

## Innovations

Socio economic  
Resilience /  
Environment



2012

Franck Le Breton takes over the family farm

2016

Conversion to organic farming started for the rest of the farm - 100% grass-based system

2017

Maud Cloarec partners

## Farming milestones

2012

Creation of a dairy cow building and a milking parlour - adhesion to MAEC SFEI

2016

Calving period set to autumn First closing of the milking parlour - adhesion to French environmental measures (MAEC SPE 12/70)

2018-2019

3 km of hedges planted

2020

Eating apple orchard planted

2021

Considering creating a vineyard

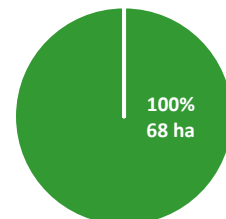
## The herd

- 70 LU
- 45 dairy cows + 10 females crossed with Belgian Blue or Charolaises for meat
- Breeds: Crossbreeds (100%)
- Replacement rate: 23%
- Calving period: Spring (March-April)
- Age at first calving: 24 months
- Milking OAD all year round

## Agricultural Area

68 ha AA

- 68 ha perm. grassland
- 250 apple trees + 25 juice apple tree
- 68 ha forage area
- Grass: 100% / forage area



## Workforce

- 2 partners and 1 employee (50%)
- 2.50 work units - FTE
- 45 dairy cows & 155,000 L
- Holidays : 8 weeks of holiday/year, free time available, No work on 2/3 Wednesdays and 1/2 Saturdays

## Areas of interest

- 100% grass and hay-based
- Cost-effective system
- Grouped calving period
- Milking OAD
- Added-value
- Agroforestry



## Main buildings and Equipment

- Freestall housing, cubicles on dolomite sand
- 20 paddocks of 1,5 ha to 3 ha – 38-40 ha for dairy cows
- 3.5 km of stabilised roads
- 2x5 Milking parlour



## Production/ Technical results

- 180,000 L produced (dairy coop « Biolait »)
- 45 g/l fat & 36 g/l protein content
- Stocking rate: 1 LU/ha forage area
- 4,000 l/cow/year 2,650 l/ha forage area
- OAD milking for 270 days (=9 months) of lactation
- 310 days/year of grazing
- < 1t DM of stocked fodder/LU
- 0 kg of concentrate/cow/year
- Operating costs = 6% of gross product



## Strengths

- Economic efficiency
- Technical skills
- Less worktime
- Low load (adapted, room to manoeuvre)
- Little dependence on inputs and price volatility



## Weaknesses

- Milk is mostly the source of income
- Reproductive diseases more troublesome in group calving system



## Opportunities

- Strong involvement in networks and partnerships
- Knowledge sharing through communication and bookwriting
- Diversification of workshops (meat, honey, apples, vines, etc.)



## Threats

- Increasing effects of climate change
- Context of the dairy industry

## Farmer's strategy for a resilient system

To build a resilient system, both farmers went for a cost-effective and independent strategy by grouping all calving over 9 weeks at springtime. By milking once a day and closing the milking parlour 2.5 months in winter, they both fulfil their aim of limited working hours ranging from 10h/week to 70h/week (at peak) for 2.5 labour units. The grass-based system contributes to limit their environmental impact by reducing their GHG emissions. Carbon emissions are thus reduced thanks to grasslands and hedges, and by limiting the number of unproductive animals on the farm.

## Aspirations/Needs for the future

Farmers are seeking to go ever further towards energy self-sufficiency. They also aim to gain greater control over the future of the farm's production (milk and meat). The GAEC now wants to communicate widely, highlighting their quality of life, the excellent economic results and the low environmental impact of the system. By reaching out to non-farmers in particular, the farmers hope to make the farming profession more attractive.

## Improvement project - objectives

- Diversify the farm



ECONOMY & LABOUR

- Increase the added value per hour worked

- Tree-planting (bocage, orchards, vineyards)

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/>