



**Mary Quicke**  
Home Farm  
Devon  
Great Britain  
2016

### The herd

- **600 cross-bred cows**
- **Managed as 2 separate herds:** 1 spring and 1 autumn block calving herds
- **Rotational grazing** from Feb-December
- **5311 litres/cow/year spring herd** with 3633 litres from grazed grass. **4.38% fat and 3.49% protein. Stocking rate 3.25 cows/ha**
- **6400 litres/cow/year autumn herd** with 1926 litres produced from grazed grass. **4.46% fat and 3.57% protein. Stocking rate 3.26 cows/ha**
- **Housed in free stalls with mats**
- **400 home reared heifers**
- **Average age at first calving: 24 months**

### Innovations

- **Mix of breeding**, Scandinavian Red, Kiwi Holstein, Kiwi Friesian, Friesian, Brown Swiss, Jersey and Montbéliarde, to achieve quality milk for cheese production
- Breeding for fertility, feet, milk quality and fat: protein ratio
- Introducing **herbal lays** onto the grazing platform to support sward growth in drought
- **Home-grown beans and crimped wheat are ensiled in forage clamps at harvest**
- Spring calving cows are **out-wintered** on forage and fodder beet (kale for young stock) with round grass silage bales
- Two herds provide **a level supply of milk for cheese production**, reducing the need for bought in milk
- **Environmental Stewardship Scheme** in place to protect biodiversity on 80 ha

### The farm

- **Specialist dairy farm**
- Has been in the Quicke's family for 14<sup>th</sup> generations
- **Produce award-winning** traditional cloth-bound cheddar which is sold globally
- **Workforce:** 8 full time & 4 part-time
- **560 ha Agriculture area**
- **180 ha arable land**
- **240 ha forming 3 grazing platforms**

### Areas of interest/Aspirations

Resource efficiency / Biodiversity  
Socio-economics resilience

- *Continue to improve self-sufficiency and sustainability by optimising home-grown forages*
- *Introduce another grazing platform and a third herd*
- *Water efficiency measures*