0:00:00.620,0:00:05.150

[Music]

0:00:01.950,0:00:05.150

[Applause]

0:00:09.040,0:00:14.320

Hello, and welcome to episode 42

0:00:11.920,0:00:16.560

of Ear to the Ground, a podcast brought

0:00:14.320,0:00:18.800

to you by Farming Connect.

0:00:16.560,0:00:21.920

Well, it's no surprise that after one of

0:00:18.800,0:00:24.480

the driest and coldest April on record,

0:00:21.920,0:00:26.000

grass yields, on average, are only half of

0:00:24.480,0:00:29.039

what they would be normally

0:00:26.000,0:00:30.960

on beef and sheep farms across Wales.

0:00:29.039,0:00:32.640

While the rain we've had in May has been

0:00:30.960,0:00:35.120

very welcomed indeed,

0:00:32.640,0:00:37.280

extreme weather patterns seem to be a

0:00:35.120,0:00:39.120

reoccurring theme at the moment.

0:00:37.280,0:00:41.280

So, we thought we'd take a closer look at

0:00:39.120,0:00:42.879

this to see how farmers are coping with

0:00:41.280,0:00:45.440

the changing climate,

0:00:42.879,0:00:46.719

and to discuss ways of mitigating any

0:00:45.440,0:00:49.680

forage deficits

0:00:46.719,0:00:50.480

on farms. To do this, I'm joined by Helen

0:00:49.680,0:00:54.640

Mathieu who is an

0:00:50.480,0:00:57.920

Area Sales Manager with Germinal GB.

0:00:54.640,0:00:58.559

Hello everybody. My name's Helen Mathieu and

0:00:57.920,0:01:00.399

I’m

0:00:58.559,0:01:01.920

a forage production and grassland

0:01:00.399,0:01:05.280

management specialist.

0:01:01.920,0:01:07.600

I’ve been in that role for

0:01:05.280,0:01:09.520

nearly 30 years, but for the last 16

0:01:07.600,0:01:12.479

years, I've been employed by

0:01:09.520,0:01:14.159

Germinal, where I am the area manager for

0:01:12.479,0:01:15.439

the agricultural team grass and

0:01:14.159,0:01:17.119

forage seed specialist.

0:01:15.439,0:01:20.320

We have a

0:01:17.119,0:01:22.479

valuable relationship with

0:01:20.320,0:01:24.479

IBERS, the institute within

0:01:22.479,0:01:27.680

Aberystwyth University,

0:01:24.479,0:01:29.840

where we're now conducting researches on

0:01:27.680,0:01:31.280

grass and clovers and so on.

0:01:29.840,0:01:32.640

0:01:31.280,0:01:34.479

We very much specialise in

0:01:32.640,0:01:36.000

grass and forage seed, and we work

0:01:34.479,0:01:37.280

very much at ground level with

0:01:36.000,0:01:39.119

farmers, as well as

0:01:37.280,0:01:40.720

the agricultural merchant

0:01:39.119,0:01:42.960

trade.

0:01:40.720,0:01:44.320

We aim very much to

0:01:42.960,0:01:46.560

understand the challenges

0:01:44.320,0:01:48.880

that farmers are dealing with and

0:01:46.560,0:01:51.200

how that impacts on various systems.

0:01:48.880,0:01:53.200

We like to work with

0:01:51.200,0:01:54.640

farmers and help them set up their own systems,

0:01:53.200,0:01:56.320

cope with their issues

0:01:54.640,0:01:57.439

and

0:01:56.320,0:01:59.920

develop

0:01:57.439,0:02:00.799

from there. Well, thank

0:01:59.920,0:02:02.640

you

0:02:00.799,0:02:04.079

for that introduction, Helen. Thank you once

0:02:02.640,0:02:06.000

again for joining

0:02:04.079,0:02:07.360

the podcast today. As you mentioned,

0:02:06.000,0:02:10.160

you do a lot of work

0:02:07.360,0:02:11.920

at ground level with farmers, and no

0:02:10.160,0:02:14.160

doubt you would have had a number of

0:02:11.920,0:02:15.040

discussions this year about the weather

0:02:14.160,0:02:17.280

and its impact

0:02:15.040,0:02:18.480

on grass growth. I think

0:02:17.280,0:02:21.760

we've had one of the

0:02:18.480,0:02:22.239

coldest and driest April since a number

0:02:21.760,0:02:24.480

of years.

0:02:22.239,0:02:26.560

What's your assessment on the impact

0:02:24.480,0:02:29.520

the weather has had on grass growth or it’s shortage

0:02:26.560,0:02:31.599

this year? Indeed, there has

0:02:29.520,0:02:34.239

been a serious

0:02:31.599,0:02:35.040

shortfall in grass growth this year. The

0:02:34.239,0:02:36.800

0:02:35.040,0:02:38.319

average figures are very low, the lowest they’ve

0:02:36.800,0:02:39.599

been for the last two years, and the last

0:02:38.319,0:02:40.959

two years haven't been particularly

0:02:39.599,0:02:42.959

spectacular.

0:02:40.959,0:02:45.519

We're running roughly at about half the

0:02:42.959,0:02:48.080

average daily growth that we'd expect in

0:02:45.519,0:02:49.840

terms of kg’s of dry matter (DM) on

0:02:48.080,0:02:51.680

beef and sheep farms. I think the most

0:02:49.840,0:02:52.720

recent figures, I was just looking

0:02:51.680,0:02:55.680

at them earlier, but

0:02:52.720,0:02:57.200

on dairy farms, they're

0:02:55.680,0:03:00.239

sort of averaging

0:02:57.200,0:03:00.879

between, well the best are

0:03:00.239,0:03:03.680

averaging between the

0:03:00.879,0:03:04.080

early – mid 40kg/DM. Some of the lower ones,

0:03:03.680,0:03:05.760

where

0:03:04.080,0:03:07.120

they've got more pressure,

0:03:05.760,0:03:09.120

more drought pressure, they're

0:03:07.120,0:03:11.280

running at around 20kg/DM.

0:03:09.120,0:03:12.879

The beef and sheep farms,

0:03:11.280,0:03:13.519

they are typically lower than

0:03:12.879,0:03:15.680

that, but

0:03:13.519,0:03:17.040

they're running at around

0:03:15.680,0:03:19.280

mid 20kg/DM/per day.

0:03:17.040,0:03:20.560

0:03:19.280,0:03:22.800

0:03:20.560,0:03:24.480

You're right to mention about

0:03:22.800,0:03:27.280

soil moisture.

0:03:24.480,0:03:29.120

It’s getting drier.

