

Innovations

Socio-economic Resilience / Environment



2013

Romain works with his father 92 ha – 530 000 l - Agri-environmental measure with low-input forage

2016

Conversion to organic farming
2 ways crossbreeding Holstein x Norwegian Red

2018

Switch to organic farming

Farming milestones

2014

Expansion building, 125 cubicles with mattresses, manure pit

2017

Switch to a milking robot
Heifer breeding delegation

2021

Acquisition of 20 ha
Fodder shed with photovoltaic panels

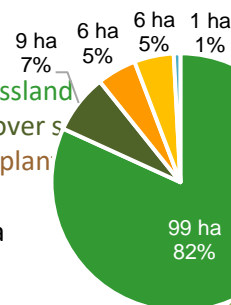
The herd

- 119 LU
- 112 dairy cows
- Breed: Holstein x Norwegian Red
- Replacement rate: 27%
- Calving period: all year
- Age at first calving: 28 months
- 100% AI + Angus bull

Agricultural Area

121ha AA

- 95ha Temp. + 4ha Perm. Grassland
- 9ha hybrid ryegrass & red clover s
- 6ha of dehydrated corn (full plan
- 114ha main fodder area
95% grass /main fodder area
- 6ha dehydrated corn cob
- 1ha English ryegrass seeding



Workforces

- **3 labor units including 1 employee**
- **2.95 labor units** assigned to milk activities = **38 cows & 231,000 l/labor unit**
- **0.05 labor units assigned to sales crops**
- **Objectives:** 1/5 days off + 1 week-end off /3 + 4 weeks off per year.
- Daily routine work in winter: 15 min/cow/week

Areas of interest

- Milking robot and grassland
- Grazing improvement
- Food autonomy
- Genetic crossing
- Added value
- Animal welfare
- Heifer breeding delegation



Main buildings and equipment

- Barn: cubicles with mats and slurry outlet for 125 cows
- 23 rectangular paddocks of 2–3 days with front/rear wire and day/night paddocks
- 600m of hardened paths
- 2 Lely Milking robots
- Individual boxes for calves on a platform with an outdoor park
- Heifers collective boxes up to 3 months old

Production/Technical results

- 692,000 liters of milk produced (99% sold)
- 40.9 g/l fat & 32.6 g/l protein content
- Stocking rate: 1LU/ha main fodder area
- 6,200 l/cow/year - 6,060 l/ha fodder area
- 270 days/year/complete grazing year
- 3.2 t of dry stored forage/LU
- 450kg of concentrates/ cow/year (dehydrated corn on the cob, foods with vitamins and minerals)
- Feeding costs for the herd: 59 €/1000 l
- Milk gross margin = 395 €/1000 l
- Operating costs = 21% of total product



Strengths

- Reduced working time
- High economic efficiency
- Good technical skills (grazing, care)
- Grouped parcels
- Good land potential
- 10 years farm business plan



Weaknesses

- Some parcels are humid
- Only one organic breeder for the delegation of heifer breeding in the department for now



Opportunities

- DESHYOUEST company is nearby (dehydrated corn and ryegrass for robot)
- Farm seeds adapted to soils for farm modernization plan
- Involvement in his dairy company



Threats

- Climate hazards
- Context of the organic dairy industry
- Farm transfer

Farmer's strategy for a "resilient" system

To build a resilient system in organic agriculture, the farmers adopted a cost-saving and self-sufficient strategy in order to be less dependent on the price of inputs (feed, fuel, etc.). The fodder is mainly made of grazed and stored grass with dehydrated corn before being distributed by the robot. Crossbreeding provides cows that are strong and adapted to grazing while maintaining milk productivity. By maximizing grazing, implementing milking robots and delegating the breeding of heifers to an outside farm, the farmers have reached their work objectives with less than 35 hours/week/partner.

Aspirations/Needs for the future

The farmers wish to maintain the economic efficiency of the farm with a self-sufficient grassland system. After the retirement of his father, Romain wishes to keep his working time objectives in order to keep his commitments and projects outside of the farm.

Projects-Objectives

- Produce more milk by reaching 125 dairy cows (building and surface optimized)

- Construction of a tunnel to make 25ha accessible to dairy cows
- Winter grazing
- Dehydrated corn cobs only

ECONOMY & LABOR



- Farm transmission within 5 years
- Increase the added value per hour worked



- Rotation with milling wheat on mowing plots

PROJECTS

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY



ENVIRONMENT ANIMAL WELL-BEING



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/>