

Agricultural Universities Council UK retreat

# AGRICOLOGY

Bore Place  
18th July 2023

Janie Caldbeck

AGRICOLOGY  
SUSTAINABLE PRACTICAL FARMING



## What we'll cover:

- 🍷 What Agricolology is and what does it do?
- 🍷 How it works
- 🍷 How you can use it; an overview of the breadth and types of content
- 🍷 Summary



# What is Agrichology and what does it do?

AGRICHOLOGY  
SUSTAINABLE PRACTICAL FARMING



[www.agricology.co.uk](http://www.agricology.co.uk)

- 🐝 Independent **knowledge platform** supporting farmers and growers to transition to more diverse and resilient farming systems using agroecological practices.
- 🐝 Focus on a whole system, holistic approach.
- 🐝 Linking research with farmer practice, exploring practices that restore the farm ecosystem.
- 🐝 Providing a ‘toolbox’ for farmers.

*Aim to inspire farmers with science-based evidence and encourage farmers to share their experience to bring about changes in farming practice*



🐝 Currently delivered by the Organic Research Centre (ORC). Founded in 2015 by the Daylesford Foundation, ORC and Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust Allerton Project.

🐝 Encompasses all production systems and a wide range of farming approaches; from 'conventional' or integrated farming to organic, biodynamic etc.

***'Practical, sustainable farming, regardless of labels'***

*Data shows that the website has a wide reach, with over half of our audience being farmers, the remainder being largely advisors, agronomists, and researchers.*

*320,000+ users since launch, 2,690 newsletter subscribers*

*(July 2023)*





Collaboration with organisations from across the industry on website content and events, helping steer direction.



[Home](#) > [About Us](#) > [Partners](#)



### Key Partners



🐝 Work closely with farmers and growers communicating innovative practices, successes and failures, showcasing trials, collaborating in events.

🐝 An initiative with a community created through the network of researchers, farmers, advisors, students and 'audience' or 'users.'

🐝 Response to increasing UK and global challenges and a need to back up what is going on in the field with rigorous science-driven research, spanning different farming approaches and sectors.




### ***Our vision***

*All farmers will be using agroecological and regenerative practices to deliver productive, profitable, and resilient farming systems that enhance the environment and ensure a vibrant sustainable future of farming in the UK*


### ***Our mission***

*To inspire all farmers with research evidence and farmer stories to instill changes in their farming system*

# Sharing knowledge online and in the field

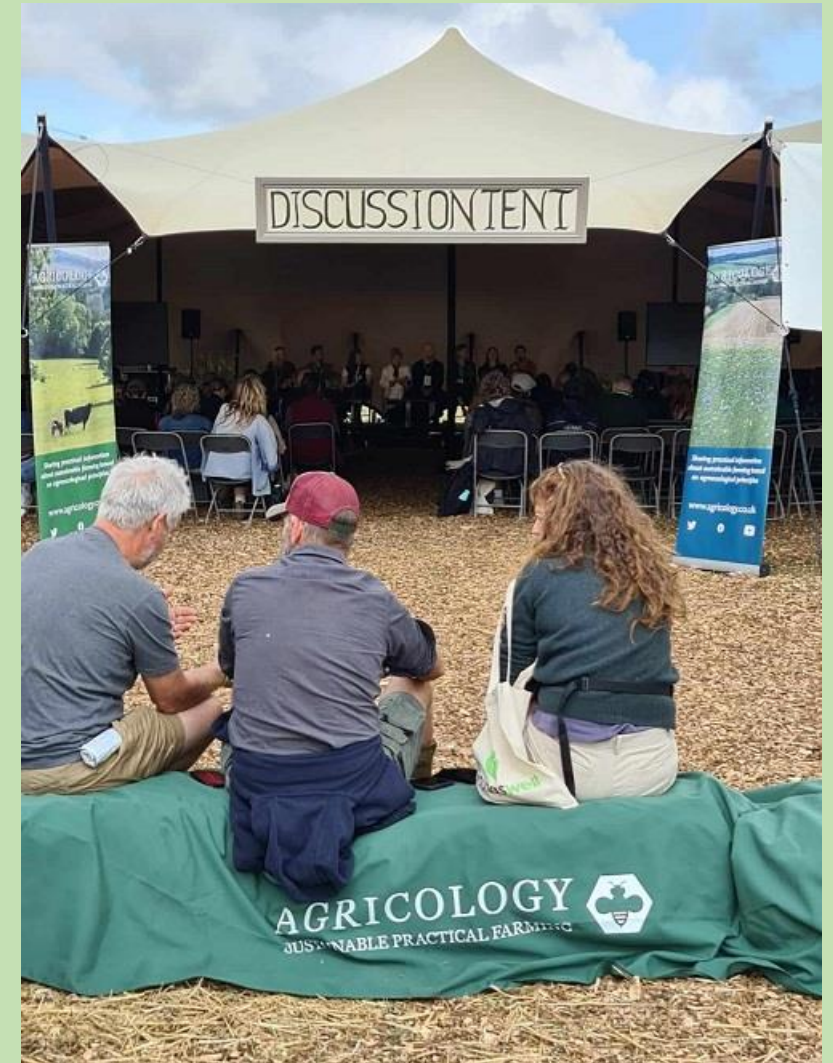
 56 farmer profiles, 440 resources on practices and principles from across the sector, videos, podcasts, over 200 guest blogs and research project pages. Exploring topics, sharing expertise, promoting events.