0:03:27.280,0:03:30.319

Some of the high soil moisture deficits (SMD),

0:03:29.120,0:03:31.440

which I find

0:03:30.319,0:03:33.360

slightly interesting,

0:03:31.440,0:03:35.040

have

0:03:33.360,0:03:36.640

been

0:03:35.040,0:03:40.000

in West Wales.

0:03:36.640,0:03:40.480

We’re measuring those on a scale

0:03:40.000,0:03:43.760

of

0:03:40.480,0:03:46.799

0-200.

0:03:43.760,0:03:47.760

Anything below 10

0:03:46.799,0:03:50.400

0:03:47.760,0:03:51.760

would be when your soil is saturated.

0:03:50.400,0:03:54.959

When soil moisture

0:03:51.760,0:03:55.760

deficits are getting to 60 or 60

0:03:54.959,0:03:57.040

and above,

0:03:55.760,0:03:59.120

that's when we start to get a

0:03:57.040,0:04:01.599

compromising grass growth.

0:03:59.120,0:04:03.599

There are many soils that

0:04:01.599,0:04:04.720

are averaging around the

0:04:03.599,0:04:06.879

40-60.

0:04:04.720,0:04:09.040

It’s not completely critical, but

0:04:06.879,0:04:10.080

soil moisture is definitely an issue,

0:04:09.040,0:04:13.280

as we all know.

0:04:10.080,0:04:14.239

I think one of the biggest issues

0:04:13.280,0:04:16.320

with grass

0:04:14.239,0:04:18.079

growth at the moment is also temperature.

0:04:16.320,0:04:21.040

As you mentioned,

0:04:18.079,0:04:21.680

we can't ignore

0:04:21.040,0:04:24.639

it. Leaf

0:04:21.680,0:04:25.040

emergence, leaf growth is governed

0:04:24.639,0:04:27.759

by

0:04:25.040,0:04:29.360

day length and moisture, as we've

0:04:27.759,0:04:31.360

rightly said, but one of the key drivers

0:04:29.360,0:04:33.919

of leaf emergence is temperature.

0:04:31.360,0:04:35.759

The

0:04:33.919,0:04:38.960

weather has started to break now,

0:04:35.759,0:04:39.680

the rainfall over the last few

0:04:38.960,0:04:42.800

days

0:04:39.680,0:04:44.960

has been welcomed everywhere, but the

0:04:42.800,0:04:46.400

temperature will also need to

0:04:44.960,0:04:47.759

rise. Moisture is going to help. It's

0:04:46.400,0:04:49.440

going to get things moving,

0:04:47.759,0:04:51.040

but

0:04:49.440,0:04:52.560

average source

0:04:51.040,0:04:53.360

temperatures are still between

0:04:52.560,0:04:56.320

6-9°C,

0:04:53.360,0:04:57.840

which isn't enough.

0:04:56.320,0:04:58.479

We need soil temperature to rise

0:04:57.840,0:05:01.120

0:04:58.479,0:05:02.560

to get that vital leaf emergence.

0:05:01.120,0:05:04.560

We need it to allow grass

0:05:02.560,0:05:05.919

to hit its straps.

0:05:04.560,0:05:09.120

Things can change very quickly,

0:05:05.919,0:05:11.039

can't they? Well, we hope they will.

0:05:09.120,0:05:12.720

Yes, and the rain that we've had in

0:05:11.039,0:05:14.960

recent times has been very welcomed

0:05:12.720,0:05:16.960

indeed, but it's been very cold, hasn't it?

0:05:14.960,0:05:18.000

It’s been cold for a long spell, and we've had overnight

0:05:16.960,0:05:19.759

frost, and it's

0:05:18.000,0:05:21.280

the temperature that has possibly

0:05:19.759,0:05:24.240

curtailed the growth

0:05:21.280,0:05:24.560

rather than the moisture deficit.

0:05:24.240,0:05:26.080

0:05:24.560,0:05:27.600

It certainly has

0:05:26.080,0:05:28.639

contributed. Soil

0:05:27.600,0:05:30.320

temperatures,

0:05:28.639,0:05:32.320

they seem to rise relatively quickly.

0:05:30.320,0:05:33.840

0:05:32.320,0:05:35.440

I was looking at soil temperature probes across the UK

0:05:33.840,0:05:37.120

this morning,

0:05:35.440,0:05:38.960

the highest was only 8-9°C,

0:05:37.120,0:05:40.720

and

0:05:38.960,0:05:42.800

that's not

0:05:40.720,0:05:44.880

warm enough.

0:05:42.800,0:05:46.720

Perennial ryegrass will start growing

0:05:44.880,0:05:47.680

at around 5°C, but it needs to

0:05:46.720,0:05:50.320

be warmer than that.

0:05:47.680,0:05:51.680

Legumes and clover growth

0:05:50.320,0:05:52.320

is slow this spring, as people have

0:05:51.680,0:05:54.160

noticed.

0:05:52.320,0:05:56.080

For clover, the temperature needs to be between 7-8°C, and

0:05:54.160,0:05:57.280

they need constantly rising

0:05:56.080,0:05:59.120

temperature as well.

0:05:57.280,0:06:00.479

The ground temperatures aren't

0:05:59.120,0:06:01.199

there, but as you said, we keep getting

0:06:00.479,0:06:03.840

these ground

0:06:01.199,0:06:05.039

frost and that bitterly cold wind which

0:06:03.840,0:06:06.720

is

0:06:05.039,0:06:08.080

causing all that purple

0:06:06.720,0:06:09.360

tipping that people have probably been

0:06:08.080,0:06:12.639

seeing

0:06:09.360,0:06:15.039

on some other grass swords. Is this

0:06:12.639,0:06:15.680

related to the changing climate? We hear

0:06:15.039,0:06:18.080

a lot about

0:06:15.680,0:06:20.560

climate change, and we're experiencing

0:06:18.080,0:06:23.440

ever-increasing extremes;

0:06:20.560,0:06:24.319

dry spells, periods of very

0:06:23.440,0:06:26.080

wet weather

0:06:24.319,0:06:29.520

and all the various temperatures in

0:06:26.080,0:06:32.080

between. Is this part of a trend towards

0:06:29.520,0:06:34.319

more extreme weather patterns?

0:06:32.080,0:06:35.759

It certainly does seem to be.

0:06:34.319,0:06:37.039

Drought is the one that

0:06:35.759,0:06:37.759

we remember the most because

0:06:37.039,0:06:39.840

that's the

0:06:37.759,0:06:41.440

most painful in agriculture.

