1

00:00:00,710 --> 00:00:05,230

[Music]

2

00:00:02,020 --> 00:00:05,230

[Applause]

3

00:00:09,440 --> 00:00:15,679

Hello and welcome to episode 48 of Ear

4

00:00:12,960 --> 00:00:17,840

to the Ground, the agricultural podcast

5

00:00:15,679 --> 00:00:20,640

brought to you by Farming Connect,

6

00:00:17,840 --> 00:00:21,840

supporting Welsh farmers to adapt and

7

00:00:20,640 --> 00:00:23,840

thrive.

8

00:00:21,840 --> 00:00:27,279

The name of this episode is ‘The

9

00:00:23,840 --> 00:00:28,960

road to regen’. Regenerative agriculture

10

00:00:27,279 --> 00:00:31,039

is one of the new buzzwords that we're

11

00:00:28,960 --> 00:00:33,520

hearing more and more about lately,

12

00:00:31,039 --> 00:00:36,480

particularly given the focus on reducing

13

00:00:33,520 --> 00:00:39,040

our carbon footprint. But what exactly is

14

00:00:36,480 --> 00:00:40,079

it and what does regen look like on the

15

00:00:39,040 --> 00:00:42,160

ground?

16

00:00:40,079 --> 00:00:44,640

To find out more, we've travelled to a

17

00:00:42,160 --> 00:00:46,239

farm in Machynlleth to meet a progressive

18

00:00:44,640 --> 00:00:49,280

farmer who's putting some of the

19

00:00:46,239 --> 00:00:51,920

principles into practice. We'll be

20

00:00:49,280 --> 00:00:53,920

hearing more from him a little later on

21

00:00:51,920 --> 00:00:56,719

but first, I caught up with one of the

22

00:00:53,920 --> 00:00:59,039

regulars on our podcast Rhys Williams

23

00:00:56,719 --> 00:01:01,920

from Precision Grazing who explained to

24

00:00:59,039 --> 00:01:04,239

me his understanding of regenerative

25

00:01:01,920 --> 00:01:06,479

farming and how he became involved in

26

00:01:04,239 --> 00:01:08,560

this subject area.

27

00:01:06,479 --> 00:01:10,880

I've been working with a group of

28

00:01:08,560 --> 00:01:13,360

beef and sheep farmers from across Wales

29

00:01:10,880 --> 00:01:14,960

for about three years now. We've been

30

00:01:13,360 --> 00:01:16,720

developing their grassland management

31

00:01:14,960 --> 00:01:18,560

skills with the aim of having a positive

32

00:01:16,720 --> 00:01:20,000

impact on the profitability of their

33

00:01:18,560 --> 00:01:21,920

business.

34

00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:23,680

This discussion group actually stemmed

35

00:01:21,920 --> 00:01:25,840

from Farming Connect’s Prosper from

36

00:01:23,680 --> 00:01:27,360

Pasture programme.

37

00:01:25,840 --> 00:01:29,119

Over the last couple of years now we've been

38

00:01:27,360 --> 00:01:31,360

focusing on sharing

39

00:01:29,119 --> 00:01:33,119

data by benchmarking both physical and

40

00:01:31,360 --> 00:01:35,680

financial key performance indicators

41

00:01:33,119 --> 00:01:37,119

which has been very beneficial to the

42

00:01:35,680 --> 00:01:39,360

businesses.

43

00:01:37,119 --> 00:01:41,920

But, now with increasing

44

00:01:39,360 --> 00:01:44,320

political and public attention being put

45

00:01:41,920 --> 00:01:45,520

on the environmental impact of

46

00:01:44,320 --> 00:01:48,320

agriculture,

47

00:01:45,520 --> 00:01:51,600

the group themselves decided last year

48

00:01:48,320 --> 00:01:54,479

to do a carbon benchmarking exercise

49

00:01:51,600 --> 00:01:55,759

by using a tool called the Carbon

50

00:01:54,479 --> 00:01:57,759

Calculator

51

00:01:55,759 --> 00:02:00,719

to undertake a carbon audit of their

52

00:01:57,759 --> 00:02:02,799

farms. We came up with some

53

00:02:00,719 --> 00:02:04,079

interesting results. What were those

54

00:02:02,799 --> 00:02:06,560

results? Perhaps you can share some of

55

00:02:04,079 --> 00:02:08,160

the details with us. It was no

56

00:02:06,560 --> 00:02:10,879

surprise really Aled to

57

00:02:08,160 --> 00:02:12,800

discover that we all had aspects of

58

00:02:10,879 --> 00:02:13,920

the business that emitted greenhouse

59

00:02:12,800 --> 00:02:17,440

gases,

60

00:02:13,920 --> 00:02:20,080

namely fuel, fertiliser and chemicals and

61

00:02:17,440 --> 00:02:21,920

other inputs. We realised

62

00:02:20,080 --> 00:02:24,800

really that reducing these would have a

63

00:02:21,920 --> 00:02:26,560

positive impact on the environment.

64

00:02:24,800 --> 00:02:29,440

We also gained a better understanding

65

00:02:26,560 --> 00:02:30,560

of the impact of animal methane

66

00:02:29,440 --> 00:02:32,720

production

67

00:02:30,560 --> 00:02:35,760

but it was really realising that farmers

68

00:02:32,720 --> 00:02:38,879

also can have a positive impact.

69

00:02:35,760 --> 00:02:41,840

We can sequester carbon and negate

70

00:02:38,879 --> 00:02:44,080

our impact or even further have a

71

00:02:41,840 --> 00:02:46,640

positive impact on the environment.

72

00:02:44,080 --> 00:02:49,040

This was a real discovery for us.

73

00:02:46,640 --> 00:02:51,360

That's one of the major benefits of

74

00:02:49,040 --> 00:02:53,200

farming and advantages to agriculture

75

00:02:51,360 --> 00:02:55,760

compared to some other industries is our

76

00:02:53,200 --> 00:02:58,000

ability to sequester carbon but,

77

00:02:55,760 --> 00:03:00,959

what exactly can Welsh farmers do to

78

00:02:58,000 --> 00:03:02,800

increase their sequestration potential

79

00:03:00,959 --> 00:03:05,200

on farms?

80

00:03:02,800 --> 00:03:07,280

It's widely understood

81

00:03:05,200 --> 00:03:09,760

that plants extract carbon from the

82

00:03:07,280 --> 00:03:13,599

atmosphere. This is through sort of

83

00:03:09,760 --> 00:03:16,319

photosynthesis. Therefore, having more

84

00:03:13,599 --> 00:03:18,720

trees hedgerows and growing more grass

85

00:03:16,319 --> 00:03:20,159

with less inputs obviously then have a

86

00:03:18,720 --> 00:03:21,519

positive impact.

87

00:03:20,159 --> 00:03:23,040

What's good about these is

88

00:03:21,519 --> 00:03:24,159

that we can measure them;

89

00:03:23,040 --> 00:03:26,319

because we can measure them we can

90

00:03:24,159 --> 00:03:27,040

manage them.

