

Career path

Annie speaks :

My parents ran this farm. They used to raise pigs. In their days, they bred pigs and competed in contests. They also raised hens and chicken.

In 1981, I took up the henhouse : it was 720 m² large and I renovated it. I raised hens for meat first, then for eggs.

When my parents retired, my husband and I also took up the pigs, but we specialized in birthing and fattening of the animals. We shifted from 70 to 150 sows. Then we stopped the henhouse.

Our farm grew, but slowly; then we lost some farmland because of the building of a new residence and the speedway. At the time, we had not considered the potential consequences of such an evolution on our business, which, on second thoughts, is no surprise really.

Little by little, we had grown the feeling that our job was changing for the worse, it did no longer match our convictions, and we depended too much on strangers and institutions, even if such a model is the keystone of farming activity region-wide.

I went to a class in wheat weaving and florist. I had to move, to think my job differently. Then we decided to become members in the “Bienvenue à la ferme” network, to which I have been elected since 2007.

Opening up to the outside world is necessary, so is growing on seeing other people. Women do have a part to take in the way our farming society evolves; farmers now have to face major issues such as diversification, transformation processes of our production, production of our own goods, development of direct sales, of touristic accommodation... The whole territory needs a new balance. We transformed the old henhouse into a local selling site for local farmers, which has met a still growing success.

Then, in 2010, we decided to create guest rooms on the farm. We designed the project in connection with our farm activities. I cook my own jams and everything we offer comes from the farm, even if it has been transformed elsewhere. This is precisely what our guests have come to find. They regularly want information on our activities, our products, their impact on health... and I tell them about the touristic potential of the area.

I feel happy that I could manage to improve my job; I am part in the project, in terms of creativity, even if this time consuming and requires lots of financial investments. We also found how important it is to be able to take breaks, take care of ourselves, free our minds of all problems on vacations at times...

It is also important to stress that our project has helped upkeep and when needed renovate our patrimony.