

Euracademy Regenerative Agriculture. Fad or the future of Farming? Thoughts from the UK

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Introductions



- About me; Worked for Rothamsted, Monsanto, John Deere, HGCA and AHDB
- About AHDB, Our four priorities are:
 1. **Competitiveness:** Inspiring British farming and growing to be more competitive and resilient
 2. **Productivity:** Accelerating innovation and productivity growth through coordinated Research & Development, and Knowledge Exchange
 3. **Consumers:** Helping the industry understand and deliver what consumers will trust and buy
 4. **Thought Leadership:** Delivering thought leadership and horizon scanning to keep the industry ahead of the game

Today . . Regenerative Agriculture

- Insights of Government policy
- A bit about the ELM system
- The overall concept for UK farmers – what are the opportunities and the pitfalls.
- Consumer choices – what would you be prepared to do/pay for a carbon neutral loaf of bread
- Those three questions, answered!



CLIMATE CHANGE — THE FACTS



AHDB



Global warming must not exceed 1.5C, landmark UN report warns

Mabrez miss stifles City Liverpool rescued by penalty blunder

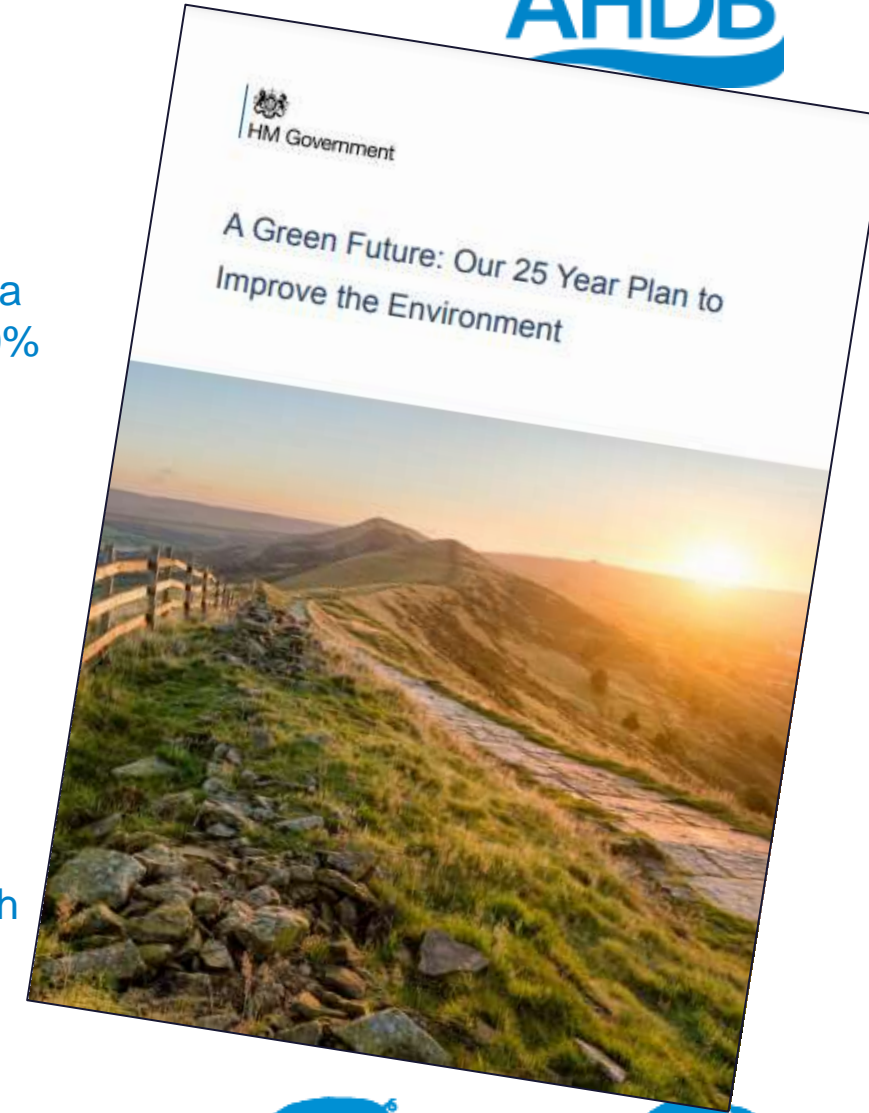
Pressure on Saudis over disappeared dissident