**All content approved, referenced, and includes past and current research.**

 Field days, discussions, workshops, on-farm, at events, and online, collaborating with partners, providing a space for demonstration and discussion, sharing ideas and experiences, linking to relevant research.

*Talks / webinar recordings on our YouTube channel and in our resource library*

*<https://www.youtube.com/@Agricology/videos>*





How can you use it?



AGRICULTURE  
SUSTAINABLE PRACTICAL FARMING





[Home](#) > [What is agroecology?](#)

Agricology has been established to share practical information about sustainable farming based on agroecological principles. This page aims to provide information about agroecology.

## Agroecology principles

Agroecology involves understanding ecological processes and applying these concepts to the design and management of agricultural production systems.

*“Agroecology is concerned with the maintenance of a productive agriculture that sustains yields and optimizes the use of local resources while minimizing the negative environmental and socio-economic impacts.”*

[MIGUEL ALTIERI](#)



## Definitions of agroecology...

<https://agricology.co.uk/what-is-agroecology/>



Search / filter via farming themes categories and sub-categories, practices, authoring organisations, media types, publication dates.

## Filter Options

### FILTER BY FARMING THEME

- Farm management & economics (316) 
- Crops, forage & horticulture (253) 
- Environment & wildlife (193) 
- Soil management (163) 
- Weeds, pests and diseases (135) 
- Livestock husbandry (110) 
- Animal health & welfare (88)
- Beef cattle & sheep (30)
- Dairy cattle (21)
- Poultry (18)
- Pigs (11)
- Other species (2)
- Agroecological approaches (107) 

### FILTER BY PRACTICE

### FILTER BY ORGANISATION

### FILTER BY MEDIA TYPE

### FILTER BY WEBSITE PUBLICATION DATE

 Start Date
  End Date

### FILTER BY PRACTICE

- Soil monitoring (61)
- Cover crops (55)
- Habitat creation (52)
- Diverse / herbal leys (40)
- Diverse rotation (37)
- Leys in crop rotations (37)
- Minimum Tillage (37)
- Integrated pest management (IPM) (34)
- Intercropping (33)
- Mixed farming (29)
- Mulching (29)
- Companion crops (27)
- No tillage (27)
- Biological & cultural weed management (25)
- Organic fertilisers (24)
- Mechanical weeding (23)
- Homegrown feed (22)
- Rotational grazing (20)
- Undersowing (20)
- Pasture fed livestock (19)
- Mob grazing (18)

# Resources



Accessible via individual resource pages with brief summary, key points, fully referenced, peer reviewed.



Platform for communicating research, sometimes produced specifically for Agricology i.e. factsheets / practice abstracts.

<https://www.agricology.co.uk/resources/role-soil-biology-crop-nutrition>

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with links for Home, Farmer profiles, Resources, Research projects, News, Blog & Events, About us, What is agroecology?, and a Donate button. Below the navigation is a large image of soil organisms. The main content area includes a breadcrumb trail (Home > Resources > The Role of Soil Biology in Crop Nutrition), the title 'The Role of Soil Biology in Crop Nutrition', a sub-headline 'A detailed review to help you recognise farming practices that will encourage soil biota.', a section 'Resource explained' with a paragraph of text, a section 'Findings & recommendations' with a link to a summary, and a section 'Associated Agricology Partner Organisation(s):' with the Frank Parkinson Agricultural Trust logo. A 'DOWNLOAD RESOURCE' button is visible on the right side of the page.

The cover features a dark blue header with the title 'The Role of Soil Biology in Crop Nutrition' in white. Below the title, the authors 'Lloyd S.H L. and Crotty F.V' and the date 'January 2017' are listed. A large image of soil organisms is centered on the page. At the bottom, the 'AGRICOLGY' logo is displayed in green.



# Resources



Collaborating with organisations, turning research into practical guidance.

