

Innovations

Socio economic
Resilience /
Environment



2017

Farm set up by Olivier and Valérie, 25 ha, poultry production

January 2018

Ferme de la Retenue taken over, 73 dairy cows, 55 ha

March 2019

Organic milk deliveries

2019

Employment of Valentin Collet

Farming milestones

September 2022

Valentin partners with tenants

May 2017

Conversion to organic farming started by the previous owners of the Ferme de la Retenue, adhesion to French environmental measures (MEC SPE 18/65)

2019

Calving period set to autumn

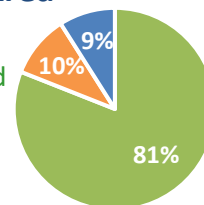
The herd

- 90 LU
- 73 dairy cows
- Breeds: Holstein
- Replacement rate: 18%
- Calving period: autumn
- Age at first calving: 32 months
- Suckling heifers (100 %)

Agricultural Area

80 ha AA

- 65 ha permanent grassland
- 8 ha maize silage
- 7 ha cereal-protein crops (grains)
- 73 ha forage area
- Grass: 89% / forage area



Workforce

- 2 associates-partners and 1 employee
- 3 FTE for dairy (2) & poultry production (1) = 37 dairy cows & 223,000 L /FTE
- Aims: 4 weeks of holidays / year and 2 out of 3 weekends free

Areas of interest

- Grazing
- Cost-effective system
- Added-value
- Territorial independence



Main buildings and Equipment

- Free-stall housing with cubicles, 70 places
- Swing-over parlour, 2x5
- 20 paddocks ranging from 0.8 to 2 ha
- 3.5 km of stabilised roads
- Poultry 90/100 days: 4,200 per year



Production/ Technical results

- 445,000 L produced (dairy coop « Biolait »)
- 42,7 g/l fat & 32 g/l protein content
- Stocking rate: 1,3 LU/ha forage area
- 6 050 l/cow/year 6 100 l/ha forage area
- 270 days/year of grazing and feeding
- Feed cost = 69€/1000 L
- 30 kg of concentrate/cow/year
- Operating costs = 25% of gross product



Strengths

- Good economic efficiency
- Technical skills
- Employee expected for succession
- Complementary productions



Weaknesses

- Few areas accessible for grazing (19 ha, i.e. 30 ares/cow in production)
- Long working hours due to the fragmentation of the land
- Dry area



Opportunities

- Strong involvement in networks and partnerships
- Transmission of the farm
- Close to Saint Brieuc - dynamic sector



Threats

- Climatic hazards in the dry area could lead to a reduction in the number of animals
- Loss of land in urban areas

Farmer’s strategy for a resilient system

To build a resilient organic system, the farm owners have come up with a cost-effective and self-sufficient way of being less dependant on input price (feed, fuel, etc.). Calving occurs at autumn to liberate grasslands and ease the workload during summer. Also, having two productions (milk & poultry) diversifies their income. The farm’s good economic results make it possible for the owners to hire an employee and free up their own personal time to engage in their own personal commitments.

Aspirations/Needs for the future

They are now preparing the transfer of the farm to their employee by training and helping him with his succession plan.

Improvement project - objectives

- Diversify sources of income
- Better use of multi-species grasslands
- Increase protein self-sufficiency

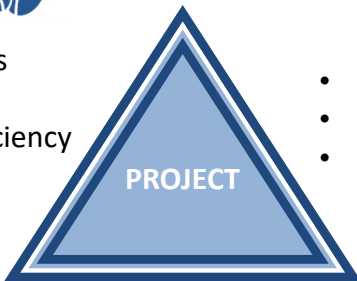


ECONOMY & LABOUR

- Increase the added value per hour worked



RESOURCE Efficiency



- Improve animal welfare
- 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 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/>