91

00:03:26,319 --> 00:03:29,040

92

00:03:27,040 --> 00:03:30,480

But what goes on

93

00:03:29,040 --> 00:03:31,519

in the soil is most

94

00:03:30,480 --> 00:03:33,440

interesting

95

00:03:31,519 --> 00:03:34,799

and that's most difficult to understand

96

00:03:33,440 --> 00:03:36,159

as well. It's also difficult

97

00:03:34,799 --> 00:03:38,879

to measure.

98

00:03:36,159 --> 00:03:40,000

There's huge

99

00:03:38,879 --> 00:03:41,599

potential

100

00:03:40,000 --> 00:03:44,159

to have a huge benefit on the

101

00:03:41,599 --> 00:03:44,159

Environment.

102

00:03:44,560 --> 00:03:49,840

We realised that building the

103

00:03:46,560 --> 00:03:52,799

soil organic matter sequesters a

104

00:03:49,840 --> 00:03:55,200

phenomenal amount of carbon. If

105

00:03:52,799 --> 00:03:57,680

we as farmers really can manage our

106

00:03:55,200 --> 00:03:59,360

land in a way that promotes an increase

107

00:03:57,680 --> 00:04:02,720

in the percentage of organic matter in

108

00:03:59,360 --> 00:04:04,879

our soils, it has multiple benefits.

109

00:04:02,720 --> 00:04:07,040

What kind of techniques would help

110

00:04:04,879 --> 00:04:08,959

farmers build that organic matter in the

111

00:04:07,040 --> 00:04:10,799

soil? What do they need to do?

112

00:04:08,959 --> 00:04:11,840

That's the important question.

113

00:04:10,799 --> 00:04:13,920

114

00:04:11,840 --> 00:04:15,200

That's the difficulty

115

00:04:13,920 --> 00:04:17,440

and

116

00:04:15,200 --> 00:04:19,919

people don't quite understand and

117

00:04:17,440 --> 00:04:23,040

haven’t got to grips with yet .

118

00:04:19,919 --> 00:04:24,240

We set out to find

119

00:04:23,040 --> 00:04:26,240

this out

120

00:04:24,240 --> 00:04:28,000

and we researched regenerative

121

00:04:26,240 --> 00:04:29,919

agriculture

122

00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:32,080

and we invited farmers from around the

123

00:04:29,919 --> 00:04:33,040

world who are

124

00:04:32,080 --> 00:04:35,280

125

00:04:33,040 --> 00:04:37,280

implementing some of these practices to

126

00:04:35,280 --> 00:04:39,120

explain to us.

127

00:04:37,280 --> 00:04:40,160

One of these was a beef and sheep

128

00:04:39,120 --> 00:04:42,720

farmer

129

00:04:40,160 --> 00:04:44,400

from New Zealand called Hamish Bielski

130

00:04:42,720 --> 00:04:47,600

and he made a really big impression on

131

00:04:44,400 --> 00:04:49,919

us. He set out some key principles

132

00:04:47,600 --> 00:04:52,400

of practical ways of doing

133

00:04:49,919 --> 00:04:54,320

this and he also showed that

134

00:04:52,400 --> 00:04:56,240

these changes had a positive impact on

135

00:04:54,320 --> 00:04:58,639

the profitability of the businesses as

136

00:04:56,240 --> 00:05:01,039

which is an added benefit

137

00:04:58,639 --> 00:05:03,120

and a more holistic approach by

138

00:05:01,039 --> 00:05:05,440

having a

139

00:05:03,120 --> 00:05:07,120

positive effect on the environment

140

00:05:05,440 --> 00:05:08,320

and profitability of the business.

141

00:05:07,120 --> 00:05:09,919

142

00:05:08,320 --> 00:05:13,039

What were the main principles that

143

00:05:09,919 --> 00:05:14,000

Hamish talked about when he spoke to you?

144

00:05:13,039 --> 00:05:14,720

145

00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:16,400

146

00:05:14,720 --> 00:05:19,840

First of all,

147

00:05:16,400 --> 00:05:21,360

we need to protect and improve

148

00:05:19,840 --> 00:05:24,560

the health of our

149

00:05:21,360 --> 00:05:27,600

soils and, in particular, the biology

150

00:05:24,560 --> 00:05:29,759

of the soil. The physical

151

00:05:27,600 --> 00:05:32,560

aspects of soil and the chemical aspects

152

00:05:29,759 --> 00:05:34,479

of soil are well known to

153

00:05:32,560 --> 00:05:36,320

everyone and there's a lot of

154

00:05:34,479 --> 00:05:37,919

scientific work being done on this

155

00:05:36,320 --> 00:05:40,080

throughout the years but

156

00:05:37,919 --> 00:05:42,240

it's the biology really which is most

157

00:05:40,080 --> 00:05:44,080

difficult to understand. In our

158

00:05:42,240 --> 00:05:46,320

thoughts

159

00:05:44,080 --> 00:05:49,280

it's the thing that has the biggest

160

00:05:46,320 --> 00:05:52,160

benefits. We need to realise

161

00:05:49,280 --> 00:05:53,039

that the soil is alive

162

00:05:52,160 --> 00:05:54,800

and

163

00:05:53,039 --> 00:05:56,639

all the biological

164

00:05:54,800 --> 00:05:58,800

interactions in the soil

165

00:05:56,639 --> 00:06:00,639

that produce organic matter.

166

00:05:58,800 --> 00:06:02,479

There should be minimal soil

167

00:06:00,639 --> 00:06:05,199

disturbance, less

168

00:06:02,479 --> 00:06:07,520

ploughing, less cultivating.

169

00:06:05,199 --> 00:06:09,039

The soil should be covered all

170

00:06:07,520 --> 00:06:11,520

year.

171

00:06:09,039 --> 00:06:13,520

There should always be a living root

172

00:06:11,520 --> 00:06:14,479

in our pastures.

173

00:06:13,520 --> 00:06:17,759

Also,

174

00:06:14,479 --> 00:06:19,360

deep roots penetrations to be promoted

175

00:06:17,759 --> 00:06:21,840

and there's different ways of doing this

176

00:06:19,360 --> 00:06:23,840

and one is by allowing plants to

177

00:06:21,840 --> 00:06:25,039

grow taller

178

00:06:23,840 --> 00:06:27,199

and develop

179

00:06:25,039 --> 00:06:28,160

and have longer rotations.

180

00:06:27,199 --> 00:06:31,680

181

00:06:28,160 --> 00:06:33,840

Plant diversity also is also key,

182

00:06:31,680 --> 00:06:35,919

a good variety of

183

00:06:33,840 --> 00:06:38,880

plant species in the sward.

184

00:06:35,919 --> 00:06:40,720

This gives resilience to the system.

185

00:06:38,880 --> 00:06:42,960

All these different plants

186

00:06:40,720 --> 00:06:45,759

interact and complement each

187

00:06:42,960 --> 00:06:47,520

other above ground and underground.

188

00:06:45,759 --> 00:06:49,520

This even promotes more

189

00:06:47,520 --> 00:06:53,039

biological interactions.