<https://www.agricology.co.uk/organic-management-techniques-project>

## AGRICOLGY

Home Farmer profiles Resources Research projects News, Blog & Events About us What is agroecology? Donate



Home > Research Projects > Organic Management Techniques Project

## Organic Management Techniques Project

Opportunities, Barriers and Constraints for Organic Management Techniques to Improve Sustainability of Conventional Farming

### Project Background

British farming businesses are facing a number of challenges, such as uncertain weather and volatile markets. The Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, set out ambitions for the UK to be a world-leading food and farming nation that provides a cleaner and healthier environment, benefiting the economy. A consortium of farming organisations therefore came together to explore the extent to which the application of agroecological techniques, widely adopted in organic agriculture, could help to achieve these goals. This Defra-funded project (OF03111) which ran from 1st February 2018 to 30th November 2018, has shown that the UK has an excellent opportunity to drive the uptake of practices that can enhance the production efficiency and resilience of farming systems.

The project investigated the viability of transferring agroecological practices more widely across UK agriculture. Agroecological techniques are not exclusive to organic systems and are increasingly being applied by progressive farmers in the non-organic sector. For example, leys are being incorporated within conventional arable crop-rotations to help control blackgrass.

1. [Mixed farming through collaboration](#)
2. [Use of diverse crop rotations](#)
3. [Manure and compost as a fertiliser](#)
4. [Feeding livestock on pasture-based diets](#)
5. [Use of mechanical weed control](#)
6. [Biological control \(indoors\)](#)
7. [Integrating leys in arable rotations](#)
8. [Encouraging natural predators \(outdoors\)](#)
9. [Use of green waste compost](#)
10. [Outdoor access for animals all year round](#)
11. [Diverse/herbal sward mixtures](#)
12. [Increasing use of legumes in crop rotation](#)
13. [Novel forages \(e.g. chicory\)](#)
14. [Use of complementary therapies](#)
15. [Undersowing of leys in crops](#)

Summary provided by the Organic Research Centre, [access the final project report here](#).

### Associated Agricolgy Partner Organisation(s):



Home Farmer profiles Resources Research projects News, Blog & Events About us What is agroecology? Donate



Home > Resources > Novel forage crops

## Novel forage crops

Organic Management Techniques to Improve Sustainability of Non-Organic Farming

### Resource explained

This abstract was composed as part of a Defra-funded project looking at organic management techniques that could be applied on non-organic farms and help improve sustainability. It describes information on novel forage crops, listing the main agronomic, economic and/or ecological value you can expect to gain from growing sainfoin, chicory and lucerne. It includes practical recommendations such as the time of year they should be planted, suitability according to your farming system, and equipment required. It also includes a case study of a farmer who is applying the practice. Potential benefits and potential barriers you would need to consider and financial implications are also listed.

### Findings & recommendations

- Modern forage crop cultivars do not always provide the yield or management benefits required on all farms. Lucerne, sainfoin and chicory have the potential to fill these gaps, and with correct management supply high quality, drought tolerant feed for cattle and sheep.
- They are deep rooting legumes capable of producing high yields of high protein forage. Lucerne is suited to a multi cut system, sainfoin can be cut and grazed, chicory is commonly grown in mixtures – it can be selectively grazed so needs to be managed.



DOWNLOAD RESOURCE

Author(s):  
Alford, J

Funders:  
Defra

Organisation(s):  
• Agricolgy  
• GWCT

# Resources

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with links for Home, Farmer profiles, Resources, Research projects, News, Blog & Events, About us, and What is agroecology?, along with a Donate button and a search icon. The main content area features the article title 'It's not just about the bees' by organic vegetable farmer Andy Dibben. Below the title is a 'Resource explained' section with a quote from the article: "Insects managed correctly in agriculture transform quickly from being a pest to being a powerful tool." This is followed by 'Findings & recommendations' with a list of bullet points. A sidebar on the right contains a 'COMPATIBLE WITH ORGANIC STANDARDS' logo, a 'DOWNLOAD RESOURCE' button, and metadata including the author (Andy Dibben), date (01/06/2022), and various related themes like Biodiversity, Companion & cultivation, and Crop nutrition & fertility building. At the bottom, there is a 'Summary provided by: Julie Calbeck' and a 'BACK TO RESOURCES' button. A 'Related articles' section is partially visible at the bottom of the page.

## It's not just about the bees



Insects managed correctly in agriculture transform quickly from being a pest to being a powerful tool.

For far too long the discussion in the general public around insects starts and finishes with the honey bee - even within farming the discussion is often limited to discussions about pollinators. Obviously pollinators are critical, in fact, to put some figures on how important pollinators actually are, 84% of agricultural crops in Europe and 90% of all plants on planet earth are insect pollinated. However there is an equally important role insects can play for our agricultural crops - they have the potential to be the guardians of our crops as well.

