



Tom Rawson
Houghton Lodge Dairy
Leicester
Great Britain
2016

The herd

- **800 cross-bred cows**
- **Spring and autumn block calving**
- **5000 litres/cow/year**
- **Milk from forage 3104 litres/cow/year**
- **4.75% fat & 3.65% protein**
- **Average age at first calving: 24 months**
- **Rotational grazing system February to November**
- **Stocking rate 2.55 cows/ha**

Innovations

- **Innovative business model** involving share capital and crowdfunding
- Two new **24:48 swing over parlours**
- Borehole - £30,000 digging project found **water at 100m down**
- **20,000 concrete sleepers** at £5.05 each for cow tracks to improve infrastructure
- Infrastructure of more than **40km of electric fencing** invested to set up paddock grazing
- **Reseeding ground** previously laid to arable
- **Grass is key to keep cost low** however meal can be fed through parlour feeders
- **Landlord provides the straw** in exchange for manure and help with cleaning out.

The farm

- **Specialist dairy farm**
- **Workforce: 5 full time and in hand machinery operations**
- **£1 million of seed capital** invested to bring life back to a redundant dairy unit
- **428 ha agriculture area**
- **273 ha grazing platform**



Areas of interest/Aspirations

Socio-economics resilience

- *New business models*
- *20% return on tenant's capital*
- *19% profit retained after rent and finance*
- *Mature cows yielding their body weight in milk solids*
- *Reduce concentrate use to 700kg cow/year*
- *Build up to 1000 cows*
- *Increase milk from forage to 3500 litres/cow/year*
- *2018 year business profit of at least 8 pence/litre*