



Shane Fitzgerald
Ballynoe, Co. Cork
Republic of Ireland

The herd

- **267 Holstein Friesian & Jersey cross-bred cows**
- **Rotational grazing from 1st Feb – 1st December**
- **Milking 2 times / day**
- **4.56% fat & 3.73% protein**
- **812 kg of concentrate was purchased per cow**
- **Housed in free stall with mats**
- **Spring block calving**
- **Average age at first calving 23-24 months**

Innovations

- **Cross breeding** – to achieve quality milk with high fat and protein percentage
- **Breeding for fertility, milk quality (fat and protein) and longevity**
- **Autumn planning strategy**
- **Herd health plan** – monitoring, vaccinating & soil sampling
- **Technology** to save labour and considering a rotary parlour to reduce labour further

The farm

- **Specialist dairy farm**
- Has increased by **100%** since abolition of quota
- **Workforce:** 2 full-time family members & 1.5 hired labour units
- **152 ha grassland – 90 ha of which is rented**
- Ability to **grow 18 t / ha of grass**

Areas of interest/Aspirations Resource efficiency / Biodiversity

Socio-economics resilience

- *Staff management*
- *Animal health and welfare*
- *Continuous planning*
- *Continue to improve profitability & resilience by planning & regularly reviewing budgets*