

Addressing the skills gap: the SWARM project

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South West Agricultural Resource Management (SWARM) Knowledge Hub

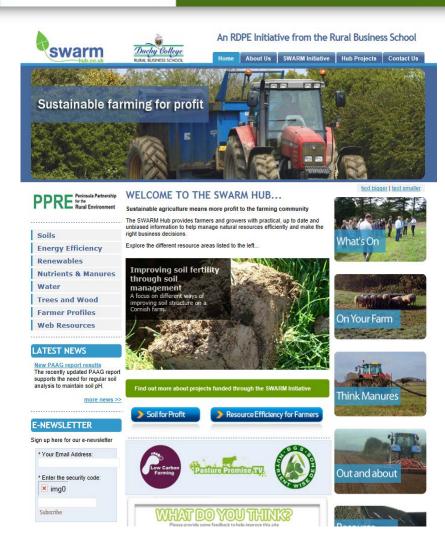
Aimed at knowledge transfer, skills acquisition and behavioural change with regard to management practices influencing and mitigating climate change, key related ecosystem services and associated business benefits.

- RDPE-funded
- Web resource www.swarmhub.co.uk
- Academic and industry partnerships
- Dissemination from sub-contracted projects
- Innovation
- Evidence base from RDPE advisory 2& 2grant schemes





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RB209 – The Fertiliser Manual

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FERTILITY BUILDING



The use of clovers and other legumes as a source of Nitrogen (N) is an organic practice that is becoming an increasingly attractive proposition to all farmers due to globally rising costs of mineral N fertiliser and the negative environmental impacts of its production and use.







Interested in reading about how a grower on the Isles of Scilly builds fertility in to his soil? Click here.

Interested in different ways of establishing clover? Click here to visit the Nutrient Wise Demos page, and register your interest in attending one of their demonstration events.

Interested in looking at the different methods used to establish white clover in an existing grass sward and comparing the cost of each method? Click here to read the Nutrient Wise Demo Factsheet.

NVZS - KEY DATES AND FIGURES

ecord requirement

Organic manure N field limit

losed periods for spreading

N Max limits

Developed by the Environment Agency in association with Creedy Associates, correct as of April

USEFUL TOOLS

VZs

Catchment Sensitive Farming

Soils for Profit

RB209 – The Fertiliser Manua

PLANET

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An RDPE Initiative from the Rural Business School

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PPRE Peninsula Partnership for the Rural Environment

Soils **Energy Efficiency**

Renewables **Nutrients & Manures**

Water

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LATEST NEWS

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NITROGEN FIXATION



Nitrogen (N) is a key nutrient in helping to achieve acceptable yields and crop quality. Through an uptake of mineral N in the soil and fixation of N₂ from the atmosphere, legumes can provide a source of 'free nitrogen'

Nitrogen (N) fixation explained

Factors affecting N fixation

How can I minimise N losses?

How can I maximise N fixation?

How can I improve efficiency of N availability?

What else should I consider?

Management of cover crops - options and timings. To reduce N leaching risks cover crops need to be established early in autumn to ensure good crop growth and hence N uptake. Establishment techniques should ensure that soil moisture is conserved and that there is a good seed / soil contact. Some cover crops do not release N quickly enough to be utilised by the following crop. If N is released too slowly and not fully used by the cash crop it can be leached in the following

Crop sequences - as in most organic rotations, more N is likely to be fixed where legumes follow crops that have previously depleted soil N levels.

Bi-cropping - the use of permanent beds of a legume grown alongside a cash crop has potential as an alternative technique to planning a legume into the rotation by itself. It also helps to reduce pest and disease severity.

Costs - the economic viability of conventional rotations tend to be reduced by the need to have crops in the rotation purely for fertility building. The use of marketable grain legumes in stockless rotation enables some income to be derived from the fertility builder. However the N fixed is likely to be less as some of the N will be used from the fertility builder. However the N fixed is likely to be less as some of the N will be used in the production of seed e.g. peas.

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USEFUL TOOLS

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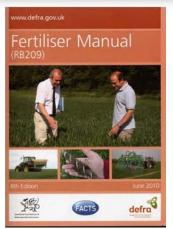
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Getting the message across

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he following images show what different spreading rates of cattle and pig slurry nd poultry litter look like on a grass crop. Click on the pictures to see what each creading rate will supply to the crop in terms of N, P and K.

nages have been taken from Think Manures and values are from RB209 The

't work in kg/m³? <u>Click here</u> to access the tables with the calculations

SPREADING RATE

much am I spreading?

















How am I spreading it?

The quantity of nutrients available for crop production will depend on the method of application a well as the source of the manure, its dry matter, soil type and season of application. Click on this images below to get an indication of available nutrients for different application methods.



