

**PASTURE  
FOR LIFE**

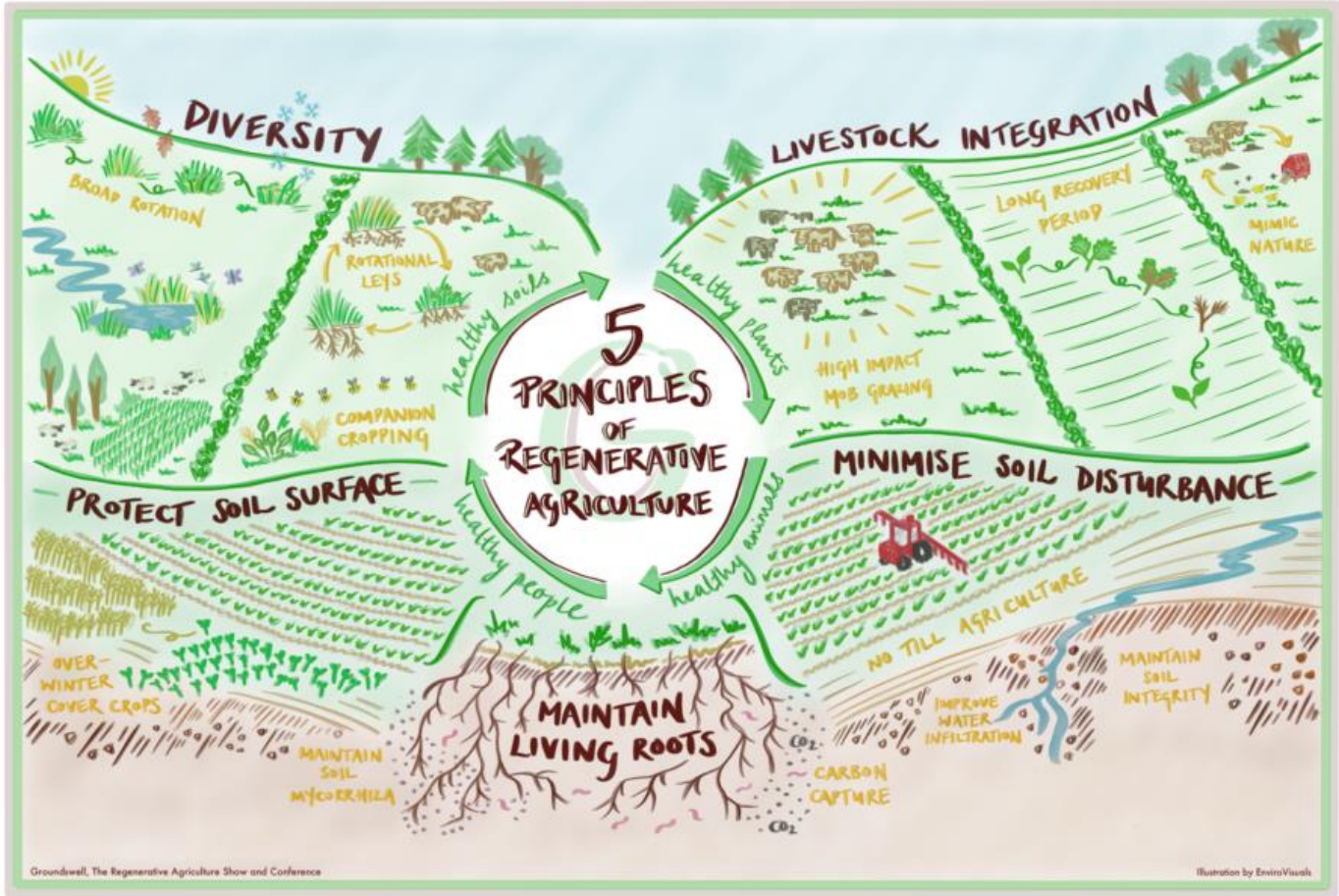


# Arable Integration

November 2024



# Livestock / Arable Integration





# Livestock / Arable Integration

Fertility building leys  
(As part of a rotation)

Late winter/early spring  
grazing of winter cereals  
(Easier with sheep due to  
their size)



# Herbal Leys



[Soil Association Resource](#)

[Cotswold Seeds Resource](#)

Herbal leys are temporary diverse grasslands, mostly used as part of an arable rotation.

They are made up of a mix of grasses, herbs and legumes. Together they deliver soil fertility, biology and structure, boost livestock health, encourage biodiversity and are productive with low rainfall.

Four years is considered an optimal length for herbal leys in the rotation, to allow for root growth, soil fertility building and high species diversity.

Longer periods will be even better for the soil, but you are likely to see a decline in species diversity unless it is very carefully managed.

# Top Tips!



Graze carefully after establishment  
- The 'pull test'



Rotational grazing is vital –  
electric fencing!



High Entry Covers



Maintain a good  
residual



Longer rest  
periods



Beware of bloat



# Graze and Rest Approach is Vital

- Mob-grazing, with a long rest period between grazings, is the best way to realise the full potential of herbal swards.
- 28-60 day rest between grazings, depending on the time of year, the herbs have a chance to put down good root depth.
- Mob-grazing involves entering covers at about 3,000-4,000kg DM/ha. The aim is for 60% of the sward to be eaten, 30% to be trampled and 20% left standing.
- This enables plant material to be incorporated into the soil and root depth to be maximised.
- At peak growth, cattle can be stocked at 100 animals/ha.
- Infrastructure (electric fence, water) and planning (brainpower!) are critical.



# Thank You.

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