



COLBOURNE FARMING

CASE STUDY: ORGANIC DAIRY PRODUCTION



Regenerative Farming Can Save the World

But farmers aren't paid enough to be superheroes



So it's a good thing that what is good for the planet is also good for farmers bottom line

What has changed?

Conventional

- 1,100 cows
- 550kg cow
- 100 ha maize silage
- Maize at SAFEX
- 120 ha heifer platform
- Feeding 275g/litre
- Importing lots of feed

Organic

- 700 cows
- 500kg cow
- 50 ha maize silage
- Maize at SAFEX x 2.1
- 220 ha heifer and grass silage platform
- Feeding 125g/litre
- Importing very little feed
- Cows each consuming 17.5kg grass per day



What did it mean for us?

▶ Pasture

- ▶ No synthetic chemicals
- ▶ No synthetic fertilizers
- ▶ No GMO seed

▶ Cows

- ▶ No blanket antibiotics
- ▶ Limit on antibiotic treatments
- ▶ Organic Feed





How?

- ▶ How do we grow crops without synthetic inputs?
- ▶ How do we deal with weeds, pests, disease?
- ▶ How do we cater for crops nutritionally?
- ▶ How do we raise calves without powdered milk?
- ▶ How do we look after our animals with the strict limits on antibiotics?
- ▶ Where do we start?

Regenerate 2020



Regenerative vs Organic

► Regenerative

Focuses on ecological outcomes in order to create a more resilient system unreliant on external inputs which in turn means a sustainable enterprise both economically and environmentally

► Organic

Is a practice of the cultivation of crops and rearing of animals without the use of any synthetic farm inputs such as fertilizer and pesticides

