

AUBRAC cattle farm

GAEC LAPORTE (48)



Location of farm

Commune : Le Buisson (48) Lozère département
Height above sea-level: 1100 m

Farm characteristics

3 full-time personnel - 110 Aubrac cows
215 ha of farmland

DESCRIPTION OF HERD AND REARING SYSTEM

Herd background

- 1982:** Michel sets up as a farmer
- 1989:** Creation of the GAEC with Maryse, his sister
- 1993:** Slaughter of entire herd following an outbreak of brucellosis. Purchase of a pedigree-registered Aubrac herd
- 1994:** Membership of the breed Herd-Book and performance checking
- 2001:** Patrice, Maryse's son joins the GAEC
- 2018:** Olivier, Patrice's brother joins the GAEC

The Herd today:

Males:

- 6 Aubrac bulls for natural service

Females :

- 110 cows (2021)
- Of which 40% crossed with Charolais, mainly AI
- Replacement rate: 16%

Buildings

- 3 buildings:
- 1 (tethered) byre built in 1996
- 1 loose covered yard on slatted floor & straw built in 2019
- 1 strawed loose covered yard renovated in 2020 used for finishing

Cropping: 215 ha

- 11ha of cereals: triticale
- 35 ha of temporary pasture: cocksfoot, brome, lucerne, fescue and clover
- 35 ha of permanent pasture
- 139 ha of rough grazing and woodland grazing
- 30 ha of silage and 30 ha of hay
- **Feature: Rotational grazing system**

Ration

Winter:

- ◆ Cows and bulls: grass silage, hay, vitamins and minerals + cereals and balancer as from mid-January
- ◆ Replacement heifers: grass silage, hay and minerals
- ◆ 2-yr old heifers for slaughter: basic ration above and supplement for finishing

Summer:

Grazing and supplements for male calves for export to Italy as stores

Herd health

Cows:

Systematically vaccinated for BVD and calf scours

Calves: Systematically vaccinated for flu + long-action parasitic drench for males

Répartition des vêlages Calving pattern

Almost 90% in December, January & February

“Calving at this time seems to us to be the best compromise to put the cows back to the bull before turning out to grass and the sale of the majority of our stores in September before the store market gets saturated”

Age at 1st calving, herd age and calving interval

- 36 months at 1st calving (breed average: 36 months)
- Average age of cows 6.7 years (breed average 6.2 years)
- Ave calving interval: 363 days (breed average: 380 days)

Excellent breeding performance and results

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Pedigree breeder, selectioner and finisher

The GAEC LAPORTE is a veritable shop window as to all the options available when rearing Aubrac cattle. Pedigree breeder (Member of the breed Herd-Book and Bovins Croissance since 1994), sale of breeding stock (males & females, rearing of stores for Italy and finishing of culls and Charolais cross heifers).

SELECTION

Selection criteria

- o Maternal qualities
- o Docility
- o Legs
- o Conform with breed standard – Breed qualities

Average maternal ancestry indexes of the herd for 2020 (source : BGTA 2020)

	Herd - 2020	Breed
Numbers	108	67,533
Easy-calve	99.9	99.8
Growth index	101.1 (+1.0 kg)	99.5
Muscle index	106.1 (+2.9pt)	98.6
Skeletal index	98.7 (- 0.4 pt)	100.5
Fine bone index	98.6	100.8
Wean Index	104.3	98.5
Calving Index	101.9	99.7
Milk index	94.9 (-3.8kg)	99.8
Maternal Index	99.2	98.7

In brackets: indices expressed as physical values

Sale of breeding stock

- o Pedigree Aubrac males
- o Pedigree 10-month old Aubrac heifers
- o In-calf cows
- o Cows with calves at foot

Breed testing station

At least one male calf sent to the testing station every year.

Several bulls have been sold as AI bulls in recent years

CALF PERFORMANCE

Calf performance included in the indexation

(Average 2020 - source: BGTA 2020)

Performance	Herd		Breed average
	Number	Average	
Birth weight	108	40.6 kg	390 kg
210-day weight	97	271.2 kg	257.5 kg
Muscle development	97	61,6 pt	57.7 pt
Skeletal development	97	63.6 pt	60.0 pt

Destination

Females:

- o Pedigree heifers: kept as replacements or sold as breeding stock
- o 15 finished heifers / year
- o Finishing of heifers and cull cows (approx 15/ year) half of which qualify for Label Rouge Bœuf Fermier Aubrac

Males:

- o Stores sold to Italy, Greece and Algeria
- o New production recently added of bullocks (6 per year) → increasing to fifteen in the future

→ 6 animals per year sold direct to the consumer at farm gate (heifers and calves) boxed cuts

HEAVY STORES - FINISHING

Finishing of culls

Finishing of heifers and cows

Finishing of Charolais-X heifers for slaughter