

One Step Ahead with Sustainable Agriculture



EARL Gachot – France



Bayer
Forward 
Farming

Sustainable Agriculture in Practice

EARL Gachot is a cereal farm typical for the “Côte d’or” (Gold Coast) in eastern France. Samuel Gachot runs this farm and also works with his wife on a wine estate in Nuits Saint George. Crop diversification is the key farming strategy at EARL Gachot, where Samuel grows important food crops as well as energy crops and grape vines. The farm’s operations also must take into account that EARL Gachot is located in a drinking water catchment area, and that the four streams that flow through the farm can cause flooding to some fields. Hence, preserving water quality is also top of mind for the farmer.



Introducing EARL Gachot

Owned by Samuel Gachot



Location:

Gerland, between Dijon and Beaune.



History:

Samuel is the third generation of his family to farm the land and took over from his father in 1990. One employee supports him at the farm.



Farming Land:

240 ha, limestone clay and sandy loam.



Crops:

Wheat, barley, oil seed rape, brown mustard, miscanthus, sunflower, grape vines.



Partners:

Beekeeper, Dijon Mustard Producers Association (Fallot).

EARL Gachot

Farm Profile



- Tailored Solutions
- Proactive Stewardship
- Partnerships

Key Elements

- 1 Productivity starts with seeds**
Certified seeds lay the foundation for high productivity and improve a healthy foundation for crop growth, ensuring maximum yield benefits.
- 2 Soil conservation**
To better conserve the soil structure and soil life, plowing was abandoned in 1985 in favor of minimum tillage.
- 3 Crop rotation**
Alternation of autumn and spring crops, in combination with intermediate crops to avoid nitrate leaching, are an effective foundation for an integrated weed control strategy.
- 4 Digital farming**
Machinery used from sowing to harvest is equipped with GPS to work as precise and efficient as possible. The connected weather station also makes it possible to make the right decisions at the right time.
- 5 Integrated crop protection management**
Interactive decision support tools and insect traps make it possible to monitor the health status of crops in real time and protect them only when necessary, at the best moment.
- 6 Biodiversity conservation**
Grass strips and honeybee-favoring hedges at the edge of the fields help to maintain the biodiversity of wild flora and fauna throughout the farm.
- 7 Beehives**
Several beehives have been set-up in the heart of the farm in partnership with a professional beekeeper, providing the opportunity to exchange and understand each other's practices.
- 8 Water protection**
A filling and rinsing station and a Phytobac® bioremediation system ensure optimal on-farm wastewater management. Regular analyses of field drainage water help protect water sources.
- 9 Application technology**
Use of GPS and the latest innovations such as pulse width modulation nozzles (PWM) and automatic section cuts enable high-precision applications.
- 10 Safe use & storage**
The crop protection storage room allows for the secure management of products. Personal protective equipment is used according to the specific operator activity following best practices.
- 11 Partnerships**
Bayer ForwardFarming builds on existing partnerships to leverage expertise and skills.



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 ForwardFarming fosters **Partnerships** with agricultural value chain actors, research centers, universities, and other institutions to strengthen sustainable farming development.



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