Fårup Overgaard
Rødkærsbro
Pilot farm description
2022

Denmark

Timeline

1995 — Bought farm (50 cows, 55ha). Developed farm

2001 — Increased to 500 cows

2003 — Built new cow barn

2004 — Collaboration neighbour, bought dairy new farm (130 cows, 170ha)

2006 — Adapted new farm for youngstock

2007 — Built new cow barn

2008 — Bought pig farm (150ha)

2009 — Built feed storage facilities

2016 — Installed biogas plant

2017 — Bought 90ha land

Innovative features

- Biogas facilities
- Large area arable land located closely
- 100% sexed semen

Buildings & Equipment

- Cubicles with rubber mat or water mattress
- Individual calving pens
- Milking parlour (2 x 20)
- Manure scraper
- Individual calf housing & group housing
- Separate location for youngstock & far-off cows

Labour force

- 6 employees

Areas of interest

- Environmental impact
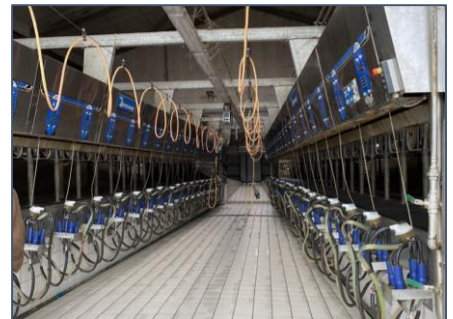- International relations among dairy farmers

The herd

415 cows in total
365 cows in milk
405 dairy heifers

All-year-round calving
Age at first calving: 24 mo
Fulltime indoor housing

Breeds: 98% Holstein
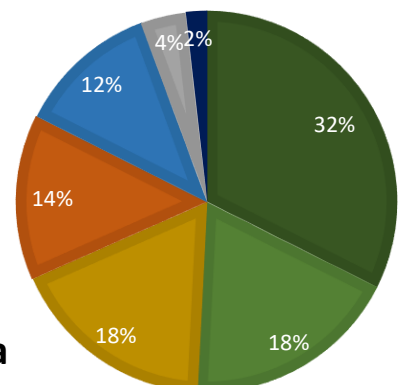2% Holstein x Belgian Blue

Milk production: 12,608 kg ECM per cow per year

Agricultural area

162 ha silage maize
92 ha grains
88 ha rapeseed
70 ha grassland
60 ha winter wheat
19 ha 'braak'
9 ha other

Total: 500 ha

Pie chart: 32%, 18%, 18%, 14%, 12%, 4%, 2%

Strengths

- High milk production per cow
- Biogas production
- Farm machinery is leased
- Low tax per kg milk produced
- Low debt

Weaknesses

- No pasture access
- Concrete, rubber matted cubicles for youngstock

Opportunities

- Member of European Dairy Association
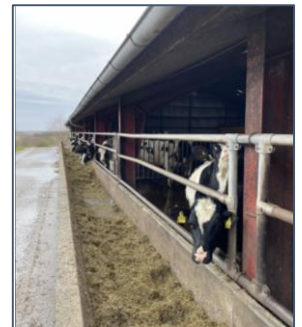- x
- x

Threats

- War in Eastern Europe
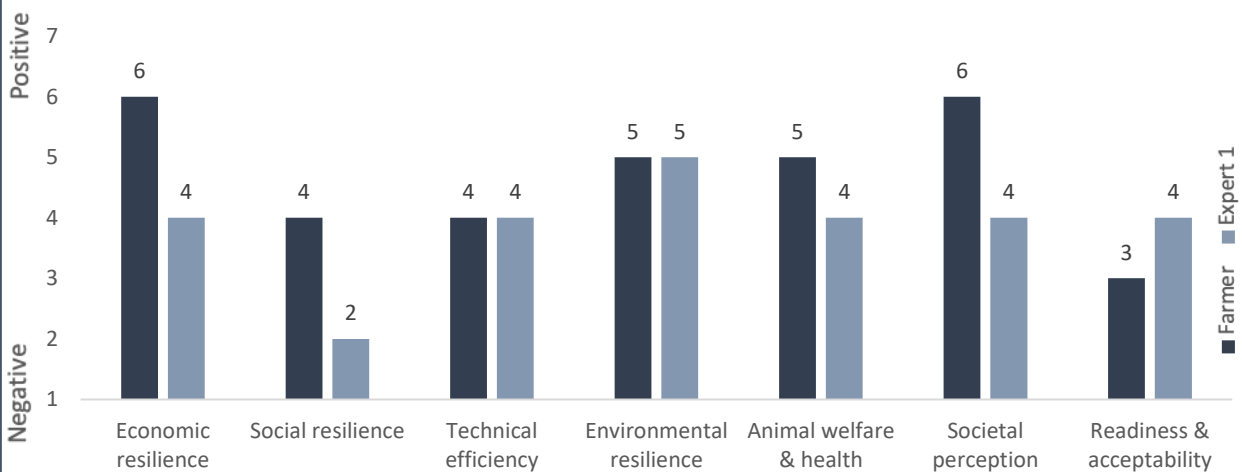- Lack of reliable employees

Innovative practice

Installing a biogas plant as strategy for improving environmental resilience. Co-digestion of cattle and pig manure & maize silage

Potential future solutions

- Employee cooperation
- Self-sufficiency in feed production

Effects of innovative practice on resilience

Bar chart comparing Farmer and Expert 1 ratings (scale Negative 1 to Positive 7):
- Economic resilience: Farmer 6, Expert 1 4
- Social resilience: Farmer 4, Expert 1 2
- Technical efficiency: Farmer 4, Expert 1 4
- Environmental resilience: Farmer 5, Expert 1 5
- Animal welfare & health: Farmer 5, Expert 1 4
- Societal perception: Farmer 6, Expert 1 4
- Readiness & acceptability: Farmer 3, Expert 1 4

AARHUS UNIVERSITY

"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/