

AUBRAC Farm – GAEC DU CONROC (63)

Farm location

Village: Sallèles in the Livradois-Forez (63) national park
Height above sea level, 630m

Farm characteristics

2 Full-time staff - 55 Aubrac suckler cows
125 ha of farmland



DESCRIPTION OF THE HERD AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Herd & farm background

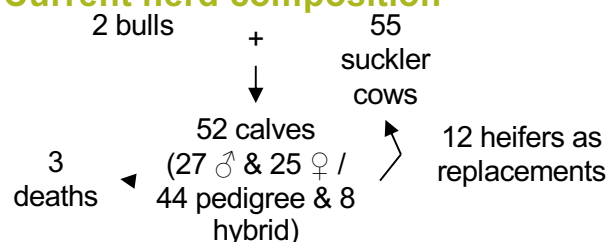
Pre-2014, family farm with milk cows

2014 The milk herd is replaced by an Aubrac suckler herd & registers for performance recording.

2015 Joins the pedigree Aubrac Herd-Book

2022 Frank Rochette joins his mother (Ghislaine) in the farm business following his father Jacques' retirement

Current herd composition



Herd status, size etc.

The current herd size is ideal as the farm is self-sufficient in forage. The number of Charolais crosses will decrease as the weaker cows have been culled and crossing with a Charolais bull is frequently a source of issues. *"If you lose calves, it's not worth doing."*

Buildings

1 lone building used as,

- Loose-covered yard with straw bedding for cows
- Cubicles for heifers
- 4 pens (bulls + late-calving cows)

Prophylactic treatment of livestock

- Adults, anti-parasites
- Calves, vaccination

Ration

Winter

- Cows, hay ad lib, 1st & 2nd cut wrapped haylage, cereals (500g/day) & minerals
- Stores, hay ad lib & feed (1kg/day)

Summer

Grazing & minerals (supplemented if necessary in - field)

Calving

Period

Autumn calving from October to January, of which 75% are in Oct-Nov

A few late calvers in summer (July-August)

Number

52 cows calving of which 44 are pedigree and 8 Charolais-cross calves

Age at 1st calving

35 months (identical to breed average)

Calving interval

373 days (breed average, 379 days)

Average age of cows at calving

5.8 years (breed average, 6.2 years)

Excellent breeding results

Cropping, 125 ha



AUBRAC FARM

GAEC DU CONROC (63)

Classic breeding system

A classic Aubrac system, with a fresh or conserved grass ration. Calves are mainly sold as stores for finishing abroad for fattening. Only culls and a few heifers are finished on the farm.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection traits

- Docility (as from the constitution of the herd)
- Shape & size "standard" (as from the constitution of the herd) : standardise the herd
- Heavy carcass, well-shaped calves (good conformation) & dam's milking qualities
- Easy calving

Average maternal ancestry index for the herd for 2021 (source : BGTA 2022)

	Herd 2021	Breed 2021
Numbers	54	76381
Easy-calving	99.9	99.6
Growth index	97.5 (-2.3 kg)	99.7
Muscle index	98.7 (-0.6 pt)	98.6
Skeletal index	104.3 (+1.3pt)	100.6
Fine bone index	104.2	100.7
Wean Index	97.5	98.6
Calving Index	99.8	99.6
Milk index	98.7 (-1.0 kg)	99.9
Maternal Index	97.2	98.7

Artificial Insemination

Percentage AI

35% of calves are the result of AI of which some are pedigree Aubrac, others crossed from using Charolais semen

Choice of bulls

Proven bulls with complete profiles, recognized performance and easy calving on heifers.

Objective

Accelerate herd improvement selection by using AI.

Performance of calves accounted for in the indexation

(averages 2022 - source : BGTA 2022)

Performance	Herd		Breed average
	Number	Average	
Weight at birth	54	39.1kg	39.0 kg
210-day weight	6	156.2kg	160.5kg
Muscle development	36	60.6 pt	58.0 pt
Skeletal development	36	58.3 pt	59.8 pt

Sale of breeding stock

Though no animals have currently been sold for breeding purposes, this is the intended goal.

MARKETING

Destination of calves

Males

- Stores sold at weaning for finishing abroad

Females

- 12-14 yearlings retained as herd replacements
- Occasionally, some are sold to other breeders
- The remainder are sold as stores for finishing abroad

Finishing of culls

Finishing to a carcass weight of 410-420kg on average at a sale price of 5.35€/kg (through standard channels) – data from July 2023