



## Gaec Le MAS d'ILLINS

Luzinay (38)

(Rhône-Alpes - France)

2017

### The herd / dairy cattle

- 143 dairy Livestock Units (LU)
- 98 dairy cows
- Crossbreeding Holstein with Montbéliarde, Brown Swiss, Simmental
- Calving season: all year round
- Age at first calving: 28 months
- 743,000 kg of ECM milk produced
  - 92 % sold + 2.6 % in direct selling
  - 4.04% fat and 3.33% true protein
- 7,579 kg ECM cow<sup>-1</sup> year<sup>-1</sup>
- 5,713 kg ECM milk per ha forage area
- Stocking rate: 1.1 LU/ha forage area
- 226 g kg<sup>-1</sup> ECM concentrate
- Cow housing: strawed cubicles with matlasses and automatic scraper
- Herringbone milking parlour: 2 × 6 double equipment

### The farm

- Workforce: 4 (2 partners= 1 couple, & 2 employees)
- Specialized organic dairy farm
- 130 ha Agriculture Area
- 30 ha mixed cereals + protein crops
- 100 ha Fodder Area: grasslands
  - 80 ha rye-grass-legumes mixtures
  - 20 ha permanent grasslands
- +6 ha catch crops (sorghum)

### Innovations

- 100% grass based system in a maize based region, organic production since 2017
- Direct selling of part of the production (30,000L): raw milk and cottage cheese (on farm and with two wholesalers)
- 4 breeds rotational crossing since 2008 to improve longevity and hardiness
- Work organisation: simplification, building optimization, planning of holidays (15 days per year + 1 WE / 3)
- Automation: automatic scraping + robot to deliver the feed with a fixed programmable mixer bowl
- Few machines in ownership: one 70 hp tractor (1988) and the haymaking equipment. Harvest and silage done by contractor. The rest of the machinery belongs to the local machinery coop.
- Permanent search for forage self sufficiency: maize silage stopped, sowing of new temporary grasslands with ryegrass and clovers, early cuts of grass silage, grazing 7 months out of 12, development of mixed crops for grain.
- Educational farm welcoming schools

### Areas of interest/Aspirations

#### Socio-economics resilience / Resource efficiency

- Search for forage self sufficiency: redesign of pastures layout, early cuts of silage, decrease in the purchase of protein cakes.
- Decrease in the daily work