190

00:06:49,520 --> 00:06:54,240

Animals are also key to

191

00:06:53,039 --> 00:06:56,400

success;

192

00:06:54,240 --> 00:06:59,120

sort of mob grazing animal and high

193

00:06:56,400 --> 00:06:59,960

densities allows plants to

194

00:06:59,120 --> 00:07:02,479

have

195

00:06:59,960 --> 00:07:04,400

a long rest period

196

00:07:02,479 --> 00:07:06,720

and also for plants material to be

197

00:07:04,400 --> 00:07:09,599

trampled in and to break down in the

198

00:07:06,720 --> 00:07:12,240

soil. This also

199

00:07:09,599 --> 00:07:15,120

increases the soil organic matter.

200

00:07:12,240 --> 00:07:16,639

But, importantly as well, the principles

201

00:07:15,120 --> 00:07:19,280

need to be looked at in the context of

202

00:07:16,639 --> 00:07:21,840

the farmer's own system and for them to

203

00:07:19,280 --> 00:07:24,400

identify their current status,

204

00:07:21,840 --> 00:07:26,319

their limiting factors and what

205

00:07:24,400 --> 00:07:29,039

actually works for them. There's no one

206

00:07:26,319 --> 00:07:31,039

size fits all. We've got to

207

00:07:29,039 --> 00:07:33,280

look at your system and these

208

00:07:31,039 --> 00:07:34,479

small changes will have a benefit in

209

00:07:33,280 --> 00:07:37,199

the end.

210

00:07:34,479 --> 00:07:39,280

To what extent are these principles

211

00:07:37,199 --> 00:07:41,440

being implemented in Wales from your

212

00:07:39,280 --> 00:07:44,319

experience? There's certainly a

213

00:07:41,440 --> 00:07:46,400

lot of interest in regen agri in

214

00:07:44,319 --> 00:07:49,039

Wales now and a lot of it's by

215

00:07:46,400 --> 00:07:52,319

forward-thinking farmers.

216

00:07:49,039 --> 00:07:53,759

Sam who

217

00:07:52,319 --> 00:07:55,919

we're meeting today,

218

00:07:53,759 --> 00:07:58,000

who has been researching a lot into this

219

00:07:55,919 --> 00:07:59,840

and has actually started to put

220

00:07:58,000 --> 00:08:01,919

the theory into practice.

221

00:07:59,840 --> 00:08:04,879

A group of us

222

00:08:01,919 --> 00:08:06,879

went to visit Sam in Rhiwlas in Bala

223

00:08:04,879 --> 00:08:09,599

to see how he's getting on. It

224

00:08:06,879 --> 00:08:11,730

was very impressive and a real

225

00:08:09,599 --> 00:08:18,639

eye-opener.

226

00:08:11,730 --> 00:08:21,440

[Music]

227

00:08:18,639 --> 00:08:22,879

Hi. I'm Sam Carey. I'm originally from

228

00:08:21,440 --> 00:08:26,080

North Pembrokeshire and

229

00:08:22,879 --> 00:08:28,319

moved to North Wales to share farm on

230

00:08:26,080 --> 00:08:29,599

the Rhiwlas estate in Bala.

231

00:08:28,319 --> 00:08:30,560

232

00:08:29,599 --> 00:08:33,760

I've

233

00:08:30,560 --> 00:08:36,479

just taken on a tenancy in

234

00:08:33,760 --> 00:08:38,399

Llanwrin near Machynlleth on a farm

235

00:08:36,479 --> 00:08:40,399

called Mathafarn and

236

00:08:38,399 --> 00:08:42,080

converting it to dairy

237

00:08:40,399 --> 00:08:44,240

as we speak.

238

00:08:42,080 --> 00:08:47,519

Sam, thank you ever so much for the

239

00:08:44,240 --> 00:08:49,680

welcome we've had here at Mathafarn, your

240

00:08:47,519 --> 00:08:51,680

latest venture here

241

00:08:49,680 --> 00:08:53,279

in what is a very sizable farm on the

242

00:08:51,680 --> 00:08:55,279

outskirts of Machynlleth as you just

243

00:08:53,279 --> 00:08:56,880

mentioned there. Obviously, you've

244

00:08:55,279 --> 00:08:58,480

been spending a lot of years working

245

00:08:56,880 --> 00:09:00,160

at Rhiwlas.

246

00:08:58,480 --> 00:09:02,080

Tell us a bit about the developments

247

00:09:00,160 --> 00:09:07,279

there because you've grown that herd to

248

00:09:02,080 --> 00:09:09,519

about 500 over recent years.

249

00:09:07,279 --> 00:09:12,399

We actually started with 500

250

00:09:09,519 --> 00:09:14,959

so we've kept it at the same size

251

00:09:12,399 --> 00:09:16,640

and this is the sixth season.

252

00:09:14,959 --> 00:09:19,279

We've taken a little bit

253

00:09:16,640 --> 00:09:22,320

more ground to rear young stock and

254

00:09:19,279 --> 00:09:25,279

and grow a bit more of our own silage.

255

00:09:22,320 --> 00:09:27,920

We've had a good few

256

00:09:25,279 --> 00:09:32,160

years. I was chuffed to win the Welsh

257

00:09:27,920 --> 00:09:33,680

Grassland in 2019 I think.

258

00:09:32,160 --> 00:09:35,600

259

00:09:33,680 --> 00:09:37,279

You've had a lot of success and a

260

00:09:35,600 --> 00:09:40,080

lot of media attention around the work

261

00:09:37,279 --> 00:09:40,959

you've done at Rhiwlas. But you've

262

00:09:40,080 --> 00:09:42,560

built

263

00:09:40,959 --> 00:09:44,800

a really good team around you there

264

00:09:42,560 --> 00:09:46,640

which has enabled you then to look at

265

00:09:44,800 --> 00:09:49,680

other opportunities and the latest

266

00:09:46,640 --> 00:09:52,080

opportunity is here.

267

00:09:49,680 --> 00:09:54,000

They don't have enough of a

268

00:09:52,080 --> 00:09:55,279

269

00:09:54,000 --> 00:09:57,120

270

00:09:55,279 --> 00:09:58,080

recognition

271

00:09:57,120 --> 00:09:59,760

272

00:09:58,080 --> 00:10:01,920

because a lot of what

273

00:09:59,760 --> 00:10:04,399

I've done wouldn't have been

274

00:10:01,920 --> 00:10:05,839

achievable without them.

275

00:10:04,399 --> 00:10:09,040

We're very lucky. We've got a

276

00:10:05,839 --> 00:10:10,000

fantastic team, great buy-in and

277

00:10:09,040 --> 00:10:13,440

278

00:10:10,000 --> 00:10:16,079

we're just a real

279

00:10:13,440 --> 00:10:17,680

tight squad.

280

00:10:16,079 --> 00:10:18,720

That's a good way to describe it, a tight

281

00:10:17,680 --> 00:10:19,680

squad.