If complex insect ecosystems are allowed to develop, or even better, proactively encouraged around and amongst our crops, an absolutely astounding sequence of events starts to unfold in front of the farmer's eyes.

However very few farmers currently get to enjoy this great natural wonder of biodiversity. This is unfortunately because the first insect many farmers see in their fields and on their crops is either an aphid or a caterpillar, both of which are potentially commercially damaging species to vegetable farmers. This often triggers an immediate action from both conventional and regenerative farmers, who reach for any legally allowed UK chemical pesticide, as both forms of farming are only limited by national pesticide law - which is only interested in public health, not planet health. I would argue the two are inextricably linked, but apparently not, according to the current government, and to be honest every government since World War 2. The shift towards regenerative farming promises a lot for saving our soils and should be commended for this, however it is less keen to move away from agrochemicals such as weed killers and pesticides. If we are to stop and reverse biodiversity collapse as well as reduce carbon emissions in farming, then any shift must focus on to life above and below ground.

In a world where the rate of insect extinction is accelerating at an alarming rate (on the most part due to excessive agricultural pesticide use and habitat loss), this continued attitude of keeping crops clean of all insects and fields clean of all plants except the crop no longer ethically tolerable in any form of agriculture. I passionately believe there is an alternative.

This brings me back to the astounding sequence of events that would unfold in front of all farmer's eyes if they kept their hands off the insecticides. The first thing they would notice would be the arrival of the so-called pest insects, aphids or caterpillars. However, shortly after their arrival would follow a variety of predatory insects to feast on the aphids and caterpillars. Aphids are a key protein source for their larvae, hover fly larvae, lacewing larvae and the larvae of wasps. Fascinatingly, or gruesomely depending on your attitude, the parasitoid wasps lay their eggs inside aphids and and these eggs then hatch out and consume the aphid or caterpillar from the inside before emerging (Fig 1).

Wherever there are aphids and caterpillars, there will be pred cycles depend on it. However the result of this fact is that if you are spraying off aphids or caterpillars with insecticides, you are predators, either directly (as they are amongst the outbreaks indirectly by removing their food source or egg laying habitat interaction between predator and prey the current attitude in of reducing pesticide usage makes no logical sense, you need t populations to develop completely unhindered, only then do power of nature to the farmer become released. In short no ag bring powerful populations of predators.

As alluded to above, if farmers really want to capitalise on th natural asset, then not only do they need to stop the use of a they need to go completely in the other direction and actively to do this, there are critical tools at their disposal to help the



## Related articles



Andy Dibben

My approach for producing organic fruit and veg is a systems approach, so I don't look at irrigation, pest control, planting and weeding separately... the...



Biological control strategies for outdoor vegetable production

Presentation given by Knapport UK at an Agricology field day event on integrated pest management strategies for outdoor vegetable production.



Silvo-horticulture agroforestry

Silvo-horticulture agroforestry has many benefits for market gardens, but needs careful planning for success. This workshop held at Organic Matters 2022 focused on how to...



Integrated Pest Management

The LEAF guide to Integrated Pest Management for farmers.



Simply Sustainable Integrated Pest Management

An up-to-date, easy to read guidebook and manual on why integrated Pest Management is the key to sustainable crop health across agricultural and horticultural sectors...

<https://agricology.co.uk/resource/its-not-just-about-bees/>

# Farmer profiles

**Farmer Profiles**

Enter keywords    SORT BY ▾

**Ed Hamer**  
Chagfood is a community-supported market garden supplying a seasonal 'share of the harvest' to 90 households across the north-east edge of Dartmoor. As a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm, Chagfood's customers become 'members' and commit to support the farm with an annual subscription. This subscription supports the farm with a guaranteed market and shares the [...]

**Edwin Taylor**  
Last Updated : 16th May 2019  
"Since adopting conservation agriculture practices, the soil on the farm has become more resilient to rain and quantities of rain. There has also been noticeable biodiversity benefits; with increases in ground-nesting birds and brown hares, and reducing pesticides will benefit important beneficial insects..."

**George Young (farmingGeorge)**  
Last Updated : 28th September 2020  
"Fobbing Farm is a 1,200 acre (485 hectare) zero tillage and zero insecticide arable and livestock farm in south Essex... My main goals in farming are two-fold: farming with nature as much as I possibly can, and achieving as diverse a range of nutritional diversity on the farm as possible..."