Climate change will hit pensions, says Carney



Insights of Government policy

- Introducing new farming rules for water
 - Farming is now the most significant source of water pollution and of ammonia emissions into the atmosphere in the UK. It accounts for 25% phosphate, 50% nitrate and 75% sediment loadings
- Work with farmers to use fertilisers efficiently
 - Putting in place a robust framework to limit nitrogen-rich fertilisers such as manures, slurries and make sure they are stored and applied safely
- Protecting crops while reducing the environmental impact of pesticides
 - Putting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) at the heart of a holistic approach



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A bit about the ELM system



Arable and horticultural soils standard

- Maintain and improve the condition and structure of your soil to promote clean water, and improve climate resilience, biodiversity and food production. This will help to:
- reduce levels of sediment, nutrients and chemical pollution in water
- reduce flooding
- reduce erosion and run-off
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- maintain or enhance carbon storage, water storage and biodiversity

A bit about the ELM system



Introductory level (£30 per hectare)

Intermediate level (£47 per hectare) All actions in the introductory level plus

Advanced level (£59/ha) All actions in the introductory and intermediate levels plus

Identify the priority areas for soil management on your farm by carrying out a soil assessment

Further improve soil structure and biology by providing minimum inputs of organic matter over more of your arable and horticultural land

Further improve soil structure and biology by providing minimum inputs of organic matter over more of your arable and horticultural land

Maintain soil organic matter and support soil biology by reducing tillage depths on some of your arable and horticultural land

Reduce flooding and improve soil structure, soil carbon and soil biology by producing a soil management plan

Protect your soil from runoff, erosion and flooding and help increase crop yields by taking measures to maintain soil structure and avoid or alleviate soil compaction

Reduce the risk of soil erosion and maintain soil organic matter by reducing tillage on fields identified as high and very high risk of surface run-off or soil erosion

Reduce soil damage by limiting the area of the field that is travelled on



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6 Core Principles of **REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE**