0:06:39.840,0:06:43.280

We can't grow

0:06:41.440,0:06:46.000

anything if we don't have moisture,

0:06:43.280,0:06:48.400

but if you look back

0:06:46.000,0:06:50.319

over the last 30 years,

0:06:48.400,0:06:52.080

we’ve had more extremes of rain as

0:06:50.319,0:06:53.199

well. The rainfall hasn't

0:06:52.080,0:06:54.720

been less,

0:06:53.199,0:06:56.400

it's just that there's a lot that's come

0:06:54.720,0:06:58.560

in short periods of time.

0:06:56.400,0:07:00.880

We get

0:06:58.560,0:07:03.120

long periods of very dry weather

0:07:00.880,0:07:04.400

or long periods of rain, and we just

0:07:03.120,0:07:05.680

don't quite know when it's

0:07:04.400,0:07:06.880

going to stop, and everything gets

0:07:05.680,0:07:08.720

saturated.

0:07:06.880,0:07:10.000

It does make it very difficult, but it

0:07:08.720,0:07:11.520

is certainly a trend that we've seen in

0:07:10.000,0:07:12.080

agriculture. It makes it very difficult

0:07:11.520,0:07:13.759

to

0:07:12.080,0:07:16.639

grow and manage crops,

0:07:13.759,0:07:18.400

and try and pick the right

0:07:16.639,0:07:20.080

crop and manage

0:07:18.400,0:07:20.479

things effectively to get the most out

0:07:20.080,0:07:23.599

of

0:07:20.479,0:07:26.080

your forages. It

0:07:23.599,0:07:27.919

certainly adds to the challenge.

0:07:26.080,0:07:28.639

We have absolutely no control over the

0:07:27.919,0:07:30.240

weather,

0:07:28.639,0:07:32.160

but at least we do have a degree of

0:07:30.240,0:07:33.840

control over our response

0:07:32.160,0:07:35.840

to it. What are the things

0:07:33.840,0:07:38.720

that farmers can do to try and

0:07:35.840,0:07:40.160

mitigate some of those impacts?

0:07:38.720,0:07:41.759

I think it's important, now it has

0:07:40.160,0:07:43.360

started to rain,

0:07:41.759,0:07:45.120

to make sure

0:07:43.360,0:07:47.039

that we keep walking and measuring.

0:07:45.120,0:07:49.199

A lot of farmers out there are plate metering.

0:07:47.039,0:07:50.879

It’s vital that we keep measuring

0:07:49.199,0:07:52.720

pastures, monitoring the whole platform

0:07:50.879,0:07:55.360

regularly and

0:07:52.720,0:07:56.000

adjusting the size of our paddocks or the grazing

0:07:55.360,0:07:58.000

interval

0:07:56.000,0:07:59.919

and keep on top of

0:07:58.000,0:08:02.639

intakes and utilisation.

0:07:59.919,0:08:03.280

It’s been a telling time as

0:08:02.639,0:08:05.360

well for

0:08:03.280,0:08:07.120

the older pastures that tend to

0:08:05.360,0:08:08.639

wake up slowly,

0:08:07.120,0:08:10.879

and it shows a

0:08:08.639,0:08:13.680

tendency for perhaps the younger leys

0:08:10.879,0:08:14.160

to do more.

0:08:13.680,0:08:15.759

0:08:14.160,0:08:18.319

It’s important to keep on top of

0:08:15.759,0:08:19.280

the measuring, the monitoring, and

0:08:18.319,0:08:22.000

adjusting your

0:08:19.280,0:08:23.039

intake and the size

0:08:22.000,0:08:25.440

of your

0:08:23.039,0:08:26.080

paddocks. It’s a good

0:08:25.440,0:08:28.319

opportunity

0:08:26.080,0:08:29.120

to think about the leys that aren’t

0:08:28.319,0:08:30.479

performing,

0:08:29.120,0:08:31.680

and if they're the older leys,

0:08:30.479,0:08:32.719

to go and have a look at

0:08:31.680,0:08:34.880

them

0:08:32.719,0:08:36.719

and make sure that the swards are in

0:08:34.880,0:08:37.279

good condition in terms of pH, phosphate (P) and

0:08:36.719,0:08:39.839

potassium (K).

0:08:37.279,0:08:42.159

Go and find the fields that aren’t

0:08:39.839,0:08:43.360

performing, and perhaps identify

0:08:42.159,0:08:45.279

those that you can make improvements

0:08:43.360,0:08:47.200

to in order to help cope with

0:08:45.279,0:08:48.880

those conditions. Also, there are

0:08:47.200,0:08:50.720

people that have

0:08:48.880,0:08:51.920

taken an early cut of silage

0:08:50.720,0:08:53.200

with the hope of

0:08:51.920,0:08:56.000

resetting

0:08:53.200,0:08:57.360

swards, and that will perhaps be the

0:08:56.000,0:08:58.880

situation with some grazing farmers

0:08:57.360,0:09:00.399

0:08:58.880,0:09:02.320

if they suddenly get a flush of grass

0:09:00.399,0:09:03.600

that they might not be able to get to, and might take the

0:09:02.320,0:09:06.240

opportunity to

0:09:03.600,0:09:07.760

grab some bales as they have

0:09:06.240,0:09:09.839

started thinking about the winter

0:09:07.760,0:09:12.160

forage situation.

0:09:09.839,0:09:13.200

It’s more

0:09:12.160,0:09:14.880

than

0:09:13.200,0:09:16.720

how we manage it, especially

0:09:14.880,0:09:18.720

while coping with this

0:09:16.720,0:09:20.640

current situation, the shortage of grass.

0:09:18.720,0:09:22.240

In a very short period of time,

0:09:20.640,0:09:23.680

we'll have more grass than we can cope with.

0:09:22.240,0:09:25.680

It’s important that we start thinking

0:09:23.680,0:09:28.080

about ways of managing our grass, looking

0:09:25.680,0:09:30.320

at our whole forage production platform

0:09:28.080,0:09:32.560

and identify areas that we can

0:09:30.320,0:09:34.800

make improvements to.

0:09:32.560,0:09:36.880

Well, that's

0:09:34.800,0:09:39.519

how we'd approach it,

0:09:36.880,0:09:41.519

and people are going to find

0:09:39.519,0:09:42.160

themselves perhaps in a deficit for

0:09:41.519,0:09:44.720

summer. They're

0:09:42.160,0:09:45.760

going to have no summer grazing, or it

0:09:44.720,0:09:47.680

might be autumn,

0:09:45.760,0:09:49.680

or worried about

0:09:47.680,0:09:52.720

the winter silage stock.

