



**AGRICULTURES
& TERRITOIRES**
CHAMBRES D'AGRICULTURE
ALSACE

Alsace is a region in the east of France that borders Germany and Switzerland. The Alsatian climate is semi-continental, marked by cold, dry winters and hot, stormy summers. The average annual temperature is 10°C in the plains and 7°C at altitude. The annual thermal amplitude is high (30°C). Like the average temperatures, the typology of the farms differs very strongly according to the geographical area. There is a very wide variety of farm types depending on the lowland farms and other locations.

Dairy farms are polyculture-livestock farms. That is to say that in addition to the dairy workshop, there is one or more plant production(s). There are 673 farms throughout the region with more than 10 dairy cows, 512 of which are members of the milk control service of the Alsace Chamber of Agriculture. This represents more than 76% of the farms that are regularly monitored by a technician from the Alsace Chamber of Agriculture.

Regular assessment report for all Alpine countries

The average number of dairy cows on milk recording farms is 73. 3 with the same number of replacement heifers. Average cow productivity is about 7952L per lactation. An average farm thus produces about 583,000 L of milk per year. Milk contains on average 40. 3g/L of fat and 32. 6 g/L of protein. Heifers calve for the first time at 31. 8 months of age and the age interval between heifers is around 418 days. Herds have an average lactation rank of 2. 5. The average farm cultivates 119 ha,



39% of which is grassland. Grasslands are often located in areas where the land is unsuitable for growing cereals. In Alsace, some dairy sectors in the plains have their parcels of grass far away and do not graze their animals. Depending on the location of the farm, the ration will be different. Thus in the mountain areas and in Alsace Bossue, the ration contains a large amount of grass. Conversely, lowland farms contain a large proportion of maize silage and consume a wide variety of by-products from the food industry, such as beet pulp or brewers'; grains. Out of the total number of farms on milk control, 51 are organic dairy farms, mainly located in the sectors of Alsace Bossue, Montagne and Sundgau, due to the strong presence of meadows and the demand of the dairies in this sector. In the whole region, 104 farms have a ration consisting mainly of pasture. In the last 15 years, we have seen an increase in robotization in dairy farms, especially the milking activity is delegated to robots. Thus 96 farms are equipped with milking robots and can subscribe to additional services such as activity sensors (for heat detection) or rumination sensors. 12 of these robotic farms are able to combine their milking system with grazing.

Transnationally designed roll out campaign

In order to recruit the 5 farms that we intend to have in Alsace in the Big Pilot, we have to make a list of the criteria that these farms have to meet in order to be part of the experimental phase. Then we will call on our breeding consultants to give us the names of the farms that meet all the criteria. We'll ask them to talk to them to see if they're interested. When an advisor gives us the information that a breeder is interested in, we will contact him to explain the objectives of the project and define the modalities of installation of the big pilot on his farm. Before the installation of the big pilot, we will have to go on the farm to check the feasibility of the installation of the infrastructure.