



Neil & Jane Dyson
Holly Green Farm
Buckinghamshire
Great Britain
2016

The herd

- **500 Holstein cows**
- **120 home reared heifers**
- **9,000 litres/cow/year**
- **4.4% fat and 3.4% protein**
- **Milking three times/day**
- **Housed in free stalls with sawdust on mattresses**
- **Summer seasonal block calving**
- **Average age at first calving: 23/24 months**

The farm

- **Specialist dairy farm**
- Has been in **Jane's family** for 100 years
- **Workforce: 6**
- **210 ha Agriculture area**
- **170 ha arable land**
- **40 ha permanent grassland**
- **90 ha rented keep**



Innovations

- Attention to detail with **minimal use of technology**
- **0% mortality target** for replacement heifers reared in a **high bio-security unit**
- Graduate training programme to encourage **staff personal development**
- **Use of sexed semen** is being trialled and compared against non-sexed semen
- **Genomic breeding** is used on two-thirds of the herd. Traits for milk yield, solids and legs and feet are selected
- **Slurry separation** to exchange muck for straw with arable neighbour
- **Fresh calvers temperature and blood ketone levels are monitored**
- **Monitor dry cows urine pH** to balance Dietary Cation-Anion Balance (DCAB) diets to eliminate milk fever
- **Rumen fluid samples** taken to help balance feed rations
- **Scientific methodology** to calculate quantity of feed offered
- **In the top 10% of Arla farms for low carbon footprint** due to a biomass boiler, solar panels and rations soya exclusion

Areas of interest/Aspirations

Resource efficiency, Animal care
 Socio-economic resilience

- *Staff management*
- *Animal health and welfare*
- *Use of standard operating procedures and protocols*
- *Continue to improve profitability and resilience by planning and regularly reviewing budgets*