BREED: AUBRAC

NAME OF THE VISIT: EARL D'AUTHUN – Sylvain COMBETTES

DATE OF THE VISIT: 10/10/2025

CONTACT NUMBER: OS RACE AUBRAC – 06 43 84 96 02



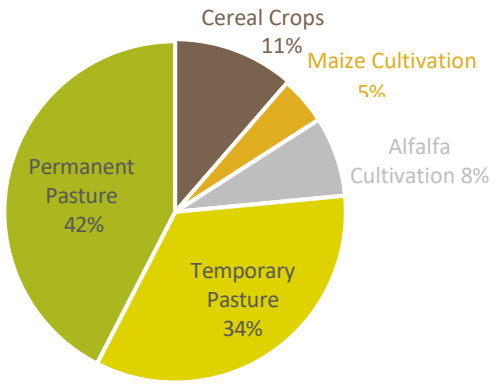
DESCRIPTION OF THE LIVESTOCK AND THE FARMING SYSTEM

History of the Farm

- 5 generations of farmers
- Aubrac breeders for 2 generations
- Registered in the Herd Book in the 1990s
- Current farm manager settled in 2011
- 1.5 Annual Work Units (AWU) with 1 full-time worker + 1 apprentice + 1 family helper

Description of the farm

- Objective: self-sufficient and cost-effective farm, therefore profitable
- Altitude : main farmstead (12) at 800 m and summer pasture (63) at 1 100-1 250m
- Herd: increase from 78 to 95 Aubrac cows in 2025 + 5 bulls
- UAA (Utilized Agricultural Area): 132 ha



Main Production

- Breeding System:
  Breeder - Finisher
- Production :
  - Purebred and crossbred weaners (sold at 14–16 months)
  - IGP Fleur d'Aubrac heifers (sold at 30–36 months)
  - Some breeding stock: 2-year-old males and heifers ready for mating
  - Culled cows finished for beef

Herd Management

- Housing: adult cattle in free-stall barns, younger animals in tie-stalls
- Feeding: winter feeding only: hay (mainly) + alfalfa + grass and maize silage + cereals + if needed, oilcake (purchased)
- Health Treatments: minimal use; case-by-case treatments for deworming (strongyles + tapeworms + lice) + vaccination against flu in spring and autumn for calves, and against anthrax for cows

Technical Data

Herd Management

- Objectives and selection criteria for herd management:
  - 1 calf/cow/year
  - Docility (main criterion)
  - Milk production
  - Ease of calving
  - Coat color and polled (hornless)
- Artificial Insemination: 45% performed independently or through the cooperative, mainly using Charolais bulls
- Purebred and/or crossbreeding: 60% Aubrac–Charolais cross, 40% purebred
- Replacement rate: 8%
- Average age of cows: 7.9 years (6.3 for the breed)
- Number of cows over 10 years old: 18

Calving

- Main period: mid-December to February
- Number of calves: 79
- Neonatal mortality: 1%
- Age at first calving: 36 months (35 months for the breed)
- Calving interval: 370 days (377 for the breed)

Cow qualifications

- Breeding with bull: 9%
- Breeding with heifers: 27%
- Service cows: 41%
- Registered: 23%