

Innovations

Socio economic
Resilience /
Environment



2019

Dominique Madec and Benoit Cabaret take over the farm

2022

1 employee hired - adhesion to a group of employers

Farming milestones



2018

Organic farming

2019

Adhesion to French environmental measures MAEC SPE 12/70

2020

Suckling calves

2022

Orchard planting

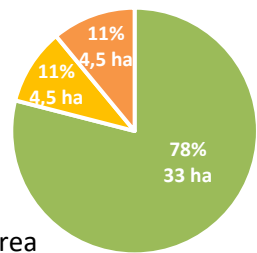
The herd

- 61 LU
- 53 dairy cows
- Breed: crossbreeds with a Holstein basis
- Replacement rate: 15%
- Calving period: all year
- First calving : 30 months
- Suckling calf rearing and heifer production transferred from 4 to 28 months

Agricultural Area

44 ha AA

- 30 ha temporary grassland
- 4 ha permanent grassland
- 4 ha of meslin (grain)
- 4 ha maize silage
- 38 ha forage area
- Grass: 89% / main forage area
- 2 ha of orchards

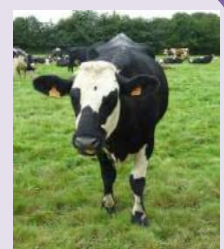


Workforce

- **2 partners** and 35 days of hired farm labour (2 FTE)
- **53 dairy cows** & 248 000 L milk sold
- **Free time:** 3 weeks of holidays (aim : 5 weeks)/ 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 =23 for dairy cows
- 1.2 km of flattened tracks
- 2x4 Milking parlour, double-up system
- Cider (10,000 bottles/year) and apple juice (4000/year)



Production/ Technical results

- 302,000 L produced (dairy coop « Biolait »)
- 42 g/l fat & 32 g/l protein content
- Stocking rate: 1.6 LU/ha forage area
- 5700 l/cow/year 7950 l/ha forage area
- 245 days/year of grazing
- Feed cost = €59/ 1000L
- 180 kg of concentrate/cow/year (autoproduction)
- Operating costs = 37% of gross



Strengths

- Economic efficiency
- Recent set-up - 3 years
- Diverse production systems
- Accessible area (23 ha)
- Percentage of milk sold directly (ice cream parlour)



Weaknesses

- Not quite self-sufficient in fodder : buy 8TDM /year
- High stocking density in dry areas



Opportunities

- Strong involvement in networks and partnerships
- Direct sale of cider and apple juice



Threats

- 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



ECONOMY & LABOUR

- Increase the added value per hour worked
- More free time

- Better use of multi-species grasslands
- Diversify fodder production
- Reinforce protein autonomy
- Planting fodder trees

PROJECT

- Improve animal welfare
- Develop biodiversity
- Reduce energy consumption



RESOURCE 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/>