cows

Breed: crossbreeds with a Holstein basis

- Replacement rate: 15%
- Calving period: all year
- Suckling calve rearing and heifer production transferred from 4 to 28 months

Agricultural Area

44 ha AA

- 33 ha permanent grassland
- 4.5 ha of meslin (grain)
- 4.5 ha maize silage
- 37.5 ha forage area
- Grass: 88% / main forage area
- 2 ha of orchards

78% 33 ha

Workforce

- 2 partners and 20 days of hired farm labour (2 FTE)
- 27.5 dairy cows & 171,500 L sold /FTE
- Aim: 5 weeks of holidays / year and 1 weekend out of 2

Areas of interest

- Grazing
- Cost-effective system
- Cider and apple juice production
- Added-value



Main buildings and Equipment

- Freestall housing on straw 58 places
- 25 paddocks of 1 ha
- 1.2 km of flattened tracks
- 2x4 Milking parlour, double-up system
- Cider (10,000 bottles/year) and apple juice (5000/year)



Production/ Technical results

- 343,000 L produced (dairy coop « Biolait »)
- 41 g/l fat & 32 g/l protein content
- Stocking rate: 1.39 LU/ha forage area
- 6,300 l/cow/year 6,100 l/ha forage area
- 245 days/year of grazing
- Feed cost = €59/ 1000L
- 55 kg of concentrate/cow/year
- Operating costs = 26% of gross product





Strengths

- Economic efficiency
- •Recent set-up 3 years
- Diverse production systems
- Accessible area (27 ha)



Weaknesses



<u>Opportunities</u>

networks and partnerships •Direct sale of cider and apple



- Climatic hazards could lead to a reduction in the number of animals
- Urban land pressure

Farmer's strategy for a resilient system

To build a resilient system, Benoît and Dominique went for a cost-effective and independent strategy to be less dependent on the input prices (feed, fuel, etc.) found in organic farming by diversifying their income (long supply chain milk and short supply-chain cider). In order to further develop this protein and fodder autonomy, they have been testing new fodders: sorghum, rapeseed, trees, etc. and are also diversifying their grasslands to compensate for drier areas: cocksfoot, Ray-grass, clover, alfalfa, plantain, fescue, etc.

Aspirations/Needs for the future

Both farmers wish to continue with this autonomy and climatic resilience by focusing on hedges and fodder trees: planting, fodder testing, etc., as well as on reducing GHGs on the farm.

Improvement project - objectives

Diversify production



Better use of multi-species grasslands

Diversify fodder production

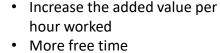
Reinforce protein autonomy

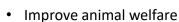
Planting fodder trees





PROJECT





Develop biodiversity

Reduce energy consumption

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 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/