



Innovations

Socio-economic Resilience / Environment



1994

Dirk started working at the farm of his parents

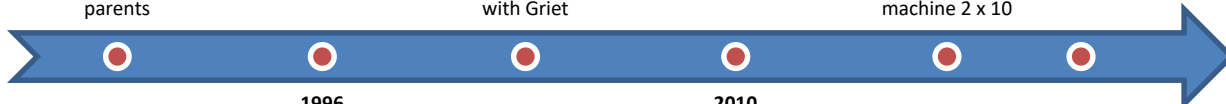
1997

Taking over the family farm together with Griet

Farming milestones

2013

new GEA milking machine 2 x 10



1996

Building of a loose barn for 50 cows

2010

Expansion to 120 cows and youngstock

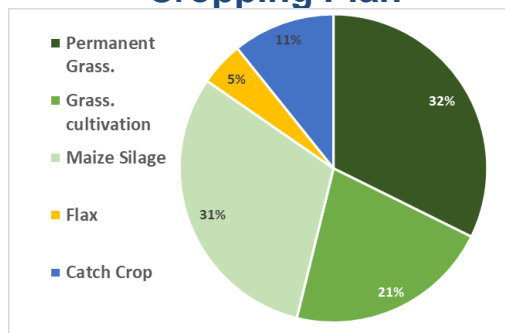
The herd (2021)

- 155 Livestock Units (LU)
- 110 Holstein
- 45 young stock



- Calving period : all year round
- Age at first calving : 23 months
- Calving interval : 391 days

Cropping Plan



Workforces

- 2 labor units : Dirk & Griet
- **Aims** : Generate income, optimisation and work-life balance

Areas of interest

- Grass management
- Care farm
- Commitment to benefit the sector through representation in various structures

Main buildings and Equipment

dairy cows, heifers and calves

- Cubicle barn for dairy cows and for heifers
- Milking : 2x10 herringbone parlour
- 3 Concentrate feeders of GEA



Production / Technical results (2021)

- 990 000 liters of milk produced/year
- Fat: 4,67 g/l & Protein: 3,56 g/l
- CFP: 0,85 CO₂ eq./kg FPCM
- Age of cows: 4Y 6M
- 9 860 kg of milk /cow /year (FPCM)
- Use of 50% beef cattle for surplus youngstock
- 1 653 kg concentrate/cow/year
- 3 345 kg concentrated feed/cow/year
- Replacement Rate: 20 %
- Return over feed cost: 21 €/100 l



Strengths

- Low replacement rate
- Livestock management
- Efficiency
- Labour planning
- Good economic results



Weaknesses

- Rent land
- Limited possibilities for additional ha



Opportunities

- Choice of dairy
- Low Carbon Farm



Threats

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

Strategy of the farmers to improve resilience

The business leader wants to achieve high returns with relatively modest resources and simple operations. They try to keep up with all the challenges facing the industry. They also try to avoid unexpected situations through continuous monitoring of the animals. They have integrated this way of working after following a LEAN thinking training. Doing the work at the right time pays off. For mental resilience, they make sure they also have a network outside agriculture.

Areas of interest / Aspirations / Needs for the future

Efficiency and a thoughtful approach are 2 keywords at this company. The computer is important to keep track of everything. They also pay attention to the social aspect in the family situation and as a care farm.

Improvement project - objectives

- Reduce workload
- Reduction of production cost

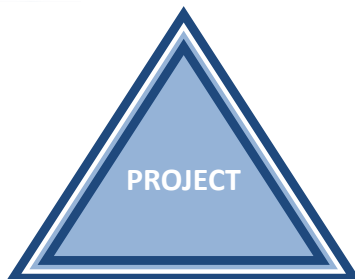


ECONOMY & LABOUR

- Single raw materials



RESSOURCE Efficiency



PROJECT

- Care farm
- Low number of youngstock

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.eurodairy.eu