

## LOCAL FARMING

“Our commitment is to always source from as locally as possible, from farmers who are passionate about farming and their animals”

We have invested in the energy saving infrastructure of our family-run business; on a sunny day all of our energy is produced by solar power and our hot water is generated as a byproduct.

We are committed to environmentally considerate practices and are fully invested in our local food cycle as the best sustainable model for food production.”

Neil Powell, farmer & butcher

## AGRICULTURE and CARBON

70%

The amount of global agricultural land that is not suitable for arable crop farming<sup>1</sup>

95%

The amount of world food produce that is directly dependent on fertile soils

52%

The amount of global soils currently classified as significantly degraded<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Frank Mitloehner, University of California

<sup>2</sup> Studies by Tony Lovell from the Soil Carbon Institute of Australia



## BIODIVERSITY and SYMBIOTIC FARMING

- Utilising pasture land and ruminant grazing can help reduce erosion and soil loss during periods of heavy rain and flooding. Soil bound together by wild grass and herb roots is less liable to wash away.
- When it's too wet and cold, cattle are moved into sheds and fed with silage (fermented grass), hay (grass dried by the sun), some barley and rapemeal (grown on the farm).
- These permanent pastures are made up of mixed wild grasses and herbs including burnett, chicory and wild white clover. All of these are nutritious staples of ruminants and also a variety of birds, insects and small mammals.
- The byproduct of cattle grazing is high yielding land that enhances soil structure. Organic matter deposited by cattle increases the soil's efficiency to hold and filter water.
- From October onwards the natural sugars and protein in the pastures reduce dramatically. The cattle are then housed and fed on silage and hay to ensure a satisfactory diet is available for their health and welfare.
- Wild herbs such as white clover have a positive environmental impact by processing nitrogen in the air and storing it in nodules on the roots. This acts to help reduce carbon levels in the atmosphere by capturing nitrogen in the air and utilising it as fertiliser.



- Another byproduct of ruminant grazing is the earthworm. Earthworms harness organic matter, breaking it down and enhancing soil quality as well as aerating and allowing for nutrients and water to filter easily. Worm castings (the earth filtered and deposited on the surface) make soil more absorbent, making moisture more consistently available to plants and preventing soil from completely drying out. Worms introduce uncountable numbers of beneficial microbes and bacteria into their castings, making them the largest single contributor to soil health. In addition, castings contain humic acid which aids nutrient absorption in all grasses, wild plants and farmed crops.

## PASTURES and BIODIVERSITY



Permanent pastures are fields of natural or seeded grassland that remain unplowed for many years.

Throughout the Wye Valley, permanent pastures are an intrinsic and essential part of the ecosystem - without them the local biodiversity is unable to sustain itself. Up to 35 or more plant species may occur in a 2x2m sample, including grasses such as crested dog's tail and red fescue, and herbs such as knapweed, birdsfoot trefoil and oxeye daisy.

Old meadows and pastures can support a rich pollinating insect community, including butterflies, grasshoppers, bumblebees and yellow meadow ants. They can also provide important feeding areas for birds such as the linnets and meadow pipit, as well as bats and small mammals such as the field vole.