Surface Applied & Soil Incorporated by 6 hours







THINK MANURES

Organic manures (slurry, FYM or poultry manure) are a valuable on-farm resource. They provide nutrients in the form of N, P and K that could reduce you bagged fertiliser requirements, reducing costs. They also contain organic matter that will improve the condition of your soil and help crop growth and performance

The material on these pages comes from a variety of sources, including <u>Think Manures</u>, <u>RH209</u>. Nutrient Management guides, and current research on ammonia mitigation methods and alternative methods of spreading manures This will allow you to take account of what nutrients are in your manures and plar applications accordingly to minimise losses to the environment and maximise



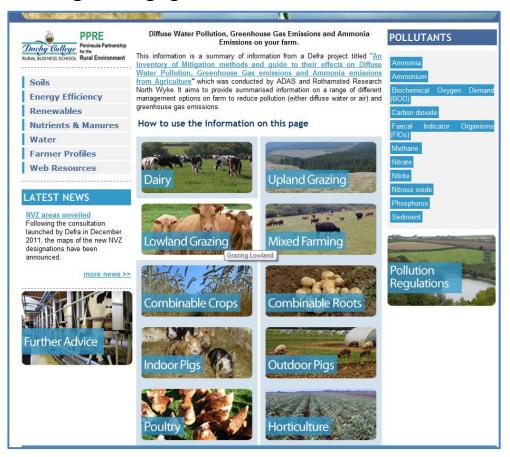




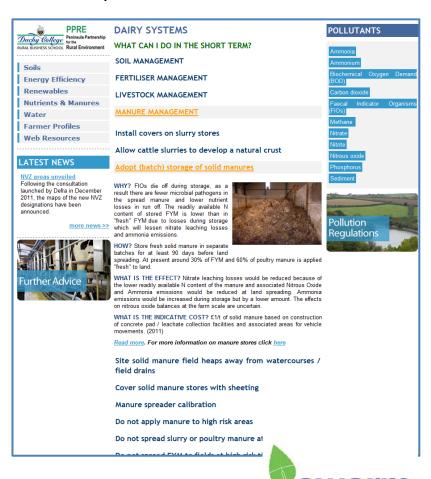
Helping to make decisions

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e.g. an inventory to mitigate diffuse water mitigation, ghg and ammonia emissions



By enterprise type, time scale, options and expected returns





Power of film

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THE PASTURE MEDIA PROJECT



This project is looking at pasture farming and the resource management issues and multiple potential benefits of developing the management of grassland. It explores the use of media.

specifically television and radio, in knowledge dissemination to the farming community. Click here to visit the Pasture Promise TV website.

Introductory film



Watch the films



Farming Unplugged

Taking the chemicals out of farming. Meet the group of Cornish farmers who are working for a chemical-free future.



Life from Earth

Soil is the basis of our health, wealth and happiness. So it makes sense to take care of it.



Do nothing Farming

What happens when you work with nature instead of battling against it? Something amazing, that's what.



The more we graze it

With all the talk of mega dairies, one young farmer checks out the options and comes down firmly on the side of grassland and grazing.



Farming in Balance

A Wiltshire organic farmer finds traditional methods often solve many of today's most pressing problems.



A question of justice

A group of farmers near Bristol pioneer a new way of marketing good food to local people.

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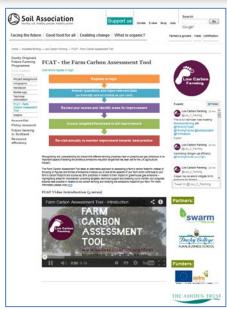


Understanding carbon

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the farm's carbon footprint. The Low Carbon practice. Also manure heaps should

storing on a hard standing is cons

from the Soil Association to have a closer look at



Supporting farmer meetings BUSINESS SCHOOL

British Grassland Society Nutrient Wise Demos







Jan '14



Providing an evidence base



From the RDPE-funded Soils for Profit programme

- 1683 soil samples across 6 counties of SW
- Arable 354, grassland 1278
- Analysed for pH, SOM, P, K and Mg

	Grassland (%)	Arable (%)
рН	82.5	84.7
Samples below target index (%)		
SOM	1.6	15.5
P index	52.1	27.7
K index	38.5	21.2
Mg index	1.1	5.6





Peer to peer

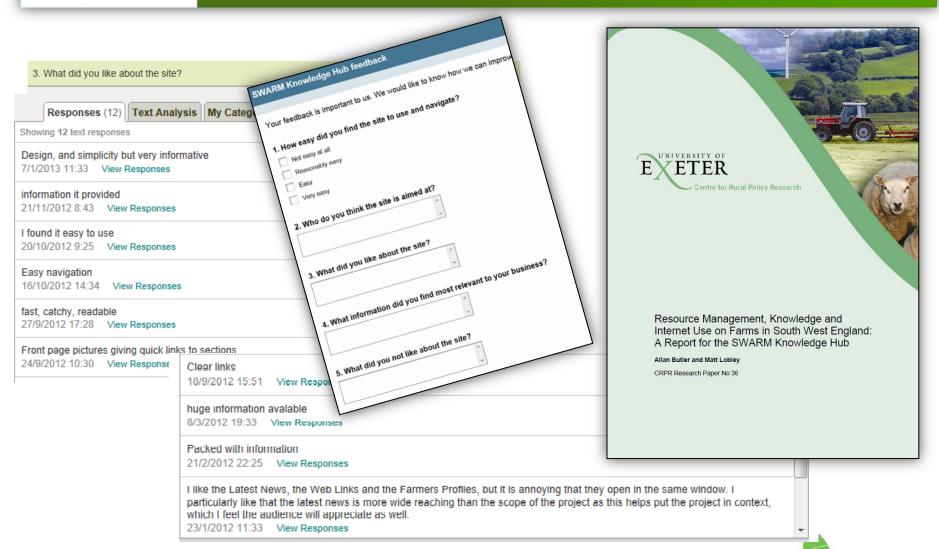
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What do you think?

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Issues and considerations

Who's the audience? Farmers? Advisers?

What knowledge do farmers want, and in what format?

Not just why but how!

Drip feeding the message

Use of computers and smart phones

Getting across difficult and conflicting messages

What drives behavioural change? Economics?

Focus on the win-wins?

Measuring change – attitudes/approaches?