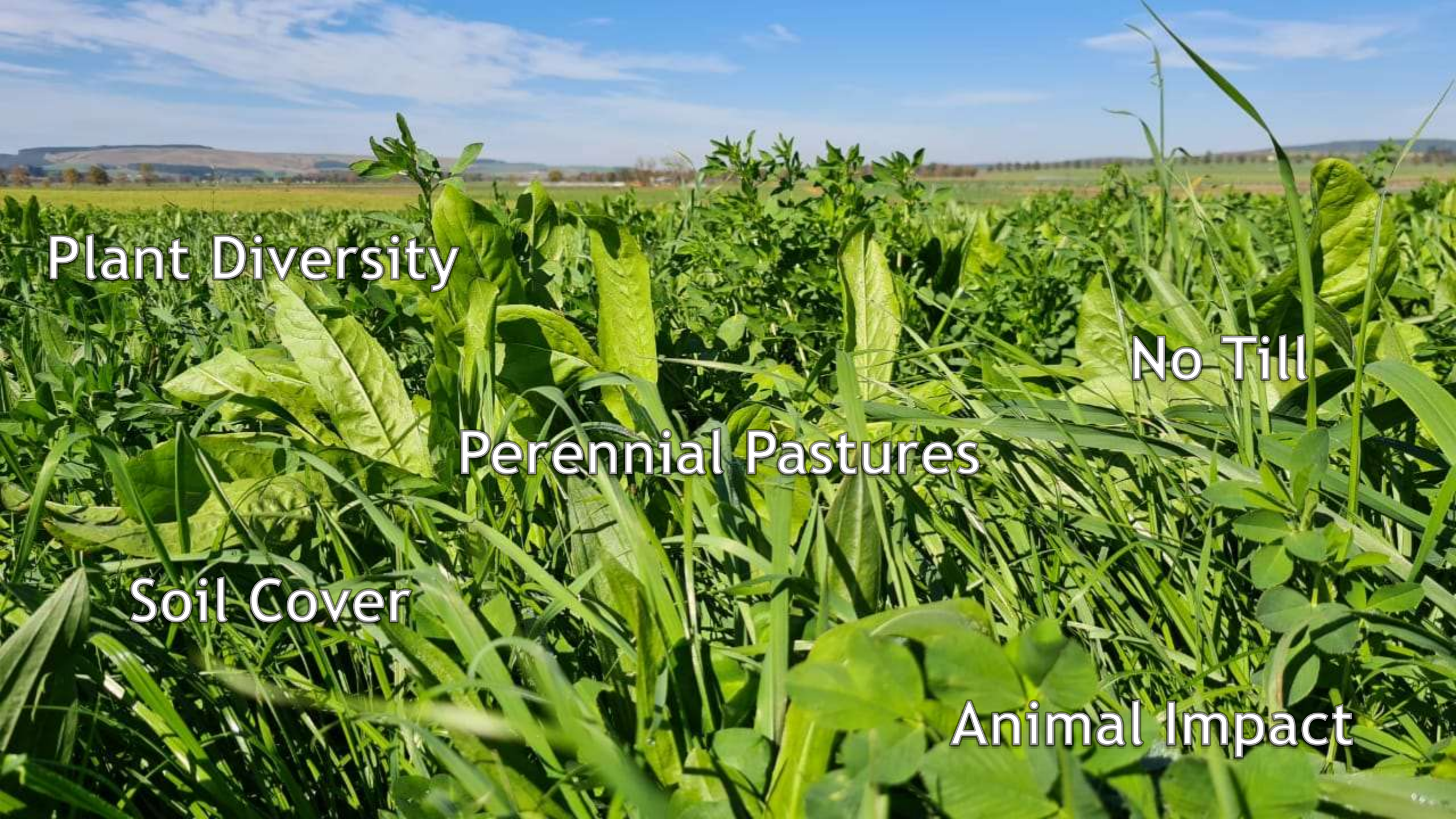


Regenerative Organic Farming

- ▶ Is the best of both worlds, excluding synthetic inputs and focusing on ecological outcomes