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Soil Health



Intensive Farming

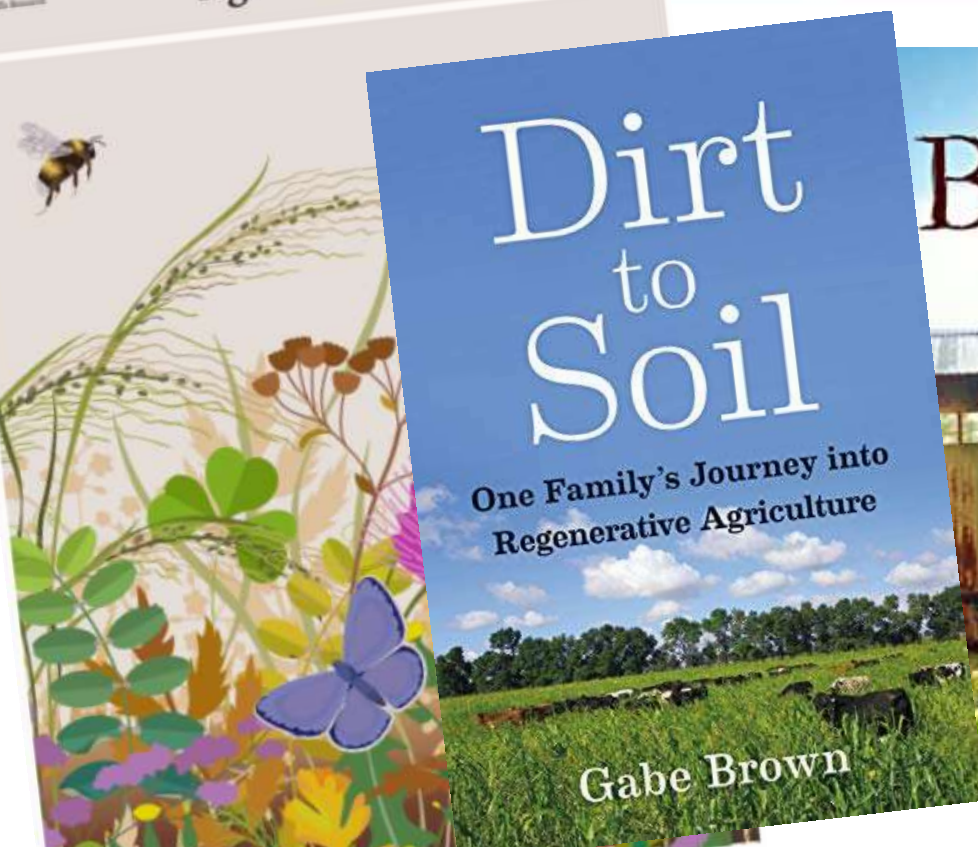


Conservation &
Sustainable Farming



Regenerative &
Agroecological Farming

Time



In conversation with
a soil health pioneer

Gabe Brown is this month's podcast guest. The American soil health pioneer and agricultural influencer talks to Janet Hughes about education in farming, shortening supply chains and the six principles of soil health.

[Read more](#)



