



**Vista Alegre Farm**  
César Valera / Helen GROOME  
**Karrantza (Bizkaia - Spain)**  
2018

### The herd / dairy cattle

- **32 dairy Livestock Units (LU)**
- **27 dairy cows & 7 dairy heifers**
- **Breeds: Friesian (100 %)**
- **All year round calving**
- **Age at first calving: 24 months**
- **179,756 kg of ECM milk produced**
  - 56% direct sales as own farm dairy produce
  - 3.88% fat and 3.21% protein
- **6500 kg ECM/cow/year (milk yield)**
- **6882 kg ECM milk per ha forage area**
- **Sleeping area on mattress covered with straw**
- **Herringbone parlour: 2 x 4**

### Innovations

*“Think sustainable for sustainable dairy economics, jobs and farm habitats”*

**Innovations mainly focused on milk production and marketing**

- **Gradual deintensification** of milk production resulting in **full organic certification** in 2013
- Focus on **quality of milk production** rather than quantity
- Better use of **farm forage resources**, improving pasture availability per cow
- Identification and use of semen from rustic Friesian land races closer to **traditional ancestry Friesian breed**
- **Environmental innovations to decrease use of petrol based energy**
- **On farm production of dairy products (pasteurised milk, natural yoghurt and four types of cheese)**
- **Marketing of farm products** by own workers in 100km radius
- **Trilingual website** for production transparency and **reconnecting farmers and consumers**

### The farm

- **Workforce: 6 full time**  
(2 partners & 2 employees)
- **Grass based dairy farm**
- **25 ha grassland area**
  - Multispecies with 45% legume
  - No mineral fertilisation
- **Stocking rate: <2.0 LU /ha forage area**

### Areas of interest/Aspirations

- *Minimise dependence on petrol based energy*
- *Increase grass-based proportion of dairy herd feeding*
- *Improve awareness and acceptance amongst consumers*