6 Core Principles of **REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE**





Plant Diversity

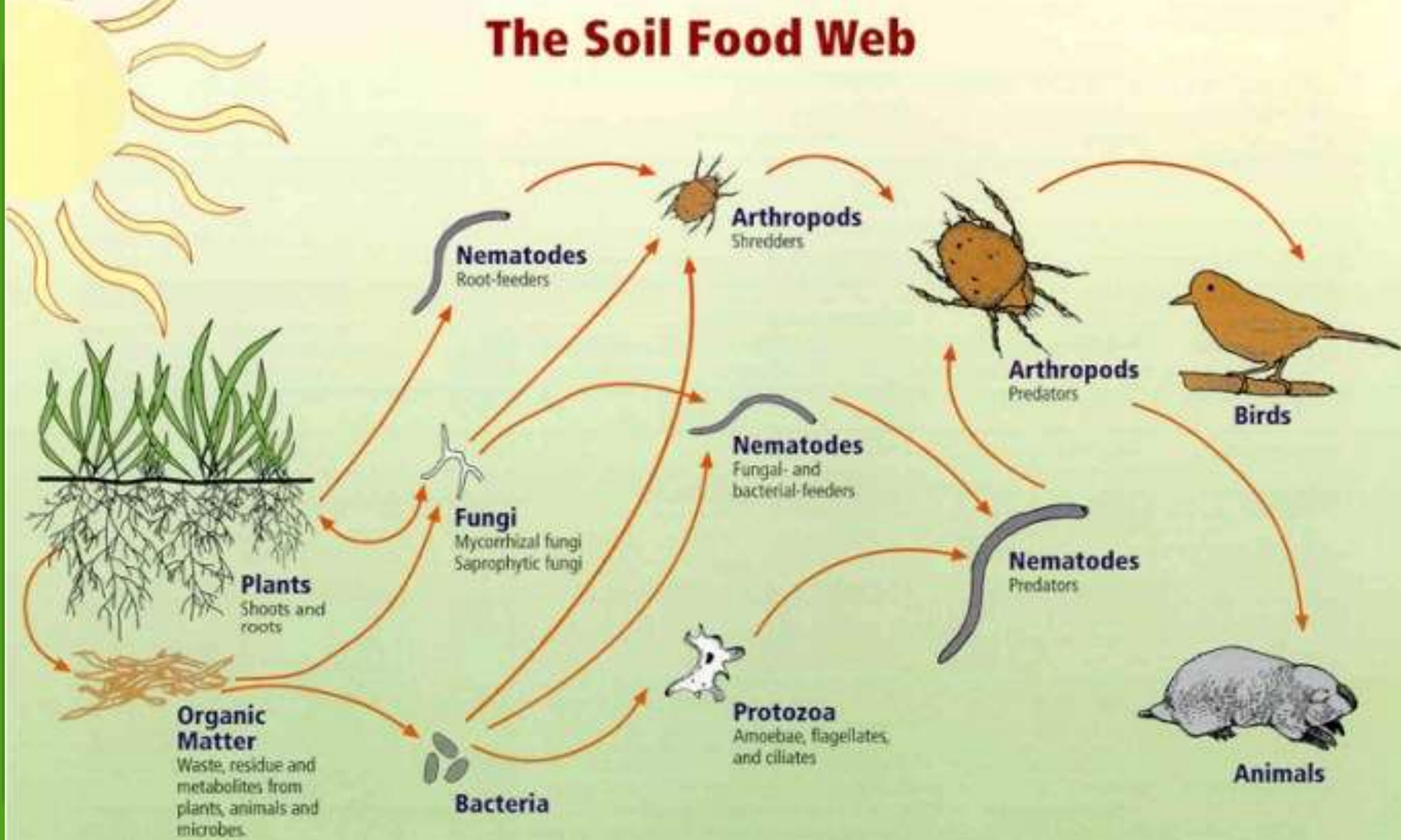
No Till

Perennial Pastures

Soil Cover

Animal Impact

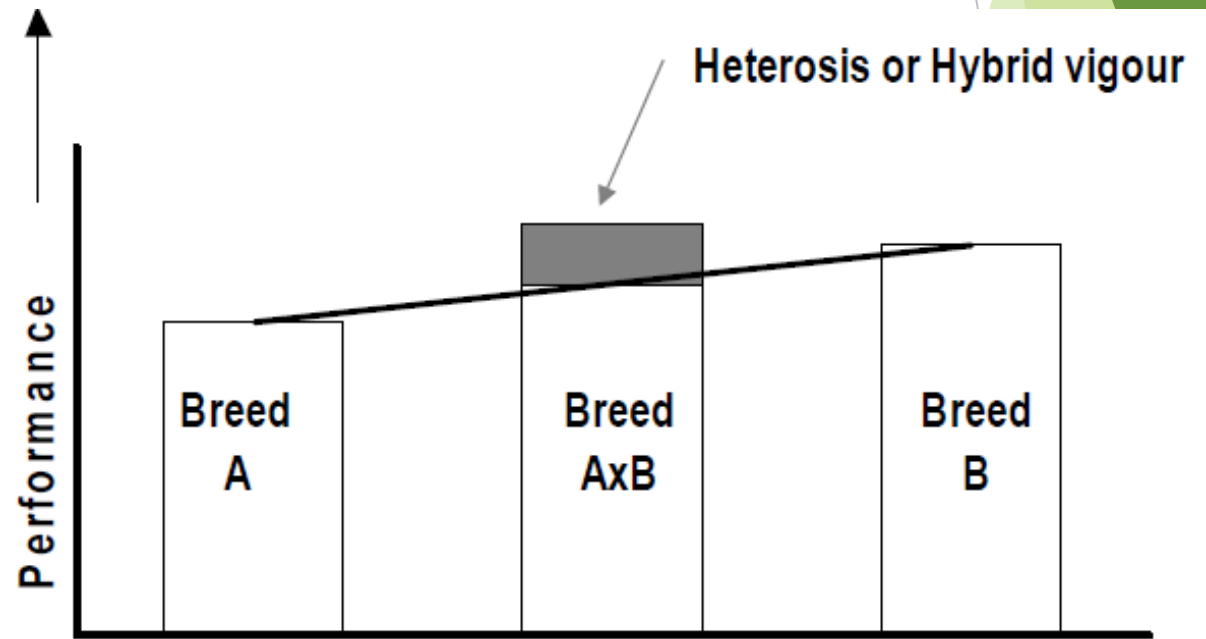
The Soil Food Web



Cows

Prevention is better than cure

- ▶ Strict Hygiene
- ▶ Rigorous Vaccination Program
- ▶ Employ Technology
- ▶ Crossbreeding



Farm Profit

	HF	J	JX	NR	NRX
Labour cost (€)	27,760	32,811	28,463	29,005	28,230
Replacement costs (€)	38,904	45,982	26,935	27,447	26,715
Total costs (€)	149,852	160,796	132,700	132,700	132,268
Livestock sales (€)	28,675	1,674	20,000	20,000	401
Profit Farm (€)	37,499	28,423	55,678	43,615	50,356

