



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

Fam. D'Hooghe
Karel en Sofie
Pilot Farm Discription
Zele

Belgium



Innovations

**Socio-economic
Resilience /
Environment**



Farming milestones

2005

Started in side business
27 cows

2011

adapt youngstock barn
+shed + continue grow

2010

Expansion to 55 cows

2022

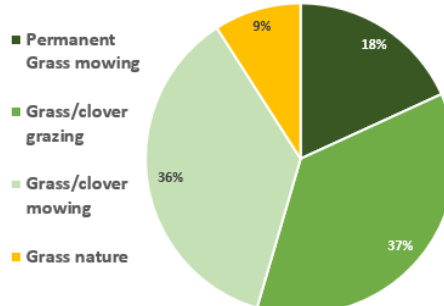
New low-emission dairy barn
84 cows

The herd (2020)

- 152 Livestock Units
- 84 Holstein
- 68 Young stock
- Calving period : all year round
- Age at first calving: 25,2months
- Calving interval : 417 days



Cropping Plan



Workforces

- 1 labor units : Karel + help from family
- **Aims** : Generate income, climate friendly production, optimisation and private time

Areas of interest

- Animal welfare
- Rotational grazing
- More own protein production
- Robot milking

Main buildings and Equipment

dairy cows

- Cubicle barn for cows
- Milking: 2 x 3 (Packo)
- Low-emission barn with solid floor
- Dry cows on sand



Production / Technical results (2020)

- 884 000 liters of milk produced
- Fat : 46,9 % & protein: 37,4 %
- Replacement Rate: 18 %
- 10 500 kg of milk /cow /year (FPCM)
- 1 132 kg of concentrate/cow/year
- 2 279 kg of concentrated feed/cow/year
- Return over feed cost : 31 €/100 l
- CFP: 1,01 CO₂ eq./kg FPCM (2021)



Strengths

- Efficiency
- Labour planning
- Good technical key-results
- Grassmanagement



Weaknesses

- Pressure of nature areas



Opportunities

- Interest in nature
- Interest in robotmilking
- Interest in biodigester



Threats

- Rapidly changing legislation
- Increased feed and fertiliser costs
- Climate change, drought

Strategy of the farmer to improve resilience

The company wants to work on its climate impact. A carbon footprint calculation was carried out for this purpose. As measures, a new stable (low-emission stable) and committing to maximum grassland, grass/clover (no maize in the ration) are the most important measures. Other important things are separate group housing on sand for dry cows, antibiotic use is close to zero. And the farmer is also member of Ben&Jerry's caring dairy project.

Areas of interest / Aspirations / Needs for the future

Karel has further interest and ambition to invest in milking robot and bio-digester

Improvement project - objectives

- Reduce work load
- Reduction of cost production



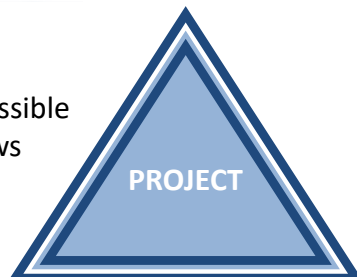
ECONOMY & LABOUR

- Private time and family

- As much milk as possible with the fewest cows



RESSOURCE Efficiency



- Energy-efficiency

ENVIRONMENT ANIMAL Wellbeing



Partners

inagro
ONDERZOEK & ADVIES IN LAND- & TUINBOUW

BOEREN BOND

“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 : www.resilience4dairy.eu