



INCREASED : FROM  
PRODUCTIVITY :

**HERRINGBONE**

**TO ROTARY**

JAMIE COSTIN  
COUNTY WATERFORD, IRELAND

## PROJECT SPECS

54 Bail Orbit Concrete Rotary | 350 Cows | Commissioned 2019

**PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS:** SmartECRs, Cow Restraints, In Parlour Feeding  
WAIKATO MILKING SYSTEMS IRELAND

# Increasing milking capacity and efficiency, while reducing labour requirements.

Along with other farmers in Ireland, the abolition of milking quotas in 2015 opened the door for Jamie to increase his herd of 150 cows.

As they slowly increased their herd size up to 350 cows, they were milking for three or more hours in the morning, and another three hours in the evening on their 20-unit Herringbone - without any feeders in the parlour. With three workers helping in the spring, and two during the rest of the year, it was getting tough. Jamie had thought about expanding his existing Herringbone, but ideally wanted to be in a situation where he could run the milking parlour by himself, if needed, so he began researching rotary platforms.

With no experience working with rotaries, Jamie spent a couple of months in the spring milking on other farms' rotaries to experience them for himself. Impressed with the efficiency and the number of cows that could be milked in a short time, he decided to select a rotary parlour. Being a fan of straight answers and people who talks facts, Jamie took advice from Gillian Fullerton-Smith, the European Sales Manager for Waikato Milking Systems.

While the installation was a big undertaking for Jamie, and he was nervous about the logistics of installing a new rotary milking machine to replace his tired Herringbone system, Gillian was able to guide him through the process with ease. Because Jamie didn't want to rule out increasing his herd in



the future, he selected a 54 bail rotary system so he could put more cows through more efficiently.

Jamie spent time educating himself on the technology options to ensure his new parlour could be a one-man operation and was very selective



about them. This led him to select three technology solutions including Cow Restraints to help him manage the animals on the platform; SmartSPRAY to ensure the health of the cows' teats; and SmartECRs to reduce time removing the cups. These were the three options he needed to be able to run the parlour on his own - while knowing that the other available technology options could be easily added in the future.

*"I don't need the other technology options yet, but I know that somewhere down the road I can add on, that should be easy."*

Jamie was impressed with the speed and efficiency of the installation - with the foundation for the new shed and 54 bail Orbit Concrete Rotary platform being set in February 2019 - and by June 2019 the completed dairy parlour was commissioned.

While it took a little effort to get the herd to use the rotary platform for the first time, once they got a sniff of the feed in the parlour it was only a matter of days before they became accustomed to the rotary.

The Orbit Concrete Rotary platform has reduced Jamie's milking sessions from approximately 3.5 hours to just over one hour - and one person can operate the machine and milk the cows quickly, without being under so much pressure. In the first month of operation there was a lot of interest from local farmers. As a result, Gillian has been meeting with other farmers who are growing their herds up to 300 or more who are looking to switch to rotaries to improve their efficiency and to make milking easier. Knowing that switching milking platforms can be an expensive move, Jamie's advice to farmers is to plan correctly and "know what you want first".