0:09:49.680,0:09:53.279

It's time to think

0:09:52.720,0:09:55.519

about that,

0:09:53.279,0:09:56.880

and maybe, start thinking now about how

0:09:55.519,0:09:59.120

you can extend the

0:09:56.880,0:10:00.399

the grazing, either in the autumn or

0:09:59.120,0:10:02.800

how you can

0:10:00.399,0:10:03.920

fill forage gap, or

0:10:02.800,0:10:04.959

if you think we are going to have a

0:10:03.920,0:10:06.560

dry summer,

0:10:04.959,0:10:08.800

you need to graze in the summer. For some

0:10:06.560,0:10:10.959

of those poor performing fields,

0:10:08.800,0:10:12.800

it's an ideal opportunity to think about

0:10:10.959,0:10:15.519

putting in a break crop perhaps,

0:10:12.800,0:10:16.880

which is the fastest growing, the most

0:10:15.519,0:10:18.240

successful and the most

0:10:16.880,0:10:20.480

easiest to graze. Those are the

0:10:18.240,0:10:23.680

brassicas.

0:10:20.480,0:10:26.800

You mentioned the importance

0:10:23.680,0:10:29.920

of measuring grass growth, and that is the key

0:10:26.800,0:10:31.680

isn't it? Identifying trends as

0:10:29.920,0:10:32.000

early as possibly, to try and

0:10:31.680,0:10:33.440

manage

0:10:32.000,0:10:34.880

your grazing, to try and predict when

0:10:33.440,0:10:36.800

you're going to have potential pinch

0:10:34.880,0:10:38.320

points in the year, and those deficits.

0:10:36.800,0:10:38.800

No doubt some farmers have

0:10:38.320,0:10:41.120

already

0:10:38.800,0:10:41.839

encountered deficits this spring with

0:10:41.120,0:10:43.519

the growth, which is,

0:10:41.839,0:10:45.120

as you mentioned, half of

0:10:43.519,0:10:47.200

what they'd expect

0:10:45.120,0:10:48.160

in April on beef and sheep farms in

0:10:47.200,0:10:50.079

Wales.

0:10:48.160,0:10:51.519

Gathering data

0:10:50.079,0:10:53.600

is one of the key

0:10:51.519,0:10:55.279

drivers behind the Welsh Pasture Project,

0:10:53.600,0:10:56.240

which I understand you're involved

0:10:55.279,0:10:58.640

with?

0:10:56.240,0:11:00.240

At IBERS, we

0:10:58.640,0:11:01.760

collect quite a lot, well that is an

0:11:00.240,0:11:02.480

understatement, we collect huge amount

0:11:01.760,0:11:05.120

of grass

0:11:02.480,0:11:06.079

growth data.

0:11:05.120,0:11:07.440

We're discussing

0:11:06.079,0:11:09.279

possibilities that we might be able to

0:11:07.440,0:11:11.120

share some of that going forward.

0:11:09.279,0:11:13.200

I am pleased to be involved

0:11:11.120,0:11:15.360

with it.

0:11:13.200,0:11:16.320

But when farmers are

0:11:15.360,0:11:18.320

measuring grass,

0:11:16.320,0:11:20.160

even if they're not plate metering, even

0:11:18.320,0:11:22.560

if your system tends to

0:11:20.160,0:11:25.279

be more bales or more silage making,

0:11:22.560,0:11:26.800

we encourage farmers to collect that

0:11:25.279,0:11:30.000

data. Whether it's

0:11:26.800,0:11:31.040

counting bales per field, grazing days

0:11:30.000,0:11:33.839

per field

0:11:31.040,0:11:35.040

or silage trailers per field.

0:11:33.839,0:11:36.560

You've got

0:11:35.040,0:11:37.920

an informed decision as well as

0:11:36.560,0:11:40.480

going out and

0:11:37.920,0:11:41.839

looking at some of the fields.

0:11:40.480,0:11:44.399

From what you've sort of seen this

0:11:41.839,0:11:45.760

spring, you look at the data that you've

0:11:44.399,0:11:47.519

collected in terms of

0:11:45.760,0:11:49.279

silage yields from those particular

0:11:47.519,0:11:51.200

fields. It's when you've got that kind of

0:11:49.279,0:11:52.959

data that you can start to make some

0:11:51.200,0:11:54.160

informed decisions about how you manage

0:11:52.959,0:11:54.560

them going forward and which are the

0:11:54.160,0:11:56.800

most

0:11:54.560,0:11:57.920

critical to be improved, and work

0:11:56.800,0:12:00.639

out ways that you can

0:11:57.920,0:12:02.320

perhaps improve them. Are you seeing

0:12:00.639,0:12:05.920

more farmers using

0:12:02.320,0:12:08.720

different software, different apps or

0:12:05.920,0:12:09.279

other online platforms to try

0:12:08.720,0:12:12.079

and give

0:12:09.279,0:12:13.120

them some analysis of the data, to try

0:12:12.079,0:12:15.760

and predict

0:12:13.120,0:12:17.839

feed budgeting? There are,

0:12:15.760,0:12:19.600

indeed. There are

0:12:17.839,0:12:22.000

several projects where

0:12:19.600,0:12:23.839

farmers are asked to use plate meters,

0:12:22.000,0:12:25.680

measure grass and submit data.

0:12:23.839,0:12:27.040

They’re very useful.

0:12:25.680,0:12:29.680

They’re easily found

0:12:27.040,0:12:31.120

on the internet. You can see what

0:12:29.680,0:12:32.800

grass growth is doing.

0:12:31.120,0:12:34.720

There are various projects running in Ireland, there are

0:12:32.800,0:12:37.279

projects running across

0:12:34.720,0:12:38.720

the UK, and indeed, there is a project

0:12:37.279,0:12:39.200

in

0:12:38.720,0:12:41.600

Wales, the Welsh Pasture Project.

0:12:39.200,0:12:43.760

It’s quite easy

0:12:41.600,0:12:44.959

to get onto those and see what

0:12:43.760,0:12:46.399

the average yields are,

0:12:44.959,0:12:48.160

and very often, they're coming with

0:12:46.399,0:12:49.200

recommendations as to how you should be

0:12:48.160,0:12:51.440

managing your grass and

0:12:49.200,0:12:53.120

what

0:12:51.440,0:12:53.519

tactics you should use

0:12:53.120,0:12:56.240

to

0:12:53.519,0:12:56.880

manage it.

0:12:56.240,0:12:58.720

0:12:56.880,0:13:00.399

There is, to back that up,

0:12:58.720,0:13:00.880

modern technology which is very useful; smartphones and so on.

0:13:00.399,0:13:02.959

They

0:13:00.880,0:13:04.399

are very useful to

0:13:02.959,0:13:05.600

the farmers

0:13:04.399,0:13:08.880

who embrace technology.