Episode 3

Janet Hughes
Gabe Brown

The six principles
of soil health



NARRATED BY
WOODY HARRELSON

KISS
THE
GROUND

THE
SOLUTION IS
RIGHT UNDER
OUR FEET

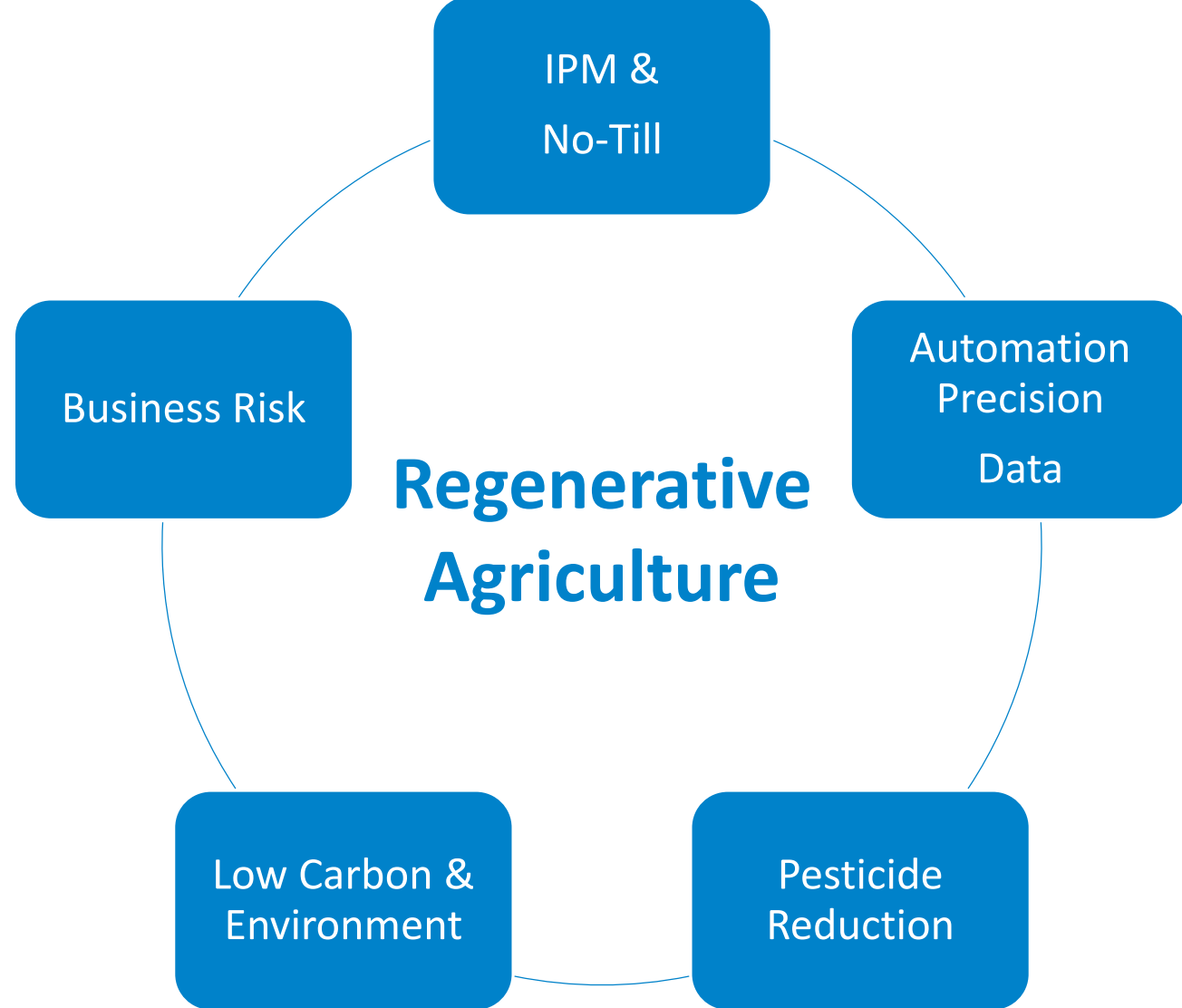
GISELE
WINDCHEN ROSARIO
DAWSON JASON
MRAZ IAN
SOMERHALDER



