



Sheep farm visit Blanche du Massif Central

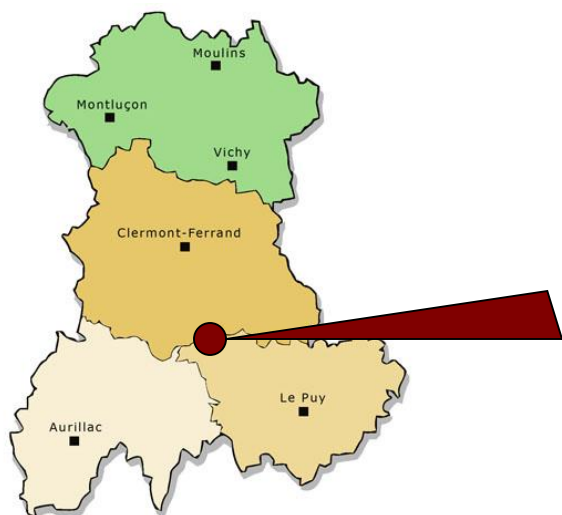


Bernard DELABRE
Route de Marnat
43390 VEZEZOUX

Individual (lone-operator) farm

1 hour from Clermont-Ferrand

**President of the BMC section
since 2006**



BACKGROUND

- set up within a GAEC in 1978
- individual (lone operator) since 2002
- specialist producer of BUTCHER'S LAMBS farm since 1985

FARMLAND: 101 ha

- 20 ha of rough (non-ploughable) land
- 13 ha of cereals (barley, wheat, rye)
- 45 ha of permanent pasture
- 23 ha of temporary pasture (principally cocksfoot)

GEOGRAPHIC/CLIMATE CONTEXT

- Height: 400-600 m above sea-level
- West-facing
- Sandy loam soil/light land
- Annual rainfall: ~ 600 mm

LABOUR

- 1 Full-time (The farmer)
- Family help + employer group

SHEEP FLOCK

- Total flock: 530 ewes, 110 ewe lambs, 12 rams
- Flock: Pedigree Blanche du Massif Central
- 1 lambing/year/ewe/ with marginal acceleration of breeding cycle
- 2 out-of-season lambing periods (August-September & November-December)
- Producer of breeding stock since 1985
- Sale of butcher's lambs & breeding stock
- Stocking rate: 0.8 LU/forage ha

PRODUCTION & FINANCIAL RESULTS

- Prolificacy: 1.7 lambs/ewe/lambing
- Fertility: 93%
- Productivity 134%
- 30 day weights:
 - single male lambs: 13.6 kg
 - twin male lambs: 11.2 kg