0:13:05.600,0:13:10.639

There’s

0:13:08.880,0:13:11.839

Agrinet software, and various others.

0:13:10.639,0:13:12.320

I can't think of all their names

0:13:11.839,0:13:14.000

now, but

0:13:12.320,0:13:15.680

there are quite a few platforms which

0:13:14.000,0:13:18.240

are very successfully and

0:13:15.680,0:13:20.240

works well with

0:13:18.240,0:13:23.600

smartphones.

0:13:20.240,0:13:24.959

It’s good to see.

0:13:23.600,0:13:26.800

Do you expect we're going to get

0:13:24.959,0:13:28.959

some compensatory growth now,

0:13:26.800,0:13:30.800

as temperature rises? It's

0:13:28.959,0:13:32.560

been such a slow spring

0:13:30.800,0:13:34.000

so far. Do you think there's going to be

0:13:32.560,0:13:36.079

a surge in growth?

0:13:34.000,0:13:38.560

Potentially, we can have the opposite

0:13:36.079,0:13:39.199

of deficit. We can have an over-supply.

0:13:38.560,0:13:40.880

0:13:39.199,0:13:43.360

There's going to be an oversupply at

0:13:40.880,0:13:45.360

some point.

0:13:43.360,0:13:46.639

It could be one of those strange

0:13:45.360,0:13:48.880

years,

0:13:46.639,0:13:50.720

but normally, with the natural

0:13:48.880,0:13:52.639

grass growth curve,

0:13:50.720,0:13:55.440

well by now, grass should have hit its

0:13:52.639,0:13:57.360

straps before fading

0:13:55.440,0:13:58.480

off a little, so it looks

0:13:57.360,0:14:01.600

like

0:13:58.480,0:14:02.959

an ‘m’, doesn't it? By the middle of May,

0:14:01.600,0:14:04.399

somewhere around there, or even earlier,

0:14:02.959,0:14:05.199

grass should hit its peak before a slight

0:14:04.399,0:14:07.360

trough

0:14:05.199,0:14:09.279

in the summer, and then it should pick

0:14:07.360,0:14:10.240

up again by the end of July, and then

0:14:09.279,0:14:12.240

there’s a

0:14:10.240,0:14:14.240

more rounded, a lower peak for the

0:14:12.240,0:14:16.079

rest of the year. Then, depending

0:14:14.240,0:14:17.279

on the conditions, grass can keep growing.

0:14:16.079,0:14:18.560

As we saw last year, grass was

0:14:17.279,0:14:20.560

slightly more difficult to grow

0:14:18.560,0:14:22.880

because of the very wet weather.

0:14:20.560,0:14:23.920

Looking at some figures from

0:14:22.880,0:14:26.320

last autumn,

0:14:23.920,0:14:27.360

we were growing 50-60kg/DM/day

0:14:26.320,0:14:30.560

in

0:14:27.360,0:14:32.079

October last year. Then,

0:14:30.560,0:14:33.600

it got very wet and

0:14:32.079,0:14:35.680

colder this year, so it

0:14:33.600,0:14:37.040

has dropped right down. We could have one of

0:14:35.680,0:14:40.160

those years that instead of

0:14:37.040,0:14:42.320

seeing that ‘m'

0:14:40.160,0:14:43.920

on the natural grass growth curve, where

0:14:42.320,0:14:45.680

grass reaches a good level before

0:14:43.920,0:14:47.519

wobbling

0:14:45.680,0:14:49.519

up and down, we get

0:14:47.519,0:14:50.880

fairly average figures.

0:14:49.519,0:14:52.880

The figures that we might be looking

0:14:50.880,0:14:55.600

for across the rest of the season, well

0:14:52.880,0:14:57.760

it's very difficult to say. We

0:14:55.600,0:15:00.000

don't know, but the pattern

0:14:57.760,0:15:01.440

within the last or some of the

0:15:00.000,0:15:03.600

recent years has been for

0:15:01.440,0:15:05.199

it to start raining in June. We

0:15:03.600,0:15:06.880

might get another dry period. We

0:15:05.199,0:15:09.519

had quite a dry September

0:15:06.880,0:15:10.160

last year, and then it became very wet

0:15:09.519,0:15:13.440

again.

0:15:10.160,0:15:15.279

0:15:13.440,0:15:16.720

That could well be the sort of

0:15:15.279,0:15:18.399

pattern for this year. I must say,

0:15:16.720,0:15:20.079

regions do vary,

0:15:18.399,0:15:22.639

depending on

0:15:20.079,0:15:24.639

the location. I was

0:15:22.639,0:15:26.000

driving home yesterday from Ludlow. The temperature

0:15:24.639,0:15:29.360

went from 9°C

0:15:26.000,0:15:32.399

to 3°C within a mile.

0:15:29.360,0:15:34.959

The sun was shining and it was dry,

0:15:32.399,0:15:36.320

then a mile up the road, there were

0:15:34.959,0:15:37.040

hailstones and it was black and

0:15:36.320,0:15:39.519

0:15:37.040,0:15:41.600

very wet. We tend to get short

0:15:39.519,0:15:42.800

spells of dry weather, don't we?

0:15:41.600,0:15:44.720

There can be a

0:15:42.800,0:15:46.880

variation within

0:15:44.720,0:15:48.560

smaller territories

0:15:46.880,0:15:51.120

almost. Yes, absolutely.

0:15:48.560,0:15:53.759

Those variations certainly make a

0:15:51.120,0:15:55.360

huge difference, and it's always

0:15:53.759,0:15:56.800

quite striking sometimes how

0:15:55.360,0:15:58.000

different things can change

0:15:56.800,0:16:00.959

within a few miles.

0:15:58.000,0:16:02.560

In terms of trying to

0:16:00.959,0:16:03.839

address any forage gaps, and

0:16:02.560,0:16:05.199

I know you mentioned this and touched

0:16:03.839,0:16:05.839

upon it previously, but what other

0:16:05.199,0:16:07.279

species

0:16:05.839,0:16:09.199

would you recommend farmers

0:16:07.279,0:16:12.399

to consider?

0:16:09.199,0:16:14.079

I think farmers should look at ways of

0:16:12.399,0:16:16.160

growing more grass when we get a year

0:16:14.079,0:16:19.199

similar to this.

0:16:16.160,0:16:20.000

They should start

0:16:19.199,0:16:22.480

thinking about

0:16:20.000,0:16:24.160

ways of improving pastures and whether

0:16:22.480,0:16:25.680

there is a need to fill short-term gaps, whether

0:16:24.160,0:16:27.040

that's in the summer

0:16:25.680,0:16:28.720

if you know you’re not going

0:16:27.040,0:16:30.399

to have a lot of grazing forage.

