

One Step Ahead with Sustainable Agriculture

EARL Brayer – France



Sustainable Agriculture in Practice

EARL Brayer is a 215 hectare farm growing wheat, sugar beet, and potatoes as well as vegetables for processing, such as beans and peas. The farm is located in the heart of the Aisne, a region of prime agricultural importance in northern France. The owners, Charlotte Brayer and her brother Jean-François Brayer, manage the farm with a strong focus on integrating agriculture and environmental conservation. Their goal is to improve biodiversity and to constantly find ways to improve towards responsible management of modern agriculture.





Owned by Charlotte and Jean-François Brayer



Location:

Germaine, near Saint Quentin in northern France.



History:

Jean-François Brayer began managing the family farm in 2005, following his father's footsteps. Charlotte, his sister, joined him in 2011.



Farming Land:

215 hectares of mainly silt and clay-silt soils.



Crops:

Wheat, sugar beet, oilseed rape, potatoes, and vegetables for processing like beans, spinach, and peas.



Partners:

Ceta Ham Vermandois (local technical association), local water agency, OPL-Vert (fresh legumes producer organization), local hunters association.



Key Elements



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Productivity starts with the seed

Certified seeds lay the foundation for high productivity and improve a healthy growth start-up of the crops.

Soil care

Crop rotation is the basic pillar to maintain soil fertility. Landscape measures such as realignment of fields, planting of grass strips and hedges have helped to limit soil erosion.

Precision farming

Most of the equipment used at the farm is guided by GPS, helping to optimize fuel and the use of inputs while also promoting task management efficiencies.

Smart crop protection

Crop protection is managed in an integrated manner and supported by specific agro-climatic models such as MILEOS® for potato late blight control.



Integrated weed management

A diverse crop rotation, stale seed bed technique, alternating herbicide modes of action and mechanical weeding make it possible to sustainably manage weed control.



Optimizing sustainable farm performance

Strategic decision support tools for tasks such as irrigation, fertilization, and crop disease control help balance economics, food autonomy, and environmental performance.



Best practice applications

The sprayer is equipped with the latest technology like GPS boom section cut-off and anti-drift nozzles to ensure optimum treatment while respecting the environment



Bee care

Smart connected hives make it possible to monitor bee activity live. Honey-bearing hedges and grass strips at the edge of fields help maintain pollinator populations.

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Biodiversity measures

Based on a thorough species inventory study at the farm, tillage practices have been adjusted and conservation measures such as hedges and bat nest boxes have been implemented.

Water protection

A filling and rinsing station connected to a Phytobac® bioremediation system ensures optimal on-farm wastewater management.



Working safely

Personal protective equipment and safe storage of crop protection products allow to minimize exposure to crop protection products for the user and the environment.



Partnerships

Bayer ForwardFarming unites the skills and expertise of different partners to continuously improve sustainable farming.



Bayer ForwardFarming provides an up-close look at how farmers are practicing sustainable agriculture around the world. Unique in its global reach the Bayer ForwardFarming network serves as platform for knowledge sharing and dialogue. Forward-Farmers deploy technologies and best practices that reduce agriculture-related greenhouse gas emissions, decrease the environmental impact of crop protection, promote biodiversity and conserve natural resources.

On the ForwardFarms, progress towards the Crop Science sustainability commitments truly comes to life.

Bayer ForwardFarming demonstrates solutions that support sustainability in agriculture across the following three components:

- // Care for Crops Every farm is different, and every field within a successful farming operation is unique. Tailored Solutions are needed to meet the needs of the individual farmer and their specific field – from the right seeds and traits to the correct type and amount of crop protection, to the digital tools and services that allow for good decision making and precision.
- // Care for the Planet and People ForwardFarming promotes and demonstrates Proactive Stewardship to protect human health and preserve the environment. Examples include addressing the safe and responsible use of crop protection products; soil health, biodiversity, and water conservation; and offering training in all of these areas.
- // Care for Partnerships Bayer FowardFarming fosters Partnerships with agricultural value chain actors, research centers, universities, and other institutions to strengthen sustainable farming development.



For further information, visit our website: *WWW.forwardfarming.fr*

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