+€18k

+€13k

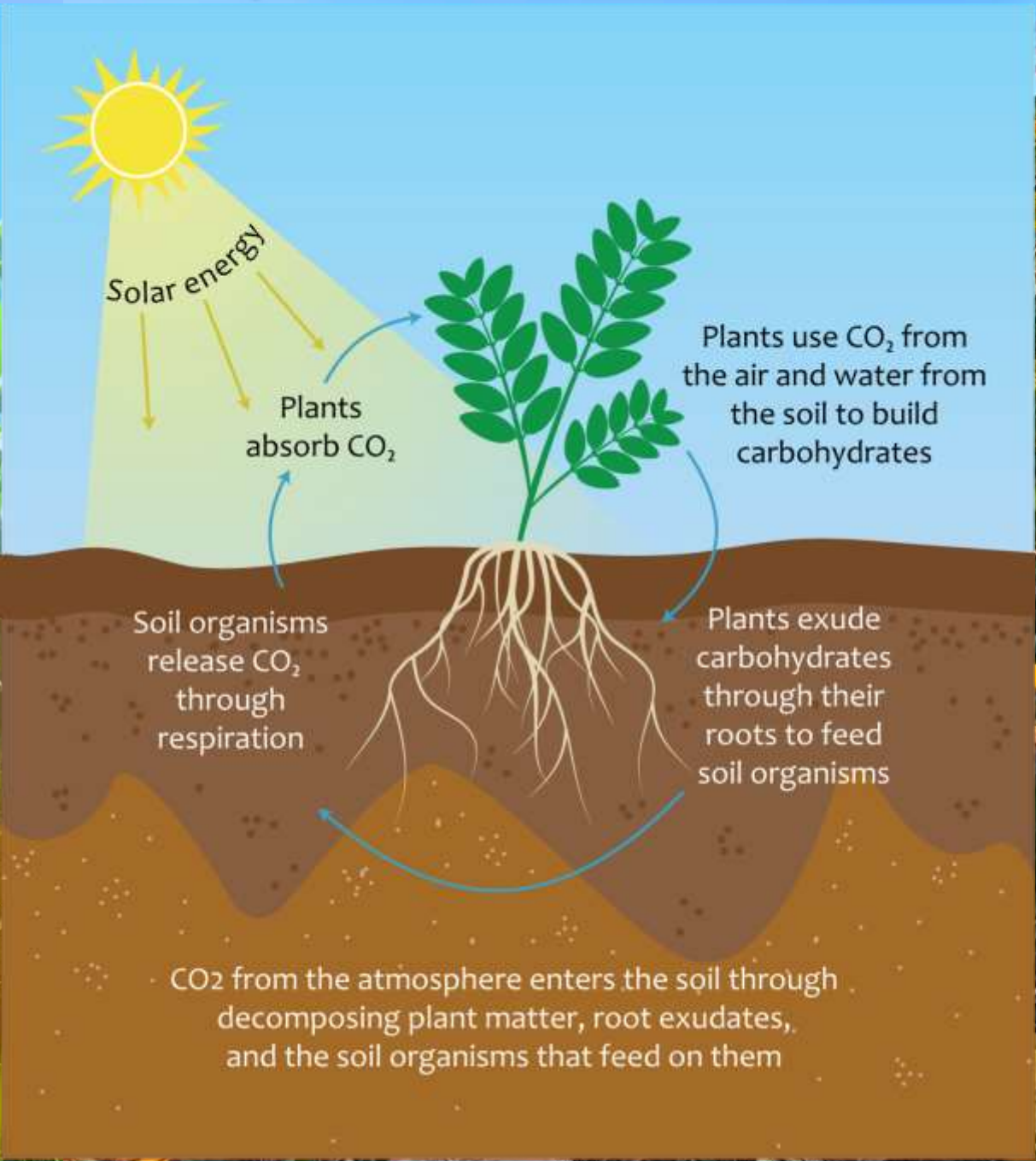
Calf Rearing



Use all your waste outputs as useful inputs

- ▶ **Compost**
 - ▶ Manure
 - ▶ Bales / silage
 - ▶ Mortalities
- ▶ **Worm production** - microbial inoculant
- ▶ **Culture Lactobacillus Bacteria** from waste milk





Thank you!

Questions?