0:16:28.720,0:16:33.040

0:16:30.399,0:16:35.839

It's an ideal opportunity to use

0:16:33.040,0:16:36.240

brassicas. Swards that are failing now,

0:16:35.839,0:16:37.839

0:16:36.240,0:16:39.440

it’s important to start thinking about

0:16:37.839,0:16:42.480

taking them out of production.

0:16:39.440,0:16:43.839

You might be burning them

0:16:42.480,0:16:45.600

off. Then, consider direct drilling with a

0:16:43.839,0:16:48.000

brassica, which, within another

0:16:45.600,0:16:49.040

10 weeks, could take us to

0:16:48.000,0:16:52.320

0:16:49.040,0:16:52.639

early July, and then you'd have

0:16:52.320,0:16:54.480

0:16:52.639,0:16:56.399

something you could graze on.

0:16:54.480,0:16:58.560

The benefit with that sort of

0:16:56.399,0:17:00.079

thing is that those crops tend to

0:16:58.560,0:17:01.839

be, when they are established,

0:17:00.079,0:17:02.560

more drought tolerant.

0:17:01.839,0:17:04.559

They don't

0:17:02.560,0:17:05.919

dry up and stop growing

0:17:04.559,0:17:09.360

as grass will do

0:17:05.919,0:17:11.039

in the summer.

0:17:09.360,0:17:12.480

Those break crops are also going to give you

0:17:11.039,0:17:16.160

an ideal introduction

0:17:12.480,0:17:18.559

to a new ley. You could

0:17:16.160,0:17:20.079

pick your brassica to grow, whether

0:17:18.559,0:17:21.439

you're looking for a summer gap,

0:17:20.079,0:17:23.199

looking for an autumn

0:17:21.439,0:17:24.000

or a winter gap. You can start

0:17:23.199,0:17:25.679

growing

0:17:24.000,0:17:28.160

brassicas once the soil temperatures

0:17:25.679,0:17:29.120

reach 9-10°C and

0:17:28.160,0:17:30.720

rising.

0:17:29.120,0:17:32.240

It's cold enough now for

0:17:30.720,0:17:33.679

brassicas, but in a few weeks,

0:17:32.240,0:17:35.840

you could start drilling, whether

0:17:33.679,0:17:37.440

it's a short-term

0:17:35.840,0:17:38.559

brassica, a catch crop or

0:17:37.440,0:17:40.480

whether you're trying to extend the

0:17:38.559,0:17:41.360

grazing into autumn and winter.

0:17:40.480,0:17:44.640

Obviously,

0:17:41.360,0:17:46.799

there are many acres of swedes

0:17:44.640,0:17:49.039

and kale grown in Wales

0:17:46.799,0:17:50.640

for out wintering sheep,

0:17:49.039,0:17:52.720

and cattle, to a certain extent.

0:17:50.640,0:17:55.840

It’s the ideal

0:17:52.720,0:17:57.280

crop to

0:17:55.840,0:17:59.039

move around the farm. Obviously, you can’t

0:17:57.280,0:18:00.720

keep putting them in the same field,

0:17:59.039,0:18:02.480

but when we get a year like this one and

0:18:00.720,0:18:06.000

if we know there's going to be a lot of

0:18:02.480,0:18:07.360

pressure on silage stocks for the winter,

0:18:06.000,0:18:08.720

we might want

0:18:07.360,0:18:10.559

to leave animals out for as long as possible,

0:18:08.720,0:18:12.960

depending on weather conditions of course.

0:18:10.559,0:18:14.960

It's a good time

0:18:12.960,0:18:18.000

to start choosing those fields,

0:18:14.960,0:18:18.720

choosing the ones

0:18:18.000,0:18:21.200

0:18:18.720,0:18:22.799

that will

0:18:21.200,0:18:24.160

tolerate stock perhaps in autumn, and

0:18:22.799,0:18:26.320

thinking of ways that you can improve them and

0:18:24.160,0:18:29.600

what sort of brassica you can put in there

0:18:26.320,0:18:31.280

for out wintering or autumn

0:18:29.600,0:18:33.360

feeding.

0:18:31.280,0:18:35.200

Does that help with soil health

0:18:33.360,0:18:38.480

as well? Does it improve

0:18:35.200,0:18:41.200

the soil quality, changing the

0:18:38.480,0:18:42.160

the crops around from time to time? Yes,

0:18:41.200,0:18:44.640

very much.

0:18:42.160,0:18:47.120

Well grass to grass

0:18:44.640,0:18:48.880

can be quite difficult

0:18:47.120,0:18:50.799

to reseed, as everybody knows, because of

0:18:48.880,0:18:51.760

soil pest and all those sorts

0:18:50.799,0:18:54.080

of things that

0:18:51.760,0:18:56.080

we have no control of, only

0:18:54.080,0:18:57.679

cultural control, such as break

0:18:56.080,0:19:00.799

crops.

0:18:57.679,0:19:02.400

Brassicas do seem to work very well

0:19:00.799,0:19:04.400

in grassland. We can graze them, which is

0:19:02.400,0:19:06.720

another benefit, but they do

0:19:04.400,0:19:08.640

also improve soil quality.

0:19:06.720,0:19:10.400

They create shade

0:19:08.640,0:19:12.240

over the ground. We find that the soil

0:19:10.400,0:19:13.360

underneath is quite moist. We always find

0:19:12.240,0:19:14.799

that there are a lot of

0:19:13.360,0:19:16.799

worms and things like that, a

0:19:14.799,0:19:17.440

lot of worm activity within the soil around

0:19:16.799,0:19:20.000

them.

0:19:17.440,0:19:22.160

It also breaks the cycle of some of

0:19:20.000,0:19:24.160

the soil pest like leatherjackets.

0:19:22.160,0:19:25.440

You're going to get that chain

0:19:24.160,0:19:27.440

to disappear,

0:19:25.440,0:19:28.640

and then, you

0:19:27.440,0:19:30.080

haven't got that thick grass in

0:19:28.640,0:19:33.039

September, which is when

0:19:30.080,0:19:35.039

daddy long legs lays

0:19:33.039,0:19:36.720

eggs for the leatherjackets.

0:19:35.039,0:19:38.799

0:19:36.720,0:19:40.640

0:19:38.799,0:19:41.919

The brassicas do, despite the fact that

0:19:40.640,0:19:43.600

they are a short-term crop,

0:19:41.919,0:19:45.120

absorb

0:19:43.600,0:19:46.240

nutrients slightly differently from

0:19:45.120,0:19:48.720

the soil.

0:19:46.240,0:19:50.320

They do have an impact on

0:19:48.720,0:19:52.480

soil quality.

