



# DN NEWSLETTER

## issue 37

**In this newsletter we will be looking at farmers and the environment. Regenerative farming requires a balanced approach to production, optimising welfare, health, sustainability, and biodiversity, as well as profit.**

Examples of regenerative farming include rotationally grazing livestock, creating diverse pastures and reducing inputs (e.g., synthetic fertilisers and pesticides). In essence, the health of the whole farm ecosystem is addressed.

Policies relating to sustainable animal agriculture must address the use of natural resources and the protection and conservation of wild species, habitats and biodiversity.

### **So, what can we do?**

Reduce the use of synthetic inputs, e.g. parasite treatments, to protect the invertebrate populations and prevent parasite resistance. Look at pasture management and use Faecal Egg Counts and develop parasite management plans. Some anthelmintics, for example Avermectins, disrupt the nematode life cycles but are particularly damaging to dung beetles. Dung beetles are essential for incorporating faecal matter into soil. We can also consider growing herbal species in pastures which have anthelmintic properties, such as birdsfoot trefoil.

Utilising rotational grazing increases the productivity of the land and the livestock. As animals are moved the ground gets chance to rest and regenerate which helps extend the grazing season, increases soil carbon, and supports wildlife.

Pasture composition can be looked at with diverse pastures containing legumes and herbal species, e.g. sanfoin and chicory, which help nitrogen fixing and deep roots and bring a wide range minerals to the sward. This reduces the need for fertiliser application and provides some natural anthelmintic properties.

Monitor health and condition of stock regularly and act on issues quickly and efficiently.

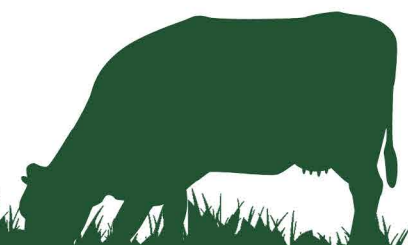
Select and plant trees as these give shade and shelter for livestock at pasture and increase the nutritional



diversity. Willow, ash and lime trees are palatable for cattle and provide minerals as well as rumen bypass protein. Trees provide cooler air temperature in the summer compared to open fields and this helps reduce respiratory rate and the risk of heat stress.

Reducing livestock numbers and looking at breed selection can help maximise the use of pasture all year round if that suits your system. Native breeds, e.g. Lincoln Reds, Traditional Herefords, and Sheep such as Soays and Dartmoors, have hardiness to endure seasonal temperature changes.

Although all these points will not suit every farming system, there are certainly areas to be looked at on most enterprises to take steps towards regenerative farming for the future.



## Our Commitment to Sustainability

As part of our ongoing company strategy and corporate social responsibility, Dugdale Nutrition are fully committed to playing our part towards sustainability in agriculture and reducing our carbon footprint.

As a two-site operation, we have made strides towards lowering our environmental impact and remain committed to sustainable production and processes going forward. We look forward to sharing the positive changes we have made and future developments with you going forward.



From May 1st 2021, all compound feeds, ACM's and blends from Dugdale Nutrition switched to Triple S® (Sustainably Sourced & Supplied) Soya.

Triple S® is Cargill's own sustainability certification program and farmers who commit to this program, pledge to produce their crops under three core criteria:

- Using best agricultural practices
- Protecting worker welfare
- Producing on land which has not been deforested

The program is independently verified and is benchmarked against the FEFAC (European feed compounder association) sustainable soy guidelines.

All products containing Triple S® Soya will feature a new icon located on the declaration tickets on each bag. This icon, pictured above, represents DN's commitment to sustainability in agriculture and reducing our carbon footprint.

## Soil Testing

Did you know we provide a soil testing service? In order to ensure the maximum return on investment from forage, we should begin with a soil analysis.

Feeding soil and getting its nutrients right is as important as feeding animals correctly and is fundamental to getting good grass and crop growth to make feeding animals more efficient.



## Grass Seed

Dugdale Nutrition are able to supply grass mixtures for all purposes, from excellent seed stocks and with rigorous levels of purity.

Forage analysis is a vital part of modern animal production and we also offer a grass sampling service to all of our customers.

**For further information regarding any of the Technical Services or products available from Dugdale Nutrition, please contact your local DN Sales Specialist or call DN HQ on 01200 420200.**

