



Pilot farm name: Iivonlahti

Pilot farm location: Sotkamo, Kainuu, Finland

Name of farmers: Anna & Matti Rönty

### The herd

- **77 dairy cows**
- **Heifers** raised on a contract farm
- **Breeds:** Holstein and Ayrshire
- **Age at first calving:** 24.5 months
- **Milking** two times a day, a herringbone parlour
- **Milk to dairy:** 703 903 kg
  - 10 000 kg ECM/cow/year
  - Milk fat%: 4.52
  - Milk protein%: 3.56

### The farm

- **Arable area 160 ha** of which **75 ha on grass**
- Barley, oats and wheat harvested as **whole crop silage**
- **2 grass silage cuts** typically per year
  - Silage stored in silos and round bales
- **Workforce:** 3 family workers and 1.5 hired

### Innovations

- **Co-operation with the contractors improves efficiency**
  - Grass silage harvesting
  - Manure spreading
- **Heifers on a contract farm**
  - More space and possibilities for grouping in the barn  
→ Adequate facilities increase cows' welfare
  - Own department for dry cows
- **Cows graze during summer and go outdoors also in winter**
  - Positive effects on claw health and reproduction
- **Calves are handled a lot at young age**
  - Farm arranges weekly a cowclub for children, where kids can play with cows and calves, and are familiarized with milk production
  - Animals are easier to handle also when they are adults

### Areas of interest:

- Extended lactation as a management tool in dairy farm
- Rearing dairy cow and calf together; what are the economical impacts
- Monitoring of working hours