**George Bray**  
Last Updated : 31st January 2023

**Iain Tolhurst (Tolly)**  
Tolhurst Organic is located on the Hardwick Estate in south

**Ian Harris**



[Home](#) > [Farmer profiles](#) > [Mike Mallett](#)

## Mike Mallett Maple Farm Kelsale, Saxmundham, Suffolk

[Listen here](#)



**Agricology • Agricology in the Field - Mike Mallett**

Mike Mallett is the farm manager of Maple Farm Kelsale, a 138 hectare family farm situated 3 miles from the Suffolk coast. The farm has been organic since 2004 and is mostly arable with some permanent pasture, large areas of woodland, some vegetables and fruit, and laying hens. Arable crops grown include wheat (including heritage varieties), beans, spring triticale and peas, and there are two years of clover or vetch based leys within the rotation. Meadows are grazed by visiting sheep. Most of the cropping revolves around the layer hens which live on 18 hectares of 3 fields (there are approximately 2,700 hens currently). The farm is comprised of many small fields surrounded by hedges. Hodgerows are left to grow quite wild and have 6m borders. 30 ponds enhance the farm

### Farm Facts

Farm size :  
138 hectares

Manpower :  
4 full time, 3 seasonal

Farm type :  
Mixed

Other farm type information :  
Arable, poultry, horticulture, grazing livestock

Tenure :  
Owner occupied

Other tenure information :  
Owner occupied by Miranda and William Kendall

Region :  
South East England

Rainfall :

Different farming approaches and farm types, using various media.

Drilling down into the finer details of practical application, referencing environmental / economic / community impacts.

<https://agricology.co.uk/farmer-profiles/mike-mallett/>

# Farmer profiles



Unique to Agricology.

<https://agricology.co.uk/farmer-profiles/barbour-family/>

The screenshot shows the Agricology website header with the logo and navigation menu. Below the header is a large photograph of three people (two men and one woman) standing in a field with a wooden fence and a cow. The profile title is "The Barbour family" and the location is "Mains of Fincastle Farm, Pitlochry, Perthshire". The text describes the farm's location and family history. A "Farm Facts" sidebar on the right lists: Farm size: 500 hectares at Fincastle, 300 hectares at Borenich; Manpower: 3 full time most of the time, just taken on a local man (part time) to train as an extra pair of hands; Farm type: Grazing Livestock; Other farm type information: (partially visible).



Home > Farmer profiles > Paul & Nic Renison

## Paul & Nic Renison

### AHDBGRASS

This profile was created as part of the [AHDB Grass project](#)

Cannerheugh sits on the edge of the Pennines, looking over the Eden Valley towards the Lake District. We came here in 2012 with our two daughters, and moved into a caravan in the farmyard, which was our home for 18 testing months.

Prior to the move, I (Paul / Reno), was a new entrant into farming and had been managing a traditional fell farm in the Lake District for 10 years, after a couple of years travelling / working and doing a degree at Harper Adams College.

I (Nic) was brought up on my parents' dairy farm on the Welsh Borders, where I developed an early love of cows and food. Working on the farm which also processed and sold milk locally after college was a good fit. A need to spread my wings led to several different roles and then a move north where I met Paul.

We moved to Cannerheugh in 2012 with our two daughters. We had business plans, cash flow and a mindset that had

#### Farm Facts

Farm size :  
350 acres

Manpower :  
2 (Paul & Nic)

Farm type :  
Mixed

Other farm type information :  
Sheep, suckler beef cows, pigs, chickens

Tenure :  
Owner occupied

<https://agricology.co.uk/farmer-profiles/paul-nic-renison/>



Some commissioned by contributing organisations.

# Research project hubs



Providing a platform to share farmer-facing project outputs and linking event outputs with useful resources...



Home > Research Projects > Encouraging Habitat Management and Conservation Methods that Positively Impact Farmland Biodiversity

## Encouraging Habitat Management and Conservation Methods that Positively Impact Farmland Biodiversity

### Project Background

The overarching aim for this project is to demonstrate that food production and it is possible to reverse species decline, particularly when farmers consider the needs of accordingly.

The 2019 State of Nature Report found 41% of the UK's wildlife species have declined threatened with extinction, and 37% of species have decreased in distribution in the last century. The report also identified that the loss of wildlife habitats and food sources associated with industrial scale farming and increased species are farmland birds – the abundance of indicator species has fallen by 54% since 15 in the last century.

This project set out to show how the Duke of Norfolk's Peppering Farm in Arundel, West Sussex across 15% of their land, without detrimental effect to the 85% of land dedicated to food production, farmers in the county to adopt a similar approach with at least 7% of their own land. Conservation has greatly increased populations of insects, wildflowers, skylarks, yellowhammers, corn buntings, and mammals.

### Aims & Approach

- 1) To share (in person) learnings on habitat management, conservation techniques and legal practices that have increased farmland bird populations and biodiversity at Peppering Farm, Sussex, with other farmers.
- 2) To document the insight and experience gained from the work undertaken, promoting it more to farmers nationwide to adopt these methods.

