

FARM TOUR

BREED: Abondance

NAME OF THE VISIT: Abondance dairy cattle farm visit

DATE OF THE VISIT: 04/10/2024

ADDRESS: Le Bosbomparent, 43100 Saint-Beauzire

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GAEC LA MOUTONADE at Saint-Beauzire

Organic farming

Location:

The village of Saint-Beauzire, in the west of the Haute-Loire département. The farm is only 45 minutes from Clermont-Ferrand, 20 minutes from Issoire, 2 hours from Saint-Flour, 1 hour from Le-Puy-en-Velay

The farm buildings are at 700 metres above sea level.

The farm comprises 4 distinct sites that are 10, 15 and 25 kms from the main buildings

Farm history:

Before 2004: Farmed by grandfather with 70,000 litres of milk quota and 13 Suckler cow quota

In 2004: Lionel and Cédric Gauthier set up as farmers via a GAEC

Construction of building for 35 dairy cows, 21 suckler cows and heifers

2015: Construction of second barn

2016: Conversion to organic agriculture

2024 : 48 dairy cows AND 14 suckler cows present on farm

295,000 litres of milk quota. Milk delivered to Sodial



Herd description:

48 dairy cows – 14 suckler cows – 40 to 45 heifers

38 Abondance dairy cows + 10 Abondance cross cows

Abondance breed first introduced on the farm in 2004

For its rustic qualities, capacity to cover large distances in the search for forage and its high protein content

Insemination + genotyping + breed selection organisation

Main and secondary farm production :

- 295,000 kg of organic milk sold to Sodial
- Farmer-paid price 500 € /1000 litres
- Beef (culls & stores)
- Turnover 80 % Milk & 20 % Beef

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Farmland:

142 hectares, of which

- ✓ 12 ha of cereals (wheat & rye)
- ✓ 25 hectares of Lucerne
- ✓ 10 hectares of Temporary Pasture (clover mix)
- ✓ Permanent Pasture

The farm is fully self-sufficient in feed for the livestock, including cereals. No external purchases

Farm constraints:

Organic agriculture, the price of organic milk is very similar to conventional milk. Higher costs (feed & livestock etc)

Climate 2 years (2022 & 2023) of drought

Farmland dispatched across 4 different sites

I- Genetic Indexes

| | Overall | Proteins | Fats | Milk | Morphology | Body | Udder |
|--------------------|------------------|----------|------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | 113,9 | 0,4 | -0.4 | 251 | 104.6 | 102.9 | 103.6 |
| Breed rank* | 42 nd | | | 64 th | 56 th | 23 th | 109 th |

Breed ranking is calculated based on the 303 farms registered with the breed selection body.

II- Milk production *(Average milk recording results)*

| Milk | Fats | Proteins |
|-------|------|----------|
| 5 390 | 37.8 | 32.4 |

It should be noted that the above annual production was in an organic farming system and in a year (2023/2024) that was severely affected by drought.

III- Udder health

| | This Farm | Breed Average |
|-------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| White blood cell count ('000) | 187 | 141 |
| % of cows with mastitis | 3 | 4 |

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IV- Reproduction

| | This Farm | Breed Average |
|-----------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Cow non-return rate at 90 days | 64 | 53 |
| Heifer non-return rate at 90 days | 60 | 65 |
| Ave n° AI/cow | 2.6 | 1.8 |
| Ave n° AI/heifer | 1.8 | 1.6 |
| Calving interval (days) | 459 | 407 |
| Ivia1 (days) | 107 | 85 |

V- Working life

| | This Farm | Breed Average |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Age at 1st calving (months) | 32.5 | 35.6 |
| Lactation rank | 3.2 | 3.2 |
| Cumulative cull milk | 25,001 | 22,021 |



Noueuse, champion cow at the Sommet de l'Elevage 2023 belongs to Gaec la Moutonade