

# CONTEXT PROFILE

 FRANCE



## FARMER

Franck Le Breton and  
Maud Cloarec



## INNOVATION

Spring block calvings : matching the birth  
season to grass growth



[Video](#)



## MAIN DOMAIN OF THE INNOVATION

Animal management



## AGROCLIMATIC AREA

Atlantic south



## CLIMATE

Very high rainfall



## SOIL TYPE

Clay



## MANAGEMENT

Pasture Dairy



## TECHNICAL

Difficult



## FINANCE/INVESTMENT

Mid



## MARKET

Local-rural



## SOCIAL

Full-time farmer

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Case Study: FR_07	Agroclimatic Zone								
	Alpine	Atlantic Central	Atlantic North	Atlantic South	Boreal	Continental North	Continental South	Mediterranean North	Mediterranean South
Possibility to simultaneously adopt spring block calving, all-grass system, single milking, no concentrate	+	+++	+++	+++	+	++	++	++	+
Willingness to accept a working peak around the calving time (synchronised with the begin of the growing season) and appreciation of the advantages provided by the milking parlour being closed for two months in winter	+++	+++	+++	+++	+	++	++	+++	+
Willingness to await the needed time to group the calving period by shifting the calving of the cows and taking some cows out of the herd	++	+++	+++	+++	+	++	++	++	+
Cows reproduction and grass management must be mastered	++	+++	+++	+++	+	++	++	++	+
Great attention to cows heat and insemination is needed	++	+++	+++	+++	+	++	++	++	+

+++ Strong transferability  
 ++ Slightly limited transferability  
 + Very limited transferability  
 × Generic information/not relevant

## Implementation Gaps

- Time and knowledge to group all calvings (in Spring)
- Innovation is available mostly when the climate allows earlier grazing and summer grazing
- Acceptance of reducing the quantity of milk production
- Know-how needed to raise heifers correctly in 2 years

## Research Gaps

- Improving cow genetics for optimal adaptation to all-grass system
- Improving cow genetics for reproductive performances

## Suggestions to Adapt

- Thoroughly master cows reproduction management before grouping calvings
- Thoroughly master grazing management before grouping calvings in Spring
- Choose the best composition of sown grasslands in dryer areas to graze in summer

# COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

## INVESTMENT COSTS

Total initial investment costs at start up:	low
• Initial authorisation costs (e.g. sanitary, veterinary, etc.)	low
• Initial advisory costs	low
• Initial buildings and machineries	low
• Initial certification costs	low
• Initial working capital (personal qualification, marketing and promotion, etc.)	low

## ON-GOING COSTS

On-going advisory costs	not applicable/not known
On-going certification costs	low
On-going buildings and machinery costs	low
On-going working capital	low

## BENEFITS RELATIVE TO ORIGINAL SYSTEM

### ◦ Economic

Reduction in energy consumption (electricity; fuel consumption)	high
Reduction in input use (fertilizers; pesticides; feed) etc.	high
Payback period	not applicable/not known
Product value added	high
Additional farm income through agroecological/agri-environmental payment schemes	not applicable/not known

### ◦ Environmental

Animal feed self-sufficiency increase	high
Biodiversity increase	high
Improved nitrogen cycling	high
Soil regeneration	high
Animal health and welfare improvement	high

### ◦ Social

Workload reduction	high
Engagement of young generation	high

# Literature

## English

- [https://www.journalofdairyscience.org/article/S0022-0302\(08\)71384-5/fulltext](https://www.journalofdairyscience.org/article/S0022-0302(08)71384-5/fulltext)
- [https://www.journalofdairyscience.org/article/S0022-0302\(24\)01160-3/fulltext](https://www.journalofdairyscience.org/article/S0022-0302(24)01160-3/fulltext)