

BREED: Salers

NAME OF VISIT: Salers beef cattle farm tour

DATE OF VISIT: 02/10/2024

ADDRESS: Sac, 63680 SAINT-DONAT

GAEC MARION



Traditional-system farmers since 1972, farming at Saint-Donat in the Sancy foothills at 1050 metres above sea level.

Organisation

3-partner Gaec: Monique Marion, Arnaud Marion, Vincent Rech

Farmland

- 136 Ha of permanent pasture
- Land fertilisation: mainly manure and slurry

Herd management

1 block calving period (Dec-March)

Winter ration:

- Cows, Farm-produced forage & supplements
- Calves, hay & cake
- Heifers, hay & haylage + cake

Sale of breeding stock (males & females)

A few cows are inseminated with the semen of older farm-reared bulls

Herd

- Pedigree (100%)-registered Salers herd
- 70 Salers cows milked
- 20 replacement heifers
- Approx. 10 bulls

Buildings

Loose covered yard on slatted floor for 78 head with yolk and 74 head in cubicles (1,000m³ slurry store) + strawed bedding with calf pens & calving pens (650m³ manure pit)

Stanchion barn with lean-to for 71 head (heifer housing) and 160m³ of manure pit)

Production stats (2023-2024 milk recording results)

- 4,124kg average milk yield
- Average calving interval 353 days
- Average fats 37.9 g/kg
- Average proteins 33.7 g/kg
- Maiden heifer 1st milk recording 17.5kg
- Average cull cow weight: 400kg
- Deadweight Average weight of stores: 365kg liveweight

Selection criteria

Milk production and capacity to milk quickly
Bone structure (good-sized cows)
Good, wide back-ends
Docile

Project

Production of the famous Saint Nectaire cheese as from December 2024