

BREED: Aubrac

NAME OF VISIT: Aubrac beef cattle farm visit

DATE OF VISIT: 02/10/2024

ADDRESS: Palladuc, in the Livradois-Forez park

CONTACT NUMBER: +33 (0)6 31 04 72 96

FARM CHARACTERISTICS

1 full-time staff – 65 Aubrac cows

172 ha of farmland

EARL DES BOIS NOIRS AUBRAC CATTLE FARM

Herd background

Pre-2017, Sébastien PONS was rearing Aubrac cattle in the Lozère département.

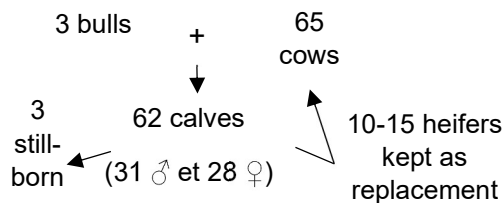
2017: he moves to the Puy-de-Dôme département where he owned farm buildings and land. Starts new Aubrac herd.

2023: Becomes a member of the Aubrac Herd Book

The herd today

Herd management criteria

Ease of calving, a bit of size and suckling capacities



Herd progression

The herd, relatively young, is on constant growth. Crossing with other breeds to finish in 2024 as the pure Aubrac cattle are now just as heavy. *"We are looking to increase herd numbers to 120 cows for two of us to earn a living from the farm."*

Farm buildings

1 single building for 80 head, with:

- Scraped area up front and straw-bedded area behind
- 3 big calving pens

Prophylaxy

- Adult cattle are systematically-treated against parasites + minerals pre & post-calving and during mating period.
- Calves are vaccinated + receive a bolus



Ration

Winter

Mainly haylage and a little hay

Summer

Grazing. Male calves reared on after weaning, upon housing fed haylage, hay and concentrate.

Calving description

When

2 batches: October to January AND March-April

Numbers

62 cows calving of which 50 pedigree and 12 crossed with other breeds requiring some assistance at calving

Age at 1st calving

35 months (identical to the breed average)

Calving-calving interval

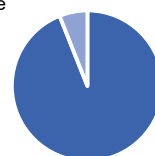
386 days (breed average: 377 days) with an aim to block more calving

Average age of cows

6.8 years (breed average: 6.3 years)

Cropping: 172 ha

Triticale
6%



Permanent &
temporary pasture
94%

Pedigree breeder system

A classic Aubrac system with a grass and forage-based ration. Heifers are retained as either replacements or sold as breeding stock. Males are principally sold as store for export and the best are kept back and sold at 18-24 months as breeding stock.

Selection criteria

- Fertility (barren cows are systematically culled)
- Age (only the best older cows are kept back)
- Milk production (reduces calf feed costs)

Herd maternal ancestry average indexes for 2023

(Source : BGTA 2023)

	2023
Herd numbers	41
Overall calving index	96,5
Weaning index	99,8 (-0,1 kg)
Muscular dev. index	99,3 (-0,3 pt)
Bone dev index	100,3 (+0,1 pt)
Fine bone index	100,5
Overall weaning index	97,5
Calving index	101,5
Milking index	100,2 (+0,2 kg)
Overall maternal index	97,3

In brackets, indexes expressed as physical values

Sale of breeding stock

Males

Roughly the 7 best males, the progeny of the best cows are retained on the farm as future bulls or sold as potential breeding stock at 18-24 months

Females

15-20 3-year-old in-calf heifers are sold as breeding stock

Calf performances integrated in the indexation (2023 averages - Source: BGTA 2023)

Performance	Herd		Moyenne Raciale
	Number	Average	
Birth weights	41	41.0kg	38.9 kg
120 day-weight	27	164.8kg	161.4kg
DM	36	57.0 pt	57.2 pt
DS	36	60.1 pt	60.1 pt

Artificial insemination

Unconvinced by the success rate, the farmer does not use AI on the farm.

MARKETING

Sale of calves

Males

- Male calves aged 12-14 months are sold for export as stores (430-440kg liveweight)
- 7 best → sold as potential breeding stock

Females

- All heifers are kept back to 3 years old
 - 10-15 kept as replacements
 - The remainder are sold as in-calf maiden heifers

Direct sale

10-12 heifers / young cows are finished, slaughtered then sold direct to the consumer (likewise the pigs)