



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

Fam. Van Parys
Steven en Fien
Pilot Farm Discription
Machelen - Zulte

Belgium



Innovations

Socio-economic
Resilience /
Environment



Farming milestones

2005

Steven graduates and starts a technology company

2019

Specialization through the construction of a new dairy barn

2018

Taking over the family farm together with Fien

2022-2023

Expansion to 230 cows and optimisation of youngstock barn

The herd (2023)

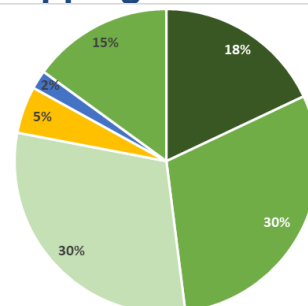
- 360 Livestock Units
- 230 Holstein
- 130 Young stock



- Calving period : all year round
- Age at first calving : 25 months
- Calving interval : 402 days

Cropping Plan

- Permanent Grass. 18%
- Grass. cultivation 30%
- Maize Silage 30%
- Potatoes 5%
- Cauliflower industry 2%
- Catch Crop 5%



Workforces

- 2 labor units : Steven & Fien
- **Aims** : Generate income, automatization, optimalisation and private time

Areas of interest

- Automatization
- Energie-efficiency
- Genetics

Main buildings and Equipment

dairy cows

- Cubicle barn for cows
- Milking: 4 robots GEA
- Automatic feeding with feed kitchen - own design
- Pocket digester



Production / Technical results (2022)

- 1 350 000 liters of milk produced
- Fat : 3,9 g/l & protein: 3,5 g/l
- Age of cows: 4Y 6M
- 11 800 kg of milk /cow /year (FPCM)
- 1 920 kg of concentrate/cow/year
- Replacement Rate: 15 % (young farm and growing)
- Return over feed cost : 27 €/100 l



Strengths

- Efficiency
- Labour planning
- Good technical key-results
- Energy optimisation



Weaknesses

- Fast growth in the short term



Opportunities

- Interest in genetics



Threats

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

Strategy of the farmer to improve resilience

The manager works very mathematically and reasoned. Ease of work is central to the choice of certain techniques. Repetitive work such as feeding and shuffling feed was something Steven wanted to avoid as much as possible. The barn layout combined with 100% controlled cow traffic ensures healthier animals and peace and quiet in the barn. The extra cost of automation is offset by the smaller barn, savings on other equipment and time savings. Electricity consumption is also constantly monitored and smartly adjusted.

Areas of interest / Aspirations / Needs for the future

Reasoned and calculated are 2 key words at this company. The main focus should be on the cows and producing milk. Therefore, they want to further focus on ration knowledge and genetics. Family life also gets an important place on this farm.

Improvement project - objectives

- Reduce work load
- Reduction of cost production



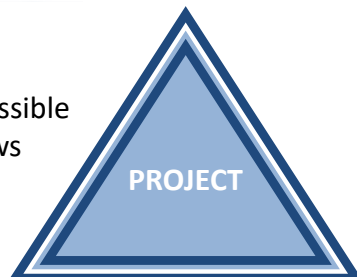
ECONOMY & LABOUR

- Private time and family

- As much milk as possible with the fewest cows



RESSOURCE Efficiency



- Energy-efficiency

ENVIRONMENT ANIMAL Wellbeing



Partners



“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