282

00:10:18,720 --> 00:10:21,360

283

00:10:19,680 --> 00:10:23,440

But, we're here at Mathafarn. Let's

284

00:10:21,360 --> 00:10:25,839

talk about this farm. You've recently

285

00:10:23,440 --> 00:10:26,880

taken over the 20-year tenancy, if I'm

286

00:10:25,839 --> 00:10:28,800

right,

287

00:10:26,880 --> 00:10:30,160

of a very traditional

288

00:10:28,800 --> 00:10:31,920

beef and sheep farm I guess you'd

289

00:10:30,160 --> 00:10:34,800

describe it, but you're in the process of

290

00:10:31,920 --> 00:10:37,920

converting this farm into dairying.

291

00:10:34,800 --> 00:10:41,040

The ground here hasn't seen dairy cows

292

00:10:37,920 --> 00:10:42,720

for many many years, if at all, but

293

00:10:41,040 --> 00:10:43,920

you've got some interesting

294

00:10:42,720 --> 00:10:45,440

information about the history of

295

00:10:43,920 --> 00:10:47,360

Machynlleth which might suggest

296

00:10:45,440 --> 00:10:49,760

otherwise.

297

00:10:47,360 --> 00:10:51,680

I did look into the

298

00:10:49,760 --> 00:10:52,959

the definition of Machynlleth, what the

299

00:10:51,680 --> 00:10:54,240

word meant,

300

00:10:52,959 --> 00:10:56,600

and

301

00:10:54,240 --> 00:11:00,480

turned out that it was ‘man

302

0010:56,600 --> 00:11:02,480

cynnar llaeth’ which was the

303

00:11:00,480 --> 00:11:05,360

‘place of early milk’.

304

00:11:02,480 --> 00:11:07,040

I'd take that.

305

00:11:05,360 --> 00:11:10,160

That was reassuring when

306

00:11:07,040 --> 00:11:11,920

you're making that drastic move here

307

00:11:10,160 --> 00:11:13,440

to convert this farm into dairying, that

308

00:11:11,920 --> 00:11:15,040

there possibly

309

00:11:13,440 --> 00:11:18,079

several hundred years ago there might be

310

00:11:15,040 --> 00:11:19,600

a lot of dairy in this area.

311

00:11:18,079 --> 00:11:21,279

How are you going go about this because

312

00:11:19,600 --> 00:11:23,040

it's quite a challenge? What are you

313

00:11:21,279 --> 00:11:25,760

going to do?

314

00:11:23,040 --> 00:11:29,200

We've been interested in regenerative

315

00:11:25,760 --> 00:11:30,720

farming now for 18 months to two years and

316

00:11:29,200 --> 00:11:32,959

it's something that we've been doing a

317

00:11:30,720 --> 00:11:34,959

lot of research into.

318

00:11:32,959 --> 00:11:37,440

I think it's we've done trials in

319

00:11:34,959 --> 00:11:39,040

Rhiwlas and we've seen this potential

320

00:11:37,440 --> 00:11:40,720

321

00:11:39,040 --> 00:11:42,720

for it to work on a larger scale.

322

00:11:40,720 --> 00:11:45,600

It's a lot of those principles I want to

323

00:11:42,720 --> 00:11:47,839

put into place here in Mathafarn.

324

00:11:45,600 --> 00:11:47,839

325

00:11:48,959 --> 00:11:53,040

Some of the principles that to

326

00:11:50,720 --> 00:11:54,240

really reduce inputs

327

00:11:53,040 --> 00:11:54,959

and

328

00:11:54,240 --> 00:11:57,519

to

329

00:11:54,959 --> 00:11:58,720

manage what we've got more;

330

00:11:57,519 --> 00:12:00,480

use the

331

00:11:58,720 --> 00:12:03,360

leys that are here already rather than

332

00:12:00,480 --> 00:12:05,760

reseeding them and not being dependent

333

00:12:03,360 --> 00:12:09,120

on fertilisers.

334

00:12:05,760 --> 00:12:12,240

One of the first aims is to just to

335

00:12:09,120 --> 00:12:14,800

get the soil biology working

336

00:12:12,240 --> 00:12:17,440

and to get the place

337

00:12:14,800 --> 00:12:18,880

growing is to start bale grazing

338

00:12:17,440 --> 00:12:21,040

over the winter

339

00:12:18,880 --> 00:12:23,440

and

340

00:12:21,040 --> 00:12:26,160

graze hay bales in the fields.

341

00:12:23,440 --> 00:12:28,399

That then will

342

00:12:26,160 --> 00:12:31,120

get a high animal impact in

343

00:12:28,399 --> 00:12:33,519

small areas with a lot of

344

00:12:31,120 --> 00:12:36,160

trampling of the grass and the

345

00:12:33,519 --> 00:12:38,399

residues of the hay and also

346

00:12:36,160 --> 00:12:40,160

of the urine and

347

00:12:38,399 --> 00:12:42,160

and the muck from the cows.

348

00:12:40,160 --> 00:12:44,320

That will help build the

349

00:12:42,160 --> 00:12:46,480

organic matter

350

00:12:44,320 --> 00:12:47,839

but also

351

00:12:46,480 --> 00:12:50,480

start

352

00:12:47,839 --> 00:12:52,480

the

353

00:12:50,480 --> 00:12:55,760

bacteria and the fungi

354

00:12:52,480 --> 00:12:57,440

start processing that in the soil.

355

00:12:55,760 --> 00:12:59,839

Then the soil food web will

356

00:12:57,440 --> 00:13:01,760

start working, and the biology.

357

00:12:59,839 --> 00:13:03,920

It's quite complicated.

358

00:13:01,760 --> 00:13:06,399

It's mimicking nature and

359

00:13:03,920 --> 00:13:08,959

starting a natural process. .

360

00:13:06,399 --> 00:13:10,240

Is it quite a leap of faith?

361

00:13:08,959 --> 00:13:12,240

A lot of farmers listening to

362

00:13:10,240 --> 00:13:14,160

this podcast will think well the way to

363

00:13:12,240 --> 00:13:16,079

correct your pH and your soil and

364

00:13:14,160 --> 00:13:17,839

get your soil working is to apply lime,

365

00:13:16,079 --> 00:13:18,639

but you that's not what you're going do

366

00:13:17,839 --> 00:13:20,480

here.

367

00:13:18,639 --> 00:13:21,600

You want to kick-start

368

00:13:20,480 --> 00:13:23,760

nature

369

00:13:21,600 --> 00:13:24,800

in essence, are you confident it's

370

00:13:23,760 --> 00:13:27,279

going to work?

371

00:13:24,800 --> 00:13:28,639

Yes. It's got to work.

372

00:13:27,279 --> 00:13:30,880

373

00:13:28,639 --> 00:13:33,040

I've done enough research into it and

374

00:13:30,880 --> 00:13:35,600

I've done a course with a woman called

375

00:13:33,040 --> 00:13:38,240

Elaine Ingham in America and

376

00:13:35,600 --> 00:13:40,880

she studied soil for 40 years.

377

00:13:38,240 --> 00:13:43,040

These processes can work

378

00:13:40,880 --> 00:13:46,720

to our advantage but we need to change

379

00:13:43,040 --> 00:13:48,639

our management to promote them.