### Project Outputs

Sussex farmers were hosted at a peer-to-peer workshop involving a farm walk at Peppering Farm, showcasing conservation techniques and predation management, and exploring the impact, benefits and relevance on a farm and landscape scale, to encourage them to adopt these methods. It covered the '3 pillars' – habitat management, provision of food sources, and predation management. (View a summary below)

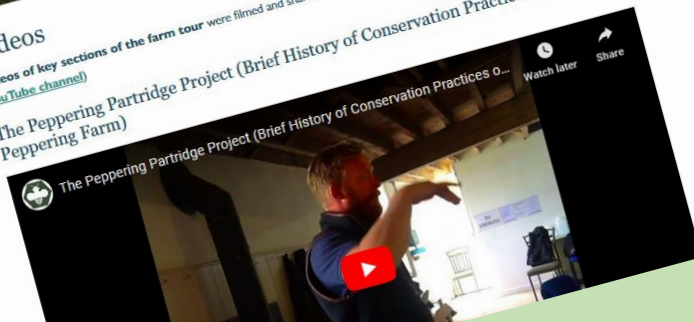
A summary guide to the three key pillars of the conservation approach and how to implement these, together with existing materials on food sources, insect identification and the findings of the PARTRIDGE Project at Peppering Farm was produced.

Access the guide here: [Conservation of Farmland Birds Handout.pdf](#)

### Videos

Videos of key sections of the farm tour were filmed and shared. Explore the footage below (or access via the [YouTube channel](#))

The Peppering Partridge Project (Brief History of Conservation Practices on Peppering Farm)



### Conservation of Farmland Birds

This guide comprises notes to support the Conservation of Farmland Birds workshop at Peppering Farm, Sussex, in June 2022; a collaboration between GWCT and Agricology and made possible by the generous support of The Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust and The Lawson Trust.

UK Farmland bird indicators have fallen by 54% since 1970. Modern farming techniques have created challenging conditions for farm ecosystems and birdlife in particular, reducing insect numbers and the nesting habitats they need to survive.

Peppering farm, in partnership with GWCT, lead partner in the Interreg PARTRIDGE Project, have successfully developed a scalable solution for increasing farmland bird populations whilst maintaining farm profitability. In recent years they have laid 9 miles of new hedging and currently dedicate 12% of their farmland to conservation, with the remainder farmed as before.

This approach has been developed primarily to ensure grey partridge populations, an indicator species for a healthy farm environment, thrive, but has also demonstrated a significant positive impact across other farmland birds including a 57% increase in skylarks, 71% increase in lapwings, 20% increase in yellowhammers and 30% increase in corn buntings. Small mammals such as voles and hares are also visibly abundant.



© GWCT

### The Three Pillars of a Successful Conservation Approach

Extensive research across Europe has identified three pillars of an approach that can successfully reverse the decline in farmland biodiversity, supporting more varied flora and fauna

### NESTING AND OVERWINTER HABITAT

Grey partridges are ground-nesting birds, with nests in shallow scrapes hidden in dense vegetation in field margins, crops, or the bases of hedges. They pair up in late winter/early spring and search for suitable nesting sites, looking for cover to protect their nests and the incubating hens from the weather and predators.

#### Provide suitable habitat by:

- ✓ Cultivated arable margins (which also allow less pesticide drift into nesting areas)
- ✓ Leaving hedges uncut during the nesting season (May - July), and cutting in rotation (3 years) to allow a dense base to develop and ensuring plentiful nesting habitats for other farm birds
- ✓ Introducing wildflower margins/plots in field corners that remain uncut during May - August to provide overhead protection from predators and insect food for chicks
- ✓ Rotating crops throughout the year and leaving winter stubble where possible to ensure consistent cover
- ✓ Creating 'beetle banks' for additional nesting habitat and sustainable food sources



AGRICOLGY

<https://agricology.co.uk/research-projects/encouraging-habitat-management-and-conservation-methods-positively-impact-farmland-biodiversity/>





Informal space for all to share and explore topical issues, events etc.

### Soil Time

June 16, 2023

With the sun shining and a fantastic range of speakers lined up, the Agrico team and a mix of farmers, growers and industry professionals gathered on Tuesday 23rd May at the Dairy, Waddesdon Estate, for some 'soil time' discussing 'Getting Started with Regenerative Agriculture'. Matt Smees gives us the lowdown...

LEARN MORE



### Soil Time

With the sun shining and the most fantastic range of speakers lined up, the Agrico team and a mix of farmers, growers and industry professionals gathered on Tuesday 23rd May at the Dairy, Waddesdon Estate, for some 'soil time' discussing 'Getting Started with Regenerative Agriculture.'

