

BREED: AUBRAC

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¹ EARL = Exploitation Agricole à Responsabilité Limitée = Limited liability farm business



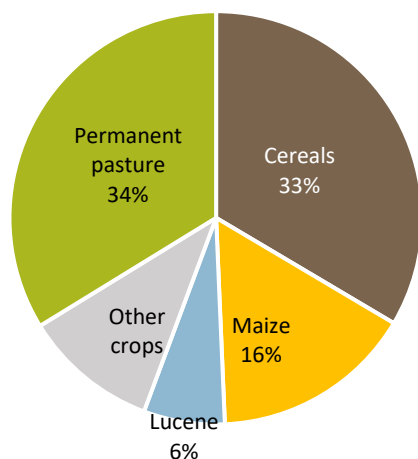
HERD DESCRIPTION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Farm background

- 4th generation of farmers
- The farm was previously a Holstein cattle dairy unit including direct farm gate sale of milk products.
- In 2017, the milk cows were replaced by Aubrac suckler cows (full-scale production since 2025)
- 2 full-time staff (mother & son) + 1 family helper (father)

Farm description

- Objective: Production of quality stores while limiting (feed) purchases from off-farm sources
- Height above sea level: 400m
- Herd: 29 Aubrac cows + 1 bull
- Farmland: 85ha (cropping as below)



Principal farm production

- Rearer/Breeder
- Production:
 - Stores for export (sold at approx. 8 months weighing between 360 & 400kg)
 - Cull cows, some of which are held back & finished if not sufficiently fat.

Herd management

- Housing: strawed sleeping area with scraped concrete feed station
- Ration:
 - Winter: cows, hay + wrapped haylage + maize + lucerne/ryegrass + salt & ad-lib minerals & creep feeders for calves throughout the year.
 - Summer: Free grazing and ad-lib hay
- Systematic treatment:
 - Spring de-worming
- Ultrasound scanning:
 - Autumn
 - Spring

Technical data

Herd selection

- Selection objectives and criteria sought:
 - Easy calving
 - Milk production
 - Good natured
 - Good legs
- A herd of purebred animals bred entirely through natural service (except for some AI to avoid in-breeding)
- Replacement rate: 20%
- Average age of cows: 7.2 (cf. 6.4 for the breed nationally)
- Number of cows aged over 10: 7

Calving

- Main calving period:
 - Maiden heifers: October-December
 - Adult cows: June- August
- Number of calves born: 28
- Calf mortality: 3%
- Age at 1st calving: 29 months (cf. 35 months for the breed nationally)
- Calving interval: 343 days (cf. 389 days for the breed nationally)
- Easy calving:
 - 91% not requiring assistance (cf. 82% for the breed nationally)
 - 7% with little assistance (cf. 13% for the breed nationally)
- Estimated calf birth weights:
 - Males: 28.3kg (cf. 41kg for the breed nationally)
 - Females: 27.3kg (cf. 37kg for the breed nationally)