380

00:13:46,720 --> 00:13:50,880

It'll also require a change in

381

00:13:48,639 --> 00:13:52,800

mindset because you've adopted

382

00:13:50,880 --> 00:13:55,040

conventional farming methods over many

383

00:13:52,800 --> 00:13:57,199

years where you do apply inputs and

384

00:13:55,040 --> 00:13:59,040

that does work and does have an impact,

385

00:13:57,199 --> 00:14:01,360

but you're now thinking

386

00:13:59,040 --> 00:14:03,120

more holistically? Yes. I think

387

00:14:01,360 --> 00:14:04,959

it does work

388

00:14:03,120 --> 00:14:07,279

but at what cost?

389

00:14:04,959 --> 00:14:08,880

Are we truly sustainable

390

00:14:07,279 --> 00:14:11,279

over the longer term?

391

00:14:08,880 --> 00:14:13,040

It's been good

392

00:14:11,279 --> 00:14:14,320

to me

393

00:14:13,040 --> 00:14:16,160

394

00:14:14,320 --> 00:14:18,560

and I don't want to run it down at all

395

00:14:16,160 --> 00:14:19,920

but I do question the longer

396

00:14:18,560 --> 00:14:22,000

Term.

397

00:14:19,920 --> 00:14:24,160

I

398

00:14:22,000 --> 00:14:25,920

have the opportunity now to try and

399

00:14:24,160 --> 00:14:28,560

prove something

400

00:14:25,920 --> 00:14:30,880

that I believe in.

401

00:14:28,560 --> 00:14:32,880

When did you have that sudden

402

00:14:30,880 --> 00:14:35,199

change of heart? I think you

403

00:14:32,880 --> 00:14:37,290

called it an epiphany

404

00:14:35,199 --> 00:14:40,720

earlier on,

405

00:14:37,290 --> 00:14:42,800

[Laughter]

406

00:14:40,720 --> 00:14:44,880

when you really saw the

407

00:14:42,800 --> 00:14:47,440

virtues and the benefits of regenerative

408

00:14:44,880 --> 00:14:49,040

farming and it's a label that I guess

409

00:14:47,440 --> 00:14:50,720

we're hearing a lot more about and there

410

00:14:49,040 --> 00:14:52,639

might be different definitions.

411

00:14:50,720 --> 00:14:54,480

What really struck you? There's a

412

00:14:52,639 --> 00:14:56,639

bit of a fashion maybe, but I think

413

00:14:54,480 --> 00:14:58,480

there's more to it. I

414

00:14:56,639 --> 00:15:00,240

thought we were

415

00:14:58,480 --> 00:15:02,480

farming regeneratively. I thought

416

00:15:00,240 --> 00:15:05,839

we were mob grazing,

417

00:15:02,480 --> 00:15:07,360

cows were out most of the time.

418

00:15:05,839 --> 00:15:08,880

We were

419

00:15:07,360 --> 00:15:10,000

grass-based.

420

00:15:08,880 --> 00:15:11,760

421

00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:13,199

422

00:15:11,760 --> 00:15:15,120

When we first started, I measured the

423

00:15:13,199 --> 00:15:16,800

organic matter in one field and then I

424

00:15:15,120 --> 00:15:19,360

did it again in five years time and they

425

00:15:16,800 --> 00:15:20,800

hadn't moved. It did make me question,

426

00:15:19,360 --> 00:15:21,839

you're fine, we're maintaining organic

427

00:15:20,800 --> 00:15:24,320

matter, but

428

00:15:21,839 --> 00:15:26,399

if there's potential

429

00:15:24,320 --> 00:15:29,040

430

00:15:26,399 --> 00:15:30,730

to increase organic matters

431

00:15:29,040 --> 00:15:33,440

then I think

432

00:15:30,730 --> 00:15:36,480

433

00:15:33,440 --> 00:15:39,279

there's a responsibility on farmers to

434

00:15:36,480 --> 00:15:41,199

to try and sequester carbon. It

435

00:15:39,279 --> 00:15:42,720

led me then to think ‘okay

436

00:15:41,199 --> 00:15:44,720

if there's a

437

00:15:42,720 --> 00:15:48,079

potential to increase organic matter, why

438

00:15:44,720 --> 00:15:50,079

aren't I looking at it?’ That

439

00:15:48,079 --> 00:15:52,079

led me down that route.

440

00:15:50,079 --> 00:15:54,639

Adopting that mindset and those

441

00:15:52,079 --> 00:15:56,560

principles which you set out,

442

00:15:54,639 --> 00:15:59,199

are the results going to be slower? Do

443

00:15:56,560 --> 00:16:00,880

you have to wait longer to get this farm

444

00:15:59,199 --> 00:16:03,040

now to full production? It might take

445

00:16:00,880 --> 00:16:04,959

three or four years I think to get to

446

00:16:03,040 --> 00:16:07,199

full production. If

447

00:16:04,959 --> 00:16:08,480

someone said to you ‘you can solve

448

00:16:07,199 --> 00:16:12,000

climate change,

449

00:16:08,480 --> 00:16:13,759

you can have your food can be twice

450

00:16:12,000 --> 00:16:16,639

as nutrient dense,

451

00:16:13,759 --> 00:16:17,600

you can have more wildlife

452

00:16:16,639 --> 00:16:19,519

and

453

00:16:17,600 --> 00:16:22,160

you can do it all

454

00:16:19,519 --> 00:16:24,320

whilst being more profitable’

455

00:16:22,160 --> 00:16:25,600

what would you say? It's a no-brainer.

456

00:16:24,320 --> 00:16:27,759

Are you going to have a go? What are you

457

00:16:25,600 --> 00:16:29,759

going to say? ‘No, it's not for me. I'm just

458

00:16:27,759 --> 00:16:32,480

going to do what I've always done.’

459

00:16:29,759 --> 00:16:34,800

What's the ambition in terms of

460

00:16:32,480 --> 00:16:36,880

stocking numbers here and the stocking

461

00:16:34,800 --> 00:16:39,040

rates? Is that going to be a

462

00:16:36,880 --> 00:16:41,279

challenge? To be

463

00:16:39,040 --> 00:16:45,360

honest, the plan is to milk

464

00:16:41,279 --> 00:16:47,279

400 cows in about three to four years.

465

00:16:45,360 --> 00:16:49,440

We'll see how long it takes. I

466

00:16:47,279 --> 00:16:51,279

think it'll take us three to four years.

467

00:16:49,440 --> 00:16:54,639

Your thinking behind that is, you

468

00:16:51,279 --> 00:16:57,519

grow the herd as the productive capacity?

469

00:16:54,639 --> 00:16:59,360

As the

470

00:16:57,519 --> 00:17:01,360

soil improves

471

00:16:59,360 --> 00:17:03,199

you actually knock onto the grass we

472

00:17:01,360 --> 00:17:05,199

should grow more grass and more grass will be

473

00:17:03,199 --> 00:17:06,559

available for the cows. It'll

474

00:17:05,199 --> 00:17:08,240

compound hopefully, I'll just keep

475

00:17:06,559 --> 00:17:10,799

compounding.

