



Pilot farm name: Toukola

Pilot farm location: Pieksämäki, South Savo, Finland

Name of farmer: Pekka Poikolainen & Jouko Poikolainen

The herd

- **115 dairy cows & 65 dairy heifers**
- **Breeds:** Holstein and Ayrshire
- **Automatic milking system** (two robots)
- **Age at first calving:** 25 months
- **Milk to dairy:** 1 260 000 kg
 - 11 900 kg ECM/cow/year
 - Milk fat%: 4.14
 - Milk protein%: 3.46

The farm

- **Arable area 135 ha** of which **80 ha on grass**
 - Grass mostly mixture of timothy, meadow fescue, perennial ryegrass and clover
- **3 silage cuts per year**
 - Silage stored in round bales (biological preservative)
- **Whole crop silage** also used as a part of the feeding
- **Separate feeding** (belt feeder for forage)
- **Workforce:** Three family workers

Innovations

- **Efficient grass production and management**
 - Forage quality very good
 - Round bales and forage mixer enable homogeneous silage for cows
 - Co-ownership of machinery in silage harvesting chain with other farmers saves costs
- **Heifers on a contract farm**
 - More space and possibilities for grouping in the barn
→ Adequate facilities increase the welfare of cows
 - Own department for dry cows (with water beds)
- **Extended lactation** as a management tool
 - High milk yield and lactation potential (milk yield of primiparous cows > 11 000 kg)
 - Dry-off during high production level not necessary

Themes of interest:

Resource efficiency
Socio-economics
Animal care