0:19:50.320,0:19:53.440

Once we've grazed that brassica,

0:19:52.480,0:19:55.280

we have

0:19:53.440,0:19:57.039

quite a nice tilth. We've got quite a

0:19:55.280,0:19:59.200

nice seed bed which is

0:19:57.039,0:20:00.640

ready to go straight into

0:19:59.200,0:20:01.679

the following crop with very

0:20:00.640,0:20:03.520

minimal

0:20:01.679,0:20:05.600

cultivations. You can

0:20:03.520,0:20:06.480

virtually go across it straight away,

0:20:05.600,0:20:08.080

0:20:06.480,0:20:10.080

level it and put a drill on it.

0:20:08.080,0:20:12.159

You don't need to plough

0:20:10.080,0:20:14.880

after brassica.

0:20:12.159,0:20:16.159

It's a good break crop

0:20:14.880,0:20:19.919

to use without having to

0:20:16.159,0:20:21.120

turn that soil over.

0:20:19.919,0:20:22.559

We’ve

0:20:21.120,0:20:24.799

been talking about using

0:20:22.559,0:20:26.240

break crops to boost production

0:20:24.799,0:20:28.880

and extend grazing,

0:20:26.240,0:20:29.520

but the other option after using a

0:20:28.880,0:20:31.840

break crop

0:20:29.520,0:20:33.840

is to think about

0:20:31.840,0:20:34.720

other species

0:20:33.840,0:20:36.400

that can help with

0:20:34.720,0:20:38.000

mitigating some of the variation that

0:20:36.400,0:20:38.799

we're seeing in the weather

0:20:38.000,0:20:41.840

pattern.

0:20:38.799,0:20:42.480

The two obvious ones

0:20:41.840,0:20:44.640

are

0:20:42.480,0:20:46.400

diverse, more herbal leys, such

0:20:44.640,0:20:48.960

as legumes and herbs.

0:20:46.400,0:20:49.919

The legumes, so red clover and

0:20:48.960,0:20:52.799

white clover,

0:20:49.919,0:20:54.080

are particularly well known for the

0:20:52.799,0:20:56.480

benefits that they bring

0:20:54.080,0:20:57.440

in terms of nitrogen, fixing

0:20:56.480,0:20:59.520

and helping

0:20:57.440,0:21:01.120

to build soil fertility. They're more

0:20:59.520,0:21:02.799

productive in a drought. Things like

0:21:01.120,0:21:03.919

these multi-species leys with

0:21:02.799,0:21:05.440

legumes and herbs,

0:21:03.919,0:21:07.120

where you can use those in the

0:21:05.440,0:21:08.240

rotation, you don't want them in

0:21:07.120,0:21:10.240

every field, but there are a lot of

0:21:08.240,0:21:13.840

benefits to be had from them.

0:21:10.240,0:21:15.679

Try to use break crops to reseed.

0:21:13.840,0:21:17.440

The key message is to keep monitoring

0:21:15.679,0:21:18.400

and measuring your grassland, keep

0:21:17.440,0:21:20.559

0:21:18.400,0:21:21.600

soil testing every three to four

0:21:20.559,0:21:24.159

years and

0:21:21.600,0:21:25.600

introduce new crops,

0:21:24.159,0:21:26.080

break crops and make sure that

0:21:25.600,0:21:29.120

you've got an

0:21:26.080,0:21:31.679

area of multi-species perhaps and

0:21:29.120,0:21:33.520

use more legumes.

0:21:31.679,0:21:36.640

You're reducing

0:21:33.520,0:21:37.919

your requirement for bought-in nitrogen.

0:21:36.640,0:21:39.919

You're going to enhance soil

0:21:37.919,0:21:43.039

fertility, and some of those

0:21:39.919,0:21:46.400

legumes and herbs have

0:21:43.039,0:21:48.640

flowering heads on them, and they will

0:21:46.400,0:21:49.440

attract all insects and pollinators, which allows you

0:21:48.640,0:21:51.840

to be

0:21:49.440,0:21:53.280

more in control and

0:21:51.840,0:21:54.080

manage your

0:21:53.280,0:21:56.880

forage.

0:21:54.080,0:21:58.080

You are more

0:21:56.880,0:22:00.240

in control of your own

0:21:58.080,0:22:01.919

destiny. You’re looking at ways

0:22:00.240,0:22:04.159

to improve your output, but also

0:22:01.919,0:22:05.360

the quality of that output, that forage

0:22:04.159,0:22:07.120

yield and

0:22:05.360,0:22:08.240

how you're going to utilise it.

0:22:07.120,0:22:09.600

We are not trying to grow it for

0:22:08.240,0:22:12.240

the sake of growing it,

0:22:09.600,0:22:13.280

we're trying to grow it to reduce our

0:22:12.240,0:22:16.400

dependence on

0:22:13.280,0:22:19.280

purchased feed,

0:22:16.400,0:22:19.600

reduce the

0:22:19.280,0:22:21.360

0:22:19.600,0:22:23.360

dependence on bought-in feed, but they're

0:22:21.360,0:22:25.039

much better for the soil.

0:22:23.360,0:22:26.559

They're much better for the environment

0:22:25.039,0:22:27.440

and we can produce very good

0:22:26.559,0:22:29.679

quality

0:22:27.440,0:22:31.360

forage quite cheaply if we can get that

0:22:29.679,0:22:32.720

sort of rotation going. Also, it’s important to use some of

0:22:31.360,0:22:36.000

that diversity

0:22:32.720,0:22:38.080

of species to ultimately boost

0:22:36.000,0:22:39.840

outputs.

0:22:38.080,0:22:41.679

Those are very important points,

0:22:39.840,0:22:44.080

points that we've touched upon in many

0:22:41.679,0:22:44.799

episodes,

0:22:44.080,0:22:46.480

and it’s

0:22:44.799,0:22:48.640

the importance of efficiency, isn't it?

0:22:46.480,0:22:49.280

Making the best use of the resources

0:22:48.640,0:22:51.840

available on farm

0:22:49.280,0:22:52.960

and making sure that we can reduce

0:22:51.840,0:22:54.640

reliance on

0:22:52.960,0:22:57.200

potentially supplementary feed and

0:22:54.640,0:22:57.840

fertiliser by boosting performance and

0:22:57.200,0:22:59.679

soil health,

0:22:57.840,0:23:01.039

and indeed, grass growth. Some of the

0:22:59.679,0:23:04.080

points that you made there

0:23:01.039,0:23:06.320

are very important,

0:23:04.080,0:23:08.080

but before we wrap up,

0:23:06.320,0:23:11.520

as you're aware, we are asking

0:23:08.080,0:23:12.400

a final parting question to all our

0:23:11.520,0:23:14.880

guests.