476

00:17:08,240 --> 00:17:13,360

There'll be dense grazing,

477

00:17:10,799 --> 00:17:16,319

tall grazing in places as well, trampling

478

00:17:13,360 --> 00:17:19,919

into the ground but then a longer

479

00:17:16,319 --> 00:17:21,760

rest period than normal? Yes. I think

480

00:17:19,919 --> 00:17:24,000

some of the

481

00:17:21,760 --> 00:17:26,160

ideas of the system is that we let the

482

00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:28,880

grass go grow longer,

483

00:17:26,160 --> 00:17:30,240

we graze a third, leave a third and

484

00:17:28,880 --> 00:17:33,200

trample a third.

485

00:17:30,240 --> 00:17:35,039

The soil is like the stomach of

486

00:17:33,200 --> 00:17:38,640

a cow. It needs to be fed so we're

487

00:17:35,039 --> 00:17:40,480

feeding it by trampling the grass in

488

00:17:38,640 --> 00:17:42,400

and feeding bales out on the fields,

489

00:17:40,480 --> 00:17:44,960

490

00:17:42,400 --> 00:17:47,200

then having longer rest periods.

491

00:17:44,960 --> 00:17:49,120

The longer

492

00:17:47,200 --> 00:17:50,799

it's rested the more it grows but also

493

00:17:49,120 --> 00:17:51,919

if you're only taking the top third of

494

00:17:50,799 --> 00:17:53,440

the plant

495

00:17:51,919 --> 00:17:55,440

then they're

496

00:17:53,440 --> 00:17:57,280

not being forced to eat all the stems.

497

00:17:55,440 --> 00:17:59,120

498

00:17:57,280 --> 00:18:00,640

They're getting the best bits.

499

00:17:59,120 --> 00:18:02,480

Animal performance should

500

00:18:00,640 --> 00:18:03,679

be quite high and people that have

501

00:18:02,480 --> 00:18:04,480

mastered in

502

00:18:03,679 --> 00:18:06,240

503

00:18:04,480 --> 00:18:07,120

in other countries are

504

00:18:06,240 --> 00:18:08,080

having

505

00:18:07,120 --> 00:18:11,120

506

00:18:08,080 --> 00:18:13,520

gains of up to two kilos a head per day,

507

00:18:11,120 --> 00:18:15,760

it's sustained.

508

00:18:13,520 --> 00:18:18,240

I think there's potential. Have you

509

00:18:15,760 --> 00:18:20,799

considered ploughing any of this?

510

00:18:18,240 --> 00:18:22,640

What's the systems you're adopting?

511

00:18:20,799 --> 00:18:24,640

Do you want to avoid ploughing where possible?

512

00:18:22,640 --> 00:18:25,440

Yes, avoid ploughing and reseeding because

513

00:18:24,640 --> 00:18:27,600

I think

514

00:18:25,440 --> 00:18:29,039

through this system we can

515

00:18:27,600 --> 00:18:31,840

get away from

516

00:18:29,039 --> 00:18:34,480

having to put

517

00:18:31,840 --> 00:18:36,080

new seeds in the ground.

518

00:18:34,480 --> 00:18:38,160

There's a

519

00:18:36,080 --> 00:18:41,520

potential belief that the seeds that

520

00:18:38,160 --> 00:18:43,600

here already have actually

521

00:18:41,520 --> 00:18:46,000

genetically

522

00:18:43,600 --> 00:18:47,840

kind of adapted to the climate.

523

00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:49,120

524

00:18:47,840 --> 00:18:50,960

525

00:18:49,120 --> 00:18:53,840

That's again some of the principles

526

00:18:50,960 --> 00:18:56,240

of regenerative which is working with nature

527

00:18:53,840 --> 00:18:58,000

where you are. It's a very specific

528

00:18:56,240 --> 00:19:00,559

individual solution to each farm in that

529

00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:03,760

case then isn't it? Yes.

530

00:19:00,559 --> 00:19:05,200

In terms of infrastructure, quite a

531

00:19:03,760 --> 00:19:07,120

big investment, you don't need to share

532

00:19:05,200 --> 00:19:09,120

the financials, but in terms of

533

00:19:07,120 --> 00:19:11,120

what you have to do here to get it

534

00:19:09,120 --> 00:19:13,520

ready for dairy? We need a

535

00:19:11,120 --> 00:19:15,520

track to each field

536

00:19:13,520 --> 00:19:17,120

so they can come and go through milking,

537

00:19:15,520 --> 00:19:18,720

we need water in every field and we need

538

00:19:17,120 --> 00:19:20,240

electric fences and then we'll need a

539

00:19:18,720 --> 00:19:22,160

milking parlour.

540

00:19:20,240 --> 00:19:24,000

541

00:19:22,160 --> 00:19:26,000

Those are the main things. But,

542

00:19:24,000 --> 00:19:28,000

the beauty of also having the old leys

543

00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:30,240

here is that there's

544

00:19:28,000 --> 00:19:32,400

more of a mat to keep the cows. There's a

545

00:19:30,240 --> 00:19:34,640

strong skin,

546

00:19:32,400 --> 00:19:36,320

there's a strong layer on top.

547

00:19:34,640 --> 00:19:38,080

Yes, which will stop them

548

00:19:36,320 --> 00:19:40,400

poaching as well and keep the soil

549

00:19:38,080 --> 00:19:41,520

structure. Whereas once you go to start

550

00:19:40,400 --> 00:19:42,960

reseeding

551

00:19:41,520 --> 00:19:45,039

what we found you start to lose the

552

00:19:42,960 --> 00:19:46,799

structure and the ability to hold the

553

00:19:45,039 --> 00:19:48,400

cows up.

554

00:19:46,799 --> 00:19:50,400

What type of cow are you looking for

555

00:19:48,400 --> 00:19:54,559

that's going to suit this place?

556

00:19:50,400 --> 00:19:57,679

A smaller cow

557

00:19:54,559 --> 00:19:59,919

under 500 kilos but able to

558

00:19:57,679 --> 00:20:01,440

thrive in the environment.

559

00:19:59,919 --> 00:20:03,280

They're going to be

560

00:20:01,440 --> 00:20:05,679

pretty much out all year round. It's

561

00:20:03,280 --> 00:20:07,039

going to be a spring calving herd therefore,

562

00:20:05,679 --> 00:20:08,960

there'll be a period in the winter where

563

00:20:07,039 --> 00:20:11,120

you won't be milking.

564

00:20:08,960 --> 00:20:12,559

They're going to be hardy cows and

565

00:20:11,120 --> 00:20:14,960

their longevity is going to be

566

00:20:12,559 --> 00:20:16,400

important to you. Yes and

567

00:20:14,960 --> 00:20:18,320

from a kind of breeding point of

568

00:20:16,400 --> 00:20:19,679

view it's about

569

00:20:18,320 --> 00:20:20,559

getting the cow to adapt to the

570

00:20:19,679 --> 00:20:23,760

environment

571

00:20:20,559 --> 00:20:27,120

and killing the ones that don't thrive

572

00:20:23,760 --> 00:20:28,640

rather than trying to bring in

573

00:20:27,120 --> 00:20:31,200

new,

574

00:20:28,640 --> 00:20:33,200

better cows all the time.

