

One Step Ahead with Sustainable Agriculture



GAEC de la Ruelle – France



Bayer
Forward 
Farming

Sustainable Agriculture in Practice

GAEC de la Ruelle is a dairy farm located in the center of Brittany, France's northwesternmost region. A group of four young farmers manage this livestock farm, producing most of the diverse feed ingredients for their 130 dairy cows, as well as for 280 young bulls and heifers on their farmland. Environmental care – especially water protection – is a demanding challenge in the region and is attended to very diligently on the farm. "It's more than just pride, it's a privilege to be one of the benchmark farms with regard to preserving the environment," states Jean-Michel Massue, the farm's spokesperson.



Introducing GAEC de la Ruelle

**Four associates, represented
by Jean-Michel Massue**



Location:

Treffendel, near Rennes (Brittany).



History:

Founded in 2003, by two partners, GAEC de la Ruelle now has four partners.



Farming Land:

Silt on shale, compact or hydromorphic.



Crops:

Meadow, silage corn, wheat, legume meslin, oil-seed rape, winter barley, triticale, rye, protein crops.

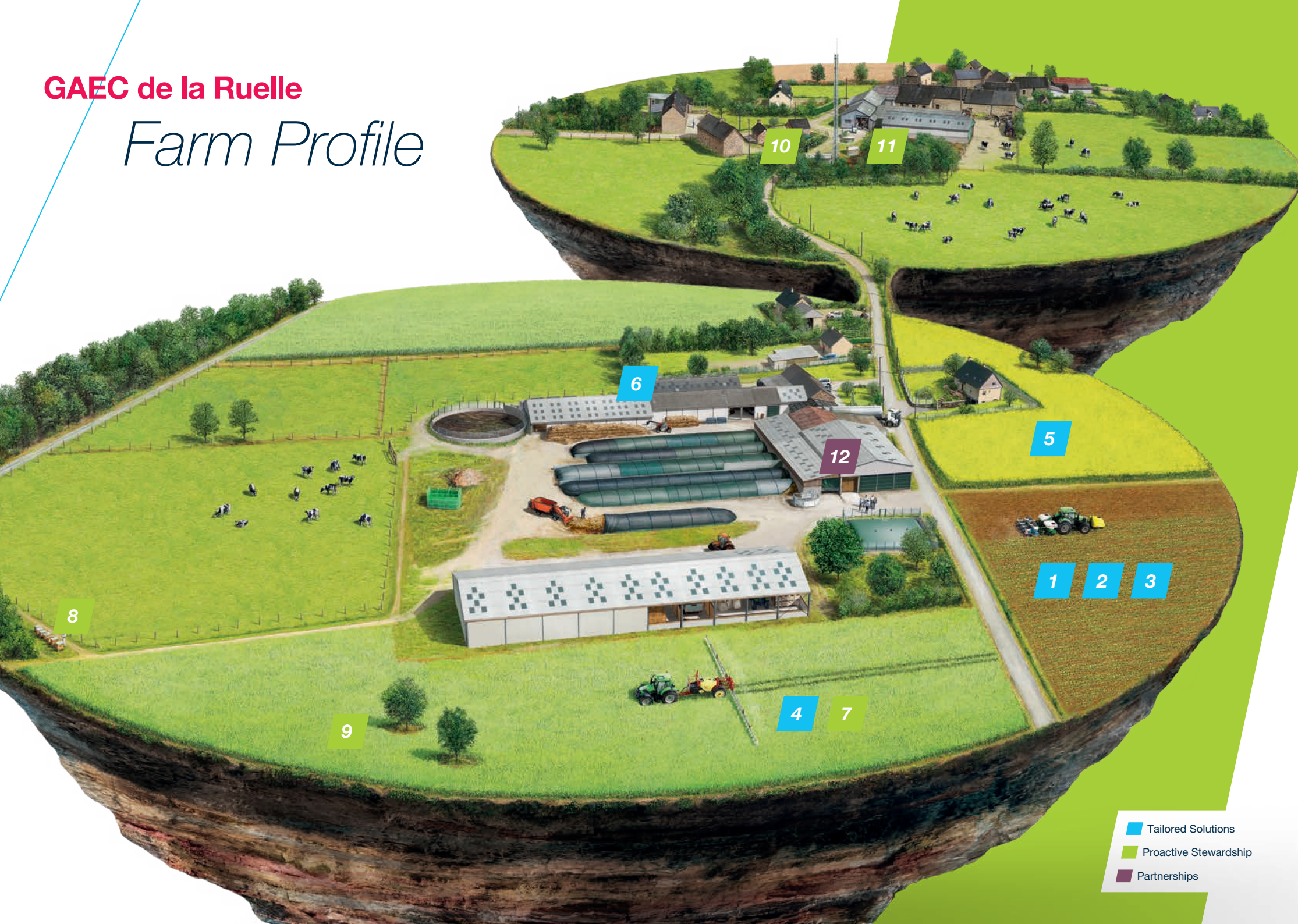


Partners:

Local hunters association (wildlife maintenance), beekeeper (installation and monitoring of beehives), CETA35 (training center for agricultural techniques/departmental outreach).

GAEC de la Ruelle

Farm Profile



Key Elements

1

Productivity starts with the seed

Certified corn seeds lay the foundation for high productivity and enhance the crop's healthy start and strong establishment.

2

Soil care

A diverse crop rotation is an important pillar to maintain soil fertility and secures a high and sustainable productivity level. To limit runoff, preserve soil structure, and increase organic matter, plowing was abandoned in 2008.

3

Precision and digital farming

Precision sowers, GPS, and FieldView guided work tasks (sowing, spraying, fertilization and harvesting) allow to optimize fuel and input use.

4

Smart crop protection

Choice of disease-resistant varieties and use of digital decision support tools like weather stations allow to manage diseases efficiently and at the right time.

5

Integrated weed management

Weed control is a major issue on the farm. Rotation, variety choice, and complementarity of techniques (herbicides and hoeing) are possible solutions for managing weeds sustainably.

6

Optimizing sustainable farm performance

A strategic decision support tools allows to balance economic, animal feed autonomy, and environment performance.

7

Best practice applications

The spraying equipment is equipped with low drift nozzles and undergoes regular functional testing and calibration.

8

Bee care

In addition to offering insect hotels that help restore natural pollinator abundances, the farm maintains multiple beehives with remote monitoring to promote overall pollination.

9

Biodiversity measures

Preservation of hedges and installation of flower strips contribute to wildlife habitat conservation and enhancement.

10

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.

11

Working safely

Personal protective equipment, safe storage of crop protection products, and the closed transfer system easyFlow protect the user and the environment.

12

Partnerships

Bayer ForwardFarming unites the skills and expertise of different partners for continuous improvement.

Tailored Solutions

Proactive Stewardship

Partnerships



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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