Tall Grass Grazing

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What is it that we are trying to do with pasture?

Putting it into practice.

A cow for the job
What is it that we are trying to do?

Growing grass to feed cows

OR

Harvest sunshine to grow grass
Growing grass

Need pH  P + K + N/legume?

OR leaf area to capture sunlight?
Leaf rye grass under constant growing conditions, each leaf appears in same time e.g. 1 week

1\textsuperscript{st} Leaf 15\% DM
2nd Leaf 25\% DM
3\textsuperscript{rd} Leaf 60\% DM

3\textsuperscript{rd} week growing 4X grass cf 1\textsuperscript{st} Week
Photosynthesis absorbs energy from the sun.

It stores it in the C-H bond in glucose.
Larger leaf area

-Captures more sunshine

-Produces more sugar

-Feeds the soil
Build soil organic matter

- Build energy reserve of the soil

- more resilient/ productive soil.
PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

- Diverse swards

- Grazing management

- Compost
Grazing management

Dairy cows need quality diet

- graze just before/at flowering

- graze tidy but not too tight

- grass grows grass!
Compost

- Adding organic matter to soil
  - Adding microbes to soil
  - Adding available nutrients
- Organic matter brought onto farm
A cow for the system

- Medium size + deep bodied

- Eat then lie down and ruminate