575

00:20:31,200 --> 00:20:35,679

It's going to be a case of

576

00:20:33,200 --> 00:20:37,039

having to adapt I think. Looking

577

00:20:35,679 --> 00:20:39,120

at the whole

578

00:20:37,039 --> 00:20:41,520

carbon audit of the farm, we

579

00:20:39,120 --> 00:20:42,880

understand that cows emit methane but

580

00:20:41,520 --> 00:20:44,159

you're going to be doing a lot of work

581

00:20:42,880 --> 00:20:46,480

so hopefully it’s going to be sucking a

582

00:20:44,159 --> 00:20:48,640

lot of carbon out of the atmosphere and

583

00:20:46,480 --> 00:20:50,559

into the soil biology, which is a part of

584

00:20:48,640 --> 00:20:53,200

what you want to happen.

585

00:20:50,559 --> 00:20:55,919

Do you believe you will be fairly

586

00:20:53,200 --> 00:20:57,840

carbon neutral early on? I haven't done

587

00:20:55,919 --> 00:21:00,880

the exact figures because I think you

588

00:20:57,840 --> 00:21:03,600

can manipulate them a lot.

589

00:21:00,880 --> 00:21:05,200

I hope to be.

590

00:21:03,600 --> 00:21:07,360

What do you foresee is the biggest

591

00:21:05,200 --> 00:21:09,200

challenge now getting this up and

592

00:21:07,360 --> 00:21:11,840

running?

593

00:21:09,200 --> 00:21:14,799

I think the main challenge would be

594

00:21:11,840 --> 00:21:17,600

to be able to interpret what's happening

595

00:21:14,799 --> 00:21:19,120

at the time and making the right

596

00:21:17,600 --> 00:21:20,400

judgments.

597

00:21:19,120 --> 00:21:22,320

Whereas,

598

00:21:20,400 --> 00:21:24,799

599

00:21:22,320 --> 00:21:26,320

something might be happening and

600

00:21:24,799 --> 00:21:27,919

it might be a positive or a

601

00:21:26,320 --> 00:21:29,919

negative but you need to make the

602

00:21:27,919 --> 00:21:31,280

judgment and observe the right thing

603

00:21:29,919 --> 00:21:32,799

whether

604

00:21:31,280 --> 00:21:36,080

you could

605

00:21:32,799 --> 00:21:38,480

change something in the system

606

00:21:36,080 --> 00:21:40,559

that wasn't causing

607

00:21:38,480 --> 00:21:42,000

that to happen before. I think making

608

00:21:40,559 --> 00:21:43,440

those kind of judgments and then just

609

00:21:42,000 --> 00:21:46,000

getting through winter. It's going to be

610

00:21:43,440 --> 00:21:47,520

getting the first winter

611

00:21:46,000 --> 00:21:49,520

through.

612

00:21:47,520 --> 00:21:50,720

There might be things that go wrong are

613

00:21:49,520 --> 00:21:52,880

you

614

00:21:50,720 --> 00:21:54,480

happy enough to confess if ‘okay well

615

00:21:52,880 --> 00:21:55,760

that principle didn't work, we're going

616

00:21:54,480 --> 00:21:57,280

to change tack, we're

617

00:21:55,760 --> 00:21:58,480

going to go in a different direction‘.

618

00:21:57,280 --> 00:22:00,400

619

00:21:58,480 --> 00:22:02,240

I might be standing here now saying

620

00:22:00,400 --> 00:22:04,240

we're going to do this and in

621

00:22:02,240 --> 00:22:06,159

12 months-time

622

00:22:04,240 --> 00:22:09,679

we've done the exact opposite.

623

00:22:06,159 --> 00:22:11,120

We know where we want to be in 10-20 years,

624

00:22:09,679 --> 00:22:13,600

how we get there is just going to be

625

00:22:11,120 --> 00:22:15,760

always changing probably until we

626

00:22:13,600 --> 00:22:18,159

find what works. That's a strength in

627

00:22:15,760 --> 00:22:19,919

the business is knowing when to stop

628

00:22:18,159 --> 00:22:22,799

doing something if it's not getting you

629

00:22:19,919 --> 00:22:24,320

the results that you wanted.

630

00:22:22,799 --> 00:22:27,120

I suppose where I'm lucky is there's no

631

00:22:24,320 --> 00:22:29,039

tradition therefore

632

00:22:27,120 --> 00:22:31,120

just do

633

00:22:29,039 --> 00:22:33,360

what works.

634

00:22:31,120 --> 00:22:34,400

Try and not be bound

635

00:22:33,360 --> 00:22:36,880

636

00:22:34,400 --> 00:22:38,960

by a tradition or a system or a

637

00:22:36,880 --> 00:22:41,280

Mentality.

638

00:22:38,960 --> 00:22:43,039

What would your response be to some

639

00:22:41,280 --> 00:22:44,799

of the sceptics? This could be farmers

640

00:22:43,039 --> 00:22:46,559

either listening to this podcast, farmers

641

00:22:44,799 --> 00:22:48,240

within this area thinking ‘oh

642

00:22:46,559 --> 00:22:50,080

what's going on here, this is never

643

00:22:48,240 --> 00:22:52,000

going to work’? To be honest, the local farmers

644

00:22:50,080 --> 00:22:53,760

have been amazing. They've all come

645

00:22:52,000 --> 00:22:55,520

and said hello and they're excited to

646

00:22:53,760 --> 00:22:57,760

see what's happening.

647

00:22:55,520 --> 00:22:59,200

They've been really good.

648

00:22:57,760 --> 00:23:01,280

649

00:22:59,200 --> 00:23:04,000

650

00:23:01,280 --> 00:23:05,679

I just say educate yourself first,

651

00:23:04,000 --> 00:23:07,840

understand what you're talking

652

00:23:05,679 --> 00:23:10,240

about before making a judgement.

653

00:23:07,840 --> 00:23:12,480

654

00:23:10,240 --> 00:23:14,559

Let's get to the

655

00:23:12,480 --> 00:23:16,159

nitty-gritty of the thing,

656

00:23:14,559 --> 00:23:18,000

what's really happening in agriculture?

657

00:23:16,159 --> 00:23:19,760

What's really happening in the world?

658

00:23:18,000 --> 00:23:22,400

659

00:23:19,760 --> 00:23:23,919

Can we keep going as we are, is the

660

00:23:22,400 --> 00:23:25,039

question?

661

00:23:23,919 --> 00:23:26,960

I'm not going to answer it. I'm

662

00:23:25,039 --> 00:23:27,679

just asking a question.

663

00:23:26,960 --> 00:23:28,880

664

00:23:27,679 --> 00:23:30,640

Clearly you're driven from an

665

00:23:28,880 --> 00:23:32,880

environmental perspective and you've

666

00:23:30,640 --> 00:23:34,880

seen the biodiversity

667

00:23:32,880 --> 00:23:37,039

decline and you want to reverse that, but

668

00:23:34,880 --> 00:23:39,440

you're also driven by the profitability.

