



Gaec Lestra-Clément
O. Decultieux et D. Bruyère
St Clément les Places
(Rhône-Alpes - France) - 2016

The herd / dairy cattle

- **123 dairy Livestock Units (LU)**
- **83 dairy cows & 82 dairy heifers**
- **Breeds: Montbéliarde (100 %)**
- **Calving** : all year round
- **Age at first calving**: 29 months
- **721,000 kg of ECM milk produced**
 - 94 % sold
 - 4.02% fat and 3.33% protein
- **8,703 kg ECM/cow year⁻¹ (milk yield)**
- **8,824 kg ECM milk per ha forage area**
- **Stocking rate**: 1.5 LU per ha forage area
- **266 g kg⁻¹ ECM concentrate feed intake**
- **Sleeping on stalls with straw**
- **Automatic Milking System (2 boxes and 1 robot)**

The farm

- **Workforce: 2** (2 partners+0.5 worker)
- **Specialized dairy farm**
- **99 ha Agriculture Area** (altitude 600 m)
- **17 ha crops** (wheat, barley, triticale)
- **82 ha Fodder Area:**
 - 58 ha grassland (71 % FA)
 - 22 ha maize silage (27 % FA)
 - 2 ha immature proteinaceous+crops
 - +25 ha catch crops

Innovations

- **Good organization of work to get free time.** 2 weeks of holidays per year and 1 week-end off every 2 weeks.
- **Several professional activities and responsibilities** to meet other farmers and to discuss (learning session, meeting)
- **Employer alliances:** Share employees with other farms to work with an employee who can replace partners when they have meeting outside the farm (farmers union responsibility...)
- **New modern buildings and cowshed**
- **Automatic milking system and grazing:** they want to keep grazing for dairy cows.
- **Most of the equipment have been bought together with other farmers in a cooperative (Cuma).** All the owners need to share their use, work with others, and have better equipment at a reduced costs.
- **EU CAP engagements** signed with French state **to develop a more self-sufficient system** towards proteins needs (reduce maize silage, concentrate and develop multisward pastures...)

Areas of interest/Aspirations

- Socio-economics resilience
- Resource efficiency /Biodiversity
- *Technical optimization of their intensive mountain system*
- *Mindful towards labour issues*
- *EU CAP engagement to fulfil and tomorrow, developp an organic system*