Food companies interested in Regenerative Agriculture

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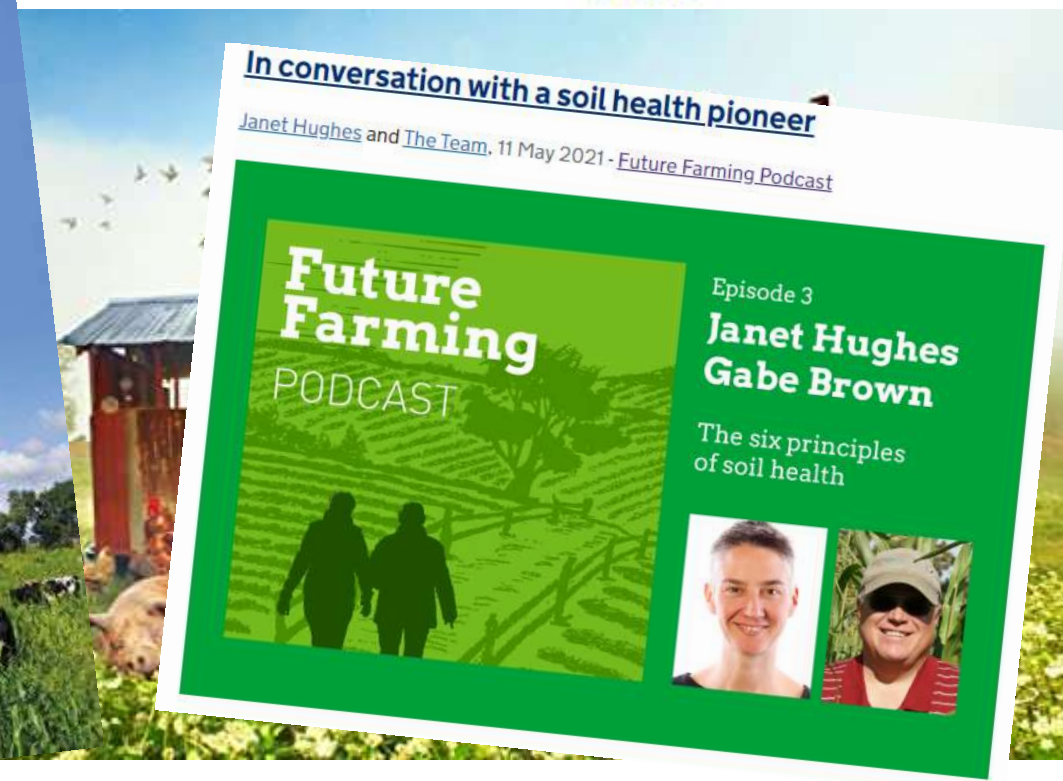
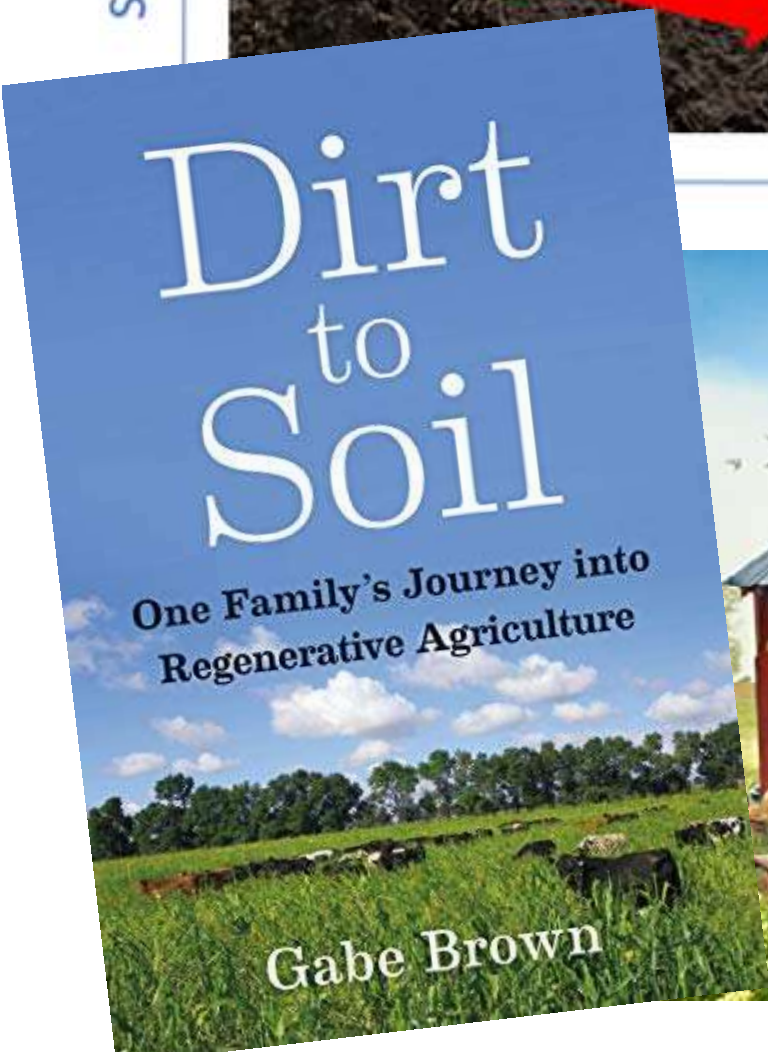
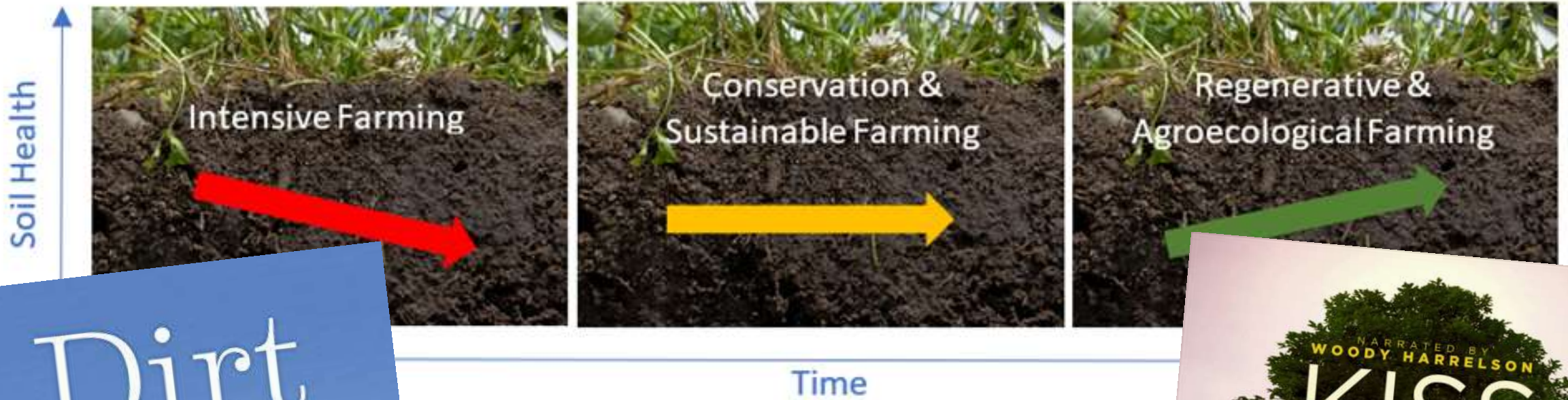
Strategic Farmer – David Miller PODCAST quotes



