



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

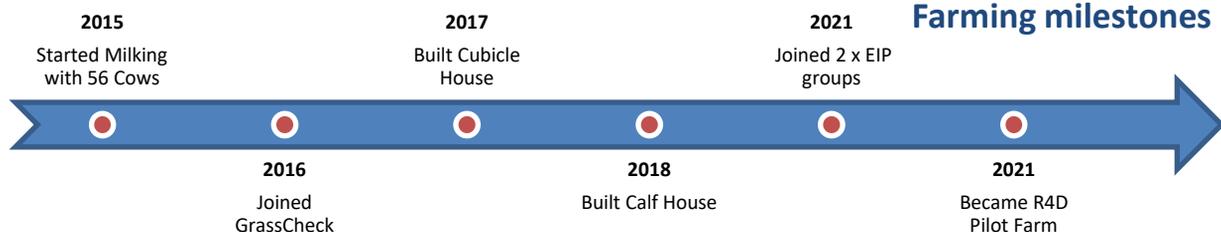
Ian McClelland Pilot Farm description Banbridge - 2022

N. Ireland



Innovations

Socio-economic
Resilience /
Environment



The herd

- 120 Livestock Units (LU)
- 90 dairy cows
- Breed: Holstein
- 25 dairy heifers
- 25 calves
- Calving period : Block Calving - autumn
- Age at first calving : 24 months

Agricultural Area

50 ha Farm

- Own 46ha
- Rent 4ha
- All permanent grassland
- Stocking rate: 2.2 LU / ha forage area
- Extended Grazing System
- Grazing 5 CE/ha

Workforces

- Farmer (Full-Time)
- Relief Milker (Part-Time)
- Family help e.g. children
- **Aims** : Efficiency, Make best use of time

Areas of interest

- Economic efficiency
- Grassland Management
- Forage Quality
- Sustainability

Main buildings and Equipment

- 12 Point Swing-over Parlor
- 136 Full Size Cubicles
- Generous Sawdust Bedding for Cows & Calves – Free from Local Mill
- Platometer
- Low emission slurry spreading – Dribble Bar
- Variable rate fertiliser Sower and GPS

Production / Technical results

- Yield - 10,017 litres
- Feed – 3.14T
- Milk from Forage – 3028 litres
- 3.86 % Butter Fat & 3.21 % protein
- Milk solids – 708kg
- Extended grazing system
- Milk sold to Lakeland Dairies
- £0.189/litre cost of production (inc. family labour)
- £1312 Net Profit per cow (avg. £875)



Strengths

- Innovative - willing to try new things and take part in R&D
- New entrant – committed to business objectives



Weaknesses

- Restricted by Farm Size – additional hectareage difficult to obtain in Northern Ireland



Opportunities

- Net Zero Farming – already ahead of most farms



Threats

- Increasing Feed and Fertiliser costs

Farmer’s strategy for a “resilient” system

Aspirations / Needs for the future

Improvement project - objectives

- Reduce work load



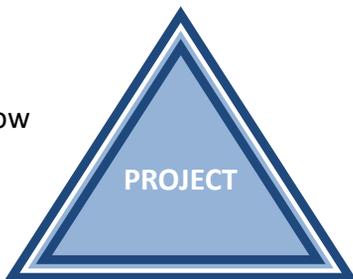
ECONOMY & LABOUR

- Optimize dairy gross margin
- Keep a good global profitability for a knowledge transfer centre

- Reduce concentrate for cow
- Save water consumption



RESSOURCE Efficiency



- Keep a good mineral balance
- Improve forage self-sufficiency

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/>