



Roger, Judith & Tom Hildreth
Curlew Fields Farm
Yorkshire
Great Britain
2016

The herd

- 120 Pedigree Holstein cows
- All year round calving
- 10,611 litres/cow/year
- Milk from forage: 4480 litres/cow/year
- 4.10% fat & 3.21% protein
- 31 home reared genomic bred heifers
- Average age at first calving: 24 months
- Rotational grazing in the summer
- Housed in free stalls on deep sand

The farm

- Specialist dairy farm
- Workforce: 2 family members
- 173 ha Agriculture area
- 76 ha arable land
- 54 ha grazing platforms

Innovations

- Achieving high levels of performance for productivity and animal health.
- Part of an Arla group whose KPI is to produce 1.5 times cow liveweight in milk solids/year
- Innovative design of handling system which increase animal welfare and reduce stress with only one operator
- Genomic testing all heifers at birth following an initiative through AHDB Dairy Calf to Calving campaign
- Profitable Lifetime Index (PLI) is used and favours lifespan & management traits. PLI averaging at 328 (top 5% PLI)
- Out of parlour feeders used to control body condition in the last trimester of pregnancy
- Analysing slurry to help prepare an accurate farm nutrient management plan
- Slurry is applied via a shallow injector on a trailing shoe
- Selective dry cow therapy has helped reduce the use of antibiotics to 20%
- Monitoring carbon footprint through an Arla initiative
- Investment in bird covers to improve biodiversity.

Areas of interest / Aspirations

Resource efficiency / Animal care

Socio-economics resilience / Biodiversity

- Improving nutrition efficiency
- Application of genomic breeding
- Controlled traffic farming to improve grassland productivity and silage yield
- Expand slowly and sustainably
- Keep developing the farm with dry cow and calving pens planned in 2018
- Continue to focus on profit per cow place