669

00:23:37,039 --> 00:23:41,360

This business needs to turn a profit.

670

00:23:39,440 --> 00:23:42,880

Yes, definitely.

671

00:23:41,360 --> 00:23:45,360

672

00:23:42,880 --> 00:23:48,080

I've got no fallback.

673

00:23:45,360 --> 00:23:50,000

I haven’t got an inherited farm or

674

00:23:48,080 --> 00:23:51,760

something I can just cash in or

675

00:23:50,000 --> 00:23:53,200

something. This has got to work.

676

00:23:51,760 --> 00:23:54,640

677

00:23:53,200 --> 00:23:57,039

It's got to work.

678

00:23:54,640 --> 00:23:58,240

I'm betting the

679

00:23:57,039 --> 00:23:59,600

farm on it.

680

00:23:58,240 --> 00:24:01,760

681

00:23:59,600 --> 00:24:03,200

You're lucky as well. You've had a

682

00:24:01,760 --> 00:24:06,000

very long-term agreement but, the

683

00:24:03,200 --> 00:24:09,120

landowner himself also believes in this

684

00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:12,240

and is supporting your direction?

685

00:24:09,120 --> 00:24:14,320

Yes, he's interested

686

00:24:12,240 --> 00:24:16,720

in regenerative agriculture and

687

00:24:14,320 --> 00:24:18,440

he’s just

688

00:24:16,720 --> 00:24:21,440

‘go for it as long as you pay the rent’.

689

00:24:18,440 --> 00:24:22,480

[Laughter]

690

00:24:21,440 --> 00:24:23,520

Do you think this is something that's

691

00:24:22,480 --> 00:24:25,039

going to

692

00:24:23,520 --> 00:24:27,440

pick up in the next couple of years?

693

00:24:25,039 --> 00:24:29,600

Farming in Wales and

694

00:24:27,440 --> 00:24:32,799

in all parts of the UK

695

00:24:29,600 --> 00:24:34,240

by enlarge are facing a

696

00:24:32,799 --> 00:24:36,240

fork in the road. There's

697

00:24:34,240 --> 00:24:38,960

decisions to be made. There's big changes

698

00:24:36,240 --> 00:24:40,400

with support payments. Your ability

699

00:24:38,960 --> 00:24:42,000

to be profitable is going to be key

700

00:24:40,400 --> 00:24:44,720

going forward.

701

00:24:42,000 --> 00:24:46,320

I think profitability is number one.

702

00:24:44,720 --> 00:24:48,640

It's got to be profitable.

703

00:24:46,320 --> 00:24:50,799

I think that the benefits are that it

704

00:24:48,640 --> 00:24:53,279

actually benefits other things.

705

00:24:50,799 --> 00:24:56,240

Your first

706

00:24:53,279 --> 00:24:58,559

707

00:24:56,240 --> 00:25:00,240

responsibility is to your family

708

00:24:58,559 --> 00:25:01,919

and you want to make sure that you

709

00:25:00,240 --> 00:25:05,039

put food on the table. If you can do

710

00:25:01,919 --> 00:25:08,080

that while also helping other things,

711

00:25:05,039 --> 00:25:10,480

712

00:25:08,080 --> 00:25:12,159

and if it works, why not.

713

00:25:10,480 --> 00:25:14,000

One of the questions we're asking

714

00:25:12,159 --> 00:25:18,159

all our guests on the podcast this year

715

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:20,640

is what makes a successful farmer? A lot

716

00:25:18,159 --> 00:25:22,320

of people will be listening and,

717

00:25:20,640 --> 00:25:24,720

rightly so, looking up to you Sam as a

718

00:25:22,320 --> 00:25:26,320

progressive forward-thinking farmer,

719

00:25:24,720 --> 00:25:29,840

but in your opinion, what are

720

00:25:26,320 --> 00:25:32,880

the key attributes that you need

721

00:25:29,840 --> 00:25:35,600

to be a successful farmer these days?

722

00:25:32,880 --> 00:25:35,600

To me,

723

00:25:35,760 --> 00:25:41,360

my definition of success for myself

724

00:25:38,000 --> 00:25:43,440

is to be profitable, to

725

00:25:41,360 --> 00:25:45,200

create a great working environment for

726

00:25:43,440 --> 00:25:48,640

people who work with me,

727

00:25:45,200 --> 00:25:48,640

for them to enjoy what they do

728

00:25:49,039 --> 00:25:52,960

and to make a difference and

729

00:25:51,360 --> 00:25:55,520

have a purpose.

730

00:25:52,960 --> 00:25:57,600

Be true to your values.

731

00:25:55,520 --> 00:25:59,840

I think that's a great way to

732

00:25:57,600 --> 00:26:01,679

conclude the podcast and a great way

733

00:25:59,840 --> 00:26:05,440

to answer that question on what makes a

734

00:26:01,679 --> 00:26:06,960

successful farmer. Sam Carey,

735

00:26:05,440 --> 00:26:10,159

very big thanks for the welcome we've

736

00:26:06,960 --> 00:26:11,760

had here today. All the best with the

737

00:26:10,159 --> 00:26:14,240

enterprise that you're establishing here

738

00:26:11,760 --> 00:26:16,080

at Mathafarn. We've got every confidence

739

00:26:14,240 --> 00:26:17,600

and faith in you and hopefully maybe we

740

00:26:16,080 --> 00:26:20,559

might come back in a few years-time to

741

00:26:17,600 --> 00:26:23,039

see how things are coming along, but

742

00:26:20,559 --> 00:26:26,159

congratulations, good luck, thank you very much,

743

00:26:23,039 --> 00:26:26,159

all the best and good luck.

744

00:26:28,480 --> 00:26:32,080

If you would like more information about

745

00:26:30,240 --> 00:26:34,559

the support available through Farming

746

00:26:32,080 --> 00:26:36,320

Connect, then please contact your local

747

00:26:34,559 --> 00:26:39,440

development officer or the Service

748

00:26:36,320 --> 00:26:41,919

Centre on 08456 000 813.

749

00:26:39,440 --> 00:26:43,679

750

00:26:41,919 --> 00:26:46,320

And there we are, we've reached the end

751

00:26:43,679 --> 00:26:48,320

of yet another episode. We'll be back in

752

00:26:46,320 --> 00:26:50,559

two weeks-time with plenty more to talk

753

00:26:48,320 --> 00:26:52,720

about but, in the meantime, don't forget

754

00:26:50,559 --> 00:26:55,120

to hit subscribe on whichever platform

755

00:26:52,720 --> 00:26:57,600

you use to keep notified of all new

756

00:26:55,120 --> 00:26:59,360

episodes of Ear to the Ground.

757

00:26:57,600 --> 00:27:01,600

On behalf of the team at Farming

758

00:26:59,360 --> 00:27:03,279

Connect and myself Aled Jones, thank you

759

00:27:01,600 --> 00:27:04,360

for listening and goodbye for now.

760

00:27:03,279 --> 00:27:18,380

761

00:27:04,360 --> 00:27:18,380

[Music]

762

00:27:22,399 --> 00:27:24,480