0:23:12.400,0:23:15.840

In your opinion, what makes a

0:23:14.880,0:23:19.360

successful

0:23:15.840,0:23:20.880

farmer? It’s an interesting

0:23:19.360,0:23:22.480

one, but I

0:23:20.880,0:23:24.320

think success, well

0:23:22.480,0:23:25.760

they know what success looks

0:23:24.320,0:23:27.120

like for them

0:23:25.760,0:23:29.200

and that's based on their family and

0:23:27.120,0:23:30.640

their lifestyle.

0:23:29.200,0:23:32.480

Importantly, the first point

0:23:30.640,0:23:34.480

I would say is that the

0:23:32.480,0:23:36.159

successful farmers that we see,

0:23:34.480,0:23:37.760

they have a focus and they have a very

0:23:36.159,0:23:40.799

clear idea

0:23:37.760,0:23:42.400

or objective of what and how

0:23:40.799,0:23:43.600

they're going to farm. Whether that is

0:23:42.400,0:23:45.440

milking a

0:23:43.600,0:23:46.640

thousand cows on

0:23:45.440,0:23:51.120

whatever system,

0:23:46.640,0:23:53.120

or aiming to reach 500kg of lamb liveweight/ha.

0:23:51.120,0:23:54.960

0:23:53.120,0:23:56.799

Whatever their choices might be,

0:23:54.960,0:23:58.240

it's in balance, in harmony with

0:23:56.799,0:24:00.240

their land, environment and their

0:23:58.240,0:24:01.200

soil type. They’ve got a clear focus

0:24:00.240,0:24:02.400

on what they're trying to achieve.

0:24:01.200,0:24:05.279

They've got clear goals.

0:24:02.400,0:24:06.720

They understand

0:24:05.279,0:24:09.760

the parameters

0:24:06.720,0:24:10.559

that influence profitability,

0:24:09.760,0:24:12.480

and what

0:24:10.559,0:24:13.679

the profit drivers

0:24:12.480,0:24:16.320

are of that system.

0:24:13.679,0:24:18.080

They

0:24:16.320,0:24:18.799

are measuring which enables them

0:24:18.080,0:24:21.279

to

0:24:18.799,0:24:23.200

make informed decisions,

0:24:21.279,0:24:24.720

and they pay attention to

0:24:23.200,0:24:26.159

detail.

0:24:24.720,0:24:28.000

Also, they are, which has been a

0:24:26.159,0:24:31.039

little theme to this podcast

0:24:28.000,0:24:32.000

today, in

0:24:31.039,0:24:34.159

control of

0:24:32.000,0:24:35.520

their feed production which is a big

0:24:34.159,0:24:38.000

emphasis on

0:24:35.520,0:24:39.039

home-grown and well-utilised

0:24:38.000,0:24:42.000

forages.

0:24:39.039,0:24:42.880

Those farmers that we come

0:24:42.000,0:24:45.279

across, they all

0:24:42.880,0:24:46.080

grow and utilise very

0:24:45.279,0:24:48.159

high quantity

0:24:46.080,0:24:49.360

of homegrown feed.

0:24:48.159,0:24:51.039

That's one of the

0:24:49.360,0:24:52.720

the most enjoyable things about the work

0:24:51.039,0:24:54.559

that we do

0:24:52.720,0:24:56.080

as Germinal, seeing farmers

0:24:54.559,0:24:57.679

go on a

0:24:56.080,0:25:00.000

journey

0:24:57.679,0:25:00.960

and seeing them

0:25:00.000,0:25:02.720

develop over

0:25:00.960,0:25:04.480

time and become very successful

0:25:02.720,0:25:06.799

farmers.

0:25:04.480,0:25:07.919

Well, Helen, thank you ever so much for

0:25:06.799,0:25:09.440

joining us today.

0:25:07.919,0:25:10.960

There's one thing that

0:25:09.440,0:25:13.279

Welsh farmers do well and that is

0:25:10.960,0:25:14.960

growing grass. I know that the

0:25:13.279,0:25:15.679

weather does throw the occasional

0:25:14.960,0:25:18.080

challenge,

0:25:15.679,0:25:20.159

but on the whole, Welsh

0:25:18.080,0:25:21.120

farmers are very skilled in the ability

0:25:20.159,0:25:22.720

to grow grass,

0:25:21.120,0:25:24.559

and certainly, there's a lot of

0:25:22.720,0:25:25.919

discussion, a lot of focus around how we

0:25:24.559,0:25:28.720

manage it and how we

0:25:25.919,0:25:29.279

make the most of cost

0:25:28.720,0:25:31.760

efficient

0:25:29.279,0:25:32.400

feed that any farm can produce

0:25:31.760,0:25:34.640

itself.

0:25:32.400,0:25:36.159

Helen, thank you for sharing the last

0:25:34.640,0:25:38.240

half an hour with us, and for sharing some of

0:25:36.159,0:25:39.840

your wisdom and your insights.

0:25:38.240,0:25:41.679

It has been a very valuable

0:25:39.840,0:25:43.760

podcast. Thank you very

0:25:41.679,0:25:45.120

much for your time.

0:25:43.760,0:25:48.159

It’s been a pleasure. Thank you, Aled.

0:25:45.120,0:25:49.919

If you would like further information

0:25:48.159,0:25:50.880

on the support available through

0:25:49.919,0:25:52.720

Farming Connect,

0:25:50.880,0:25:54.559

contact your local

0:25:52.720,0:25:55.120

development officer or the Service

0:25:54.559,0:25:58.080

Centre

0:25:55.120,0:25:58.559

on 08456 000 813.

0:25:58.080,0:26:01.440

0:25:58.559,0:26:03.600

We've reached

0:26:01.440,0:26:05.360

the end of yet another episode.

0:26:03.600,0:26:07.120

We'll be back in two weeks-time with

0:26:05.360,0:26:09.120

plenty more to talk about,

0:26:07.120,0:26:11.679

but in the meantime, don't forget to hit

0:26:09.120,0:26:14.080

the subscribe button on whichever platform

0:26:11.679,0:26:15.760

to keep notified of all new

0:26:14.080,0:26:17.520

Ear to the Ground episodes.

0:26:15.760,0:26:19.440

On behalf of the team at Farming

0:26:17.520,0:26:21.120

Connect, I, Aled Jones

0:26:19.440,0:26:25.840

would like to thank you for listening, and goodbye for

0:26:21.120,0:26:25.840

now.

0:26:29.630,0:26:37.130

[Music]

0:26:39.760,0:26:41.840