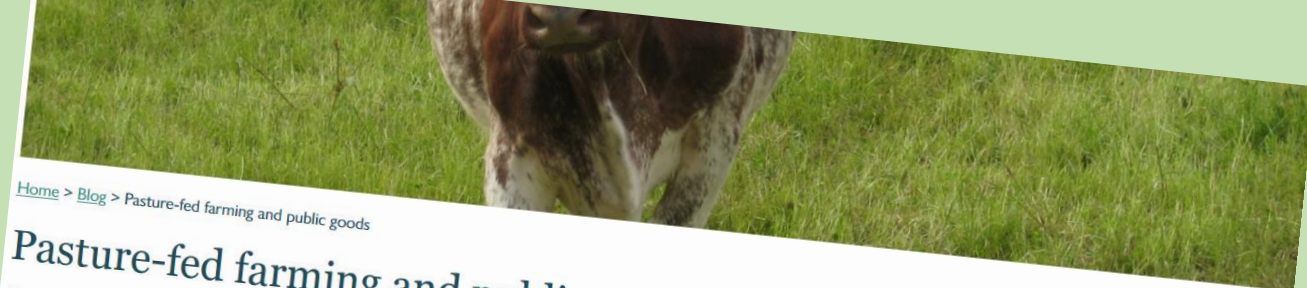
Our event was part of our wider 'Down to Earth' project, which is aimed at sharing regenerative and sustainable farming approaches being used at the Waddesdon Estate and beyond. The day was funded by the [Rothschild Foundation](#) and was created to help farmers and growers learn about how they can get started with regenerative agriculture; helping to identify which techniques could be suitable for their farming system(s), and providing some useful pointers on ways to making things financially viable.

Alice Midner, who is part of the Agrico Advisory Group and works at GWCT's Allerton Project, did a fantastic job chairing the day, and started us off with a brief overview of what regenerative agriculture is. She highlighted the similarities and overlaps within methods of farming that are largely considered to come under the umbrella of 'sustainable', 'integrated Farm Management', 'conservation agriculture', 'organic', and 'agroecological'. She emphasised that ultimately it's all about good environmental farming and trying to make it better...

*"Fundamentally regenerative farming is about regenerating something, making it better, making more of it and increasing the health of many environment. Regenerative agriculture has caught the attention of many because it is aspirational and exciting. It is about improving farming systems."*

Specifically, it is about creating diversity in your rotation, protecting the soil surface, maximising on living roots in the soil, minimising soil disturbance, and reintegrating livestock where possible. A sixth principle that has been added in recent years is context; doing the right thing at the right time in the right place, and at the right point in your journey of change.

Our opening speaker was Fabia Bromovsky, who introduced the Global Farm Metric tool. We started with introducing this tool as it highlights overarching key aspects and challenges: how do we measure what we're doing, how do we know if we're really doing it, and how do we track change on that journey? You can watch Fabia's talk here:



Home > Blog > Pasture-fed farming and public goods

## Pasture-fed farming and public goods

Have you ever wondered about all the things that your land delivers and whether there may be any way of measuring it? Not so long ago Michael Gove, as Environment Secretary, talked a lot about the historic opportunity provided by Brexit for ensuring that any funding for farming (which may replace the funding under CAP), rewards the delivery of public goods from land and not just food production. But if this is going to be possible, we need to find ways of identifying and measuring them.

The rather lengthily titled 'Sustainable economic and ecological grazing systems - learning from innovative practitioners' (SEEGSLIP) project has been using a 'Public Goods Tool (PG Tool)' developed by the [Organic Research Centre](#) (ORC) for Defra to do just that. The project is working with [Pasture-Fed Livestock](#) (PFL) farmers to evidence their practices, and providing wider evidence of the delivery of Public Goods is a key part of the research. Initially researchers from the ORC met with farmers at a workshop (in 2018) to identify the 'Goods' that they felt needed to be taken into account. The original PG Tool, which had been used in a number of previous projects, was then amended to include extra information in order to make sure that it was fit for purpose for PFL farms. A further request by the PFLA and the AHDB for more data to improve the economic benchmarking of PFL practices led to further additions.