‘if you do nothing you’ll gradually run out of money’

‘we’re not going to sit around waiting for a government handout, we’ve realised this is a better way to farm, this makes you feel good’

‘this isn’t about buying a direct drill, it’s about understanding what’s going on in the soil and how you can help that’



Further reading and engagement

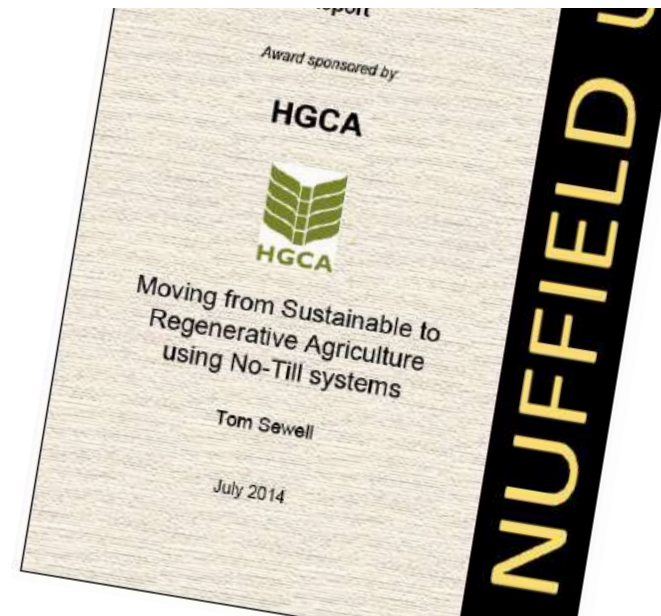


FARME**EXCELLENCE**

AGRIC**OL**OGY 



Machinery costing calculator



 FARM**BENCH**

What is the AHDB doing in the UK?



- We already have a wealth of research
- Dedicated webpage on regenerative agriculture & links to . .
- Regular flow of information from the four Strategic Farms practising Regenerative Agriculture.
- Grass Pro promotion
- Groundswell Show
- Regenerative and Agroecological Agriculture Event; Transition to ELMS
- Information or advice? Benefits and pitfalls. IPM vs. No-Till?

How can a regenerative farming operation be supported financially?

- Does Regenerative Agriculture really need supporting financially?
- Can environment and climate protection rewarded?
- Can better returns be generated from healthy food, grown locally, using no plastic that are saving the planet?
- Farm business must have more financial acumen
- Support by Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)

What can we learn from good practice in different European countries and beyond?



- Which country has the best food policy, from field to plate?
 - Lowest food waste, best food security, best environmental protection and how is it funded?
- Can we identify best government/tax payer support for farmers, farming and food production?
- Can we learn from developing countries regarding locally grown food?



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What kind of public policies and strategies are necessary to support Regenerative Agriculture?



- Combination of ‘carrot and stick’
 - Polluter pays, rewarded for saving soil, clean air and water.
- Unified approach to the value of carbon and its capture
- Getting the public to value food again
 - Why is food the subject of a continuous price war?
- Taxpayer money must be accounted for and produce results!



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**‘Inspiring our farmers, growers
and industry to succeed in a
rapidly changing world’**