

BREED: SALERS

NAME: GAEC MARION¹ 100 Route du Sac 63680 Saint-Donat

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¹ GAEC = Groupement Agricole d'Exploitation en Commun = Farm business with minimum 2 partners

HERD DESCRIPTION & MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Farm background

1972: Jean-Paul Marion sets up as a farmer with his wife Monique. They farm a herd of 30 Salers cows.

1974: They start milk recording their herd and sign up to the Salers pedigree Herdbook.

1976: They stop making farm-processed Saint-Nectaire cheese, due to insufficient farm staff numbers.

1996: Arnaud sets up as a farmer and joins the GAEC

2025: Vincent joins the GAEC and restart of making farm-processed Saint-Nectaire cheese 50 years after it was stopped.

Herd description

137 ha at 1050 m above sea level

- 65 Salers cows reared to a traditional system,
- 40 heifers & 10 bulls

Farm is Salers Herdbook registered and has been for over 50 years!

Sale of male and female breeding stock

Principal farm production and secondary livestock activities

Pedigree Salers milk cow herd for processing of milk into AOP Saint-Nectaire + Culls sold within Red Label quality scheme criteria

Technical data

Milk yield

1st lactations: 15.9 L/day for 3-year-old maiden heifers and 23.4 L/day for 1st milk recording of cows.

Herd results 2024-2025:

- Fats: 3.72%
- Proteins: 3.25%
- White cell count: 192,000

Rearing of calves and reproduction

Calves suckle their mothers ad lib from birth prior to a progressive reduction when calf is approx. 3 months of age when calves start to consume enough feed.

Male stores sold at weights of 350–370 kgs.

Roughly 18 cows are sold per year as breeding stock on suckler units.

20 heifers retained as replacements every year, the remainder are sold.

Weights as per method of sale

Liveweight cows: 780–800 kg

Deadweight culls: 400–450 kg