In summer 2018, myself and my colleague, Markus Wagner fieldwork and to meet with farmers to go through the PG

Author:



[Lisa Norton](#)

Published date:  
30th January 2020

Author:



[Matt Smees](#)

Published date:  
16th June 2023

- Related farming theme:
- [People & skills](#)
  - [Regenerative agriculture](#)

- Key Farming Practices:
- Cover crops
  - Direct drilling
  - Diverse rotation
  - Leys in crop rotations
  - Minimum Tillage
  - Mixed farming
  - Mulching
  - No tillage
  - Undersowing

Organisation(s):

- [Agrico](#)



## Call for abstracts for the 18th International RAMIRAN Conference

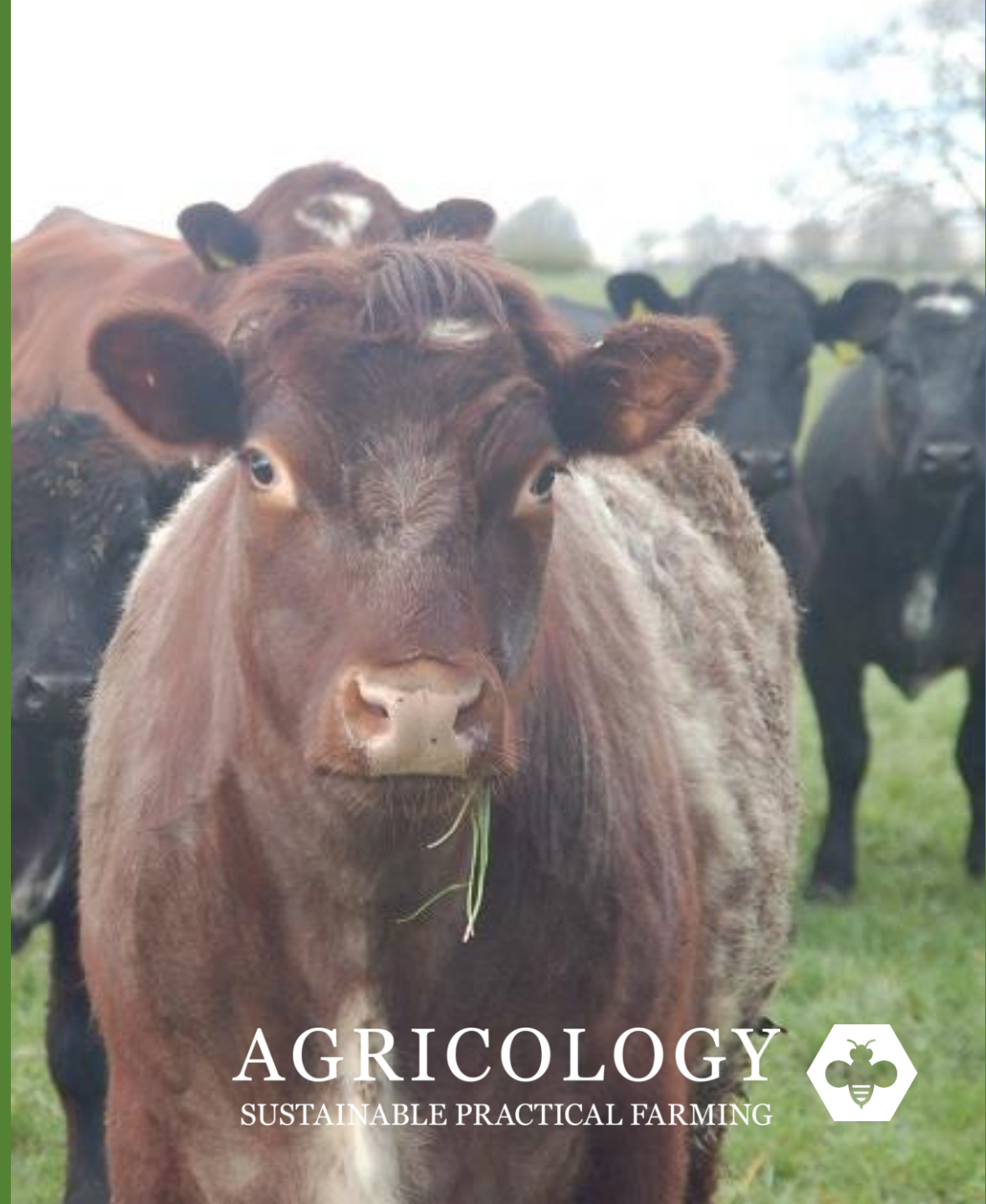
February 14, 2023

Our friends at ADAS have asked us to help spread the word about an upcoming conference and a callout to submit research abstracts. RAMIRAN is a research and expertise network that was set up more than 25 years ago to improve nutrient utilisation and minimise the environmental impact of livestock manure and other organic material used in agricultural

# Blogs

## In summary

-  Primary audience is farmers.
-  Applicable for various stages of farming journey.
-  Plenty to chew over! Explore potential practical solutions to fit individual circumstances.
-  Focus on farm business benefits and the wider environment.
-  Dynamic and exciting teaching tool. Keeping it alive!
-  Possibilities to contribute to the content and make connections in the farming industry / wider network.



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