



SUSTAINABLE DAIRY FARMING



Mission statement

“To have a profitable dairy farm that is managed in a sustainable eco-friendly system.”

Minimum fertiliser policy

- Use mostly folio spray fertiliser
- Plant mixed pastures
- No insecticides and pesticides

Conservation is key

- Donated 50 hectares to the Crane and Oribi foundation
- We have a wide variety of endangered and rare wildlife on our farm



How do we as a country or industry produce healthy milk with sustainable practices?

- **We need**
 - a cow (pregnant and calving down)
 - good soil with healthy microbes
 - healthy grass
 - good rain
- **Cows can potentially sequester more carbon than forests or bushes**





We should milk cows according to nature

- She calves in spring
- Milk through summer

Seasonal dairy production can help sustainable dairy farming

- Milking in winter needs additional, costly inputs
- New Zealand is a successful dairy industry that harvest milk according to the natural seasons

Keep cows in milk in Winter?

Carbon burning activities needed to compensate for natural summer grasses

Farmers are forced to produce milk in winter.

Expensive and not sustainable farming

Facts

- 1 person in the Western world creates \pm 12 tonnes of carbon/annum
- well-maintained grasslands can sequester between 10–40 tonnes/ha of carbon/annum

Clear to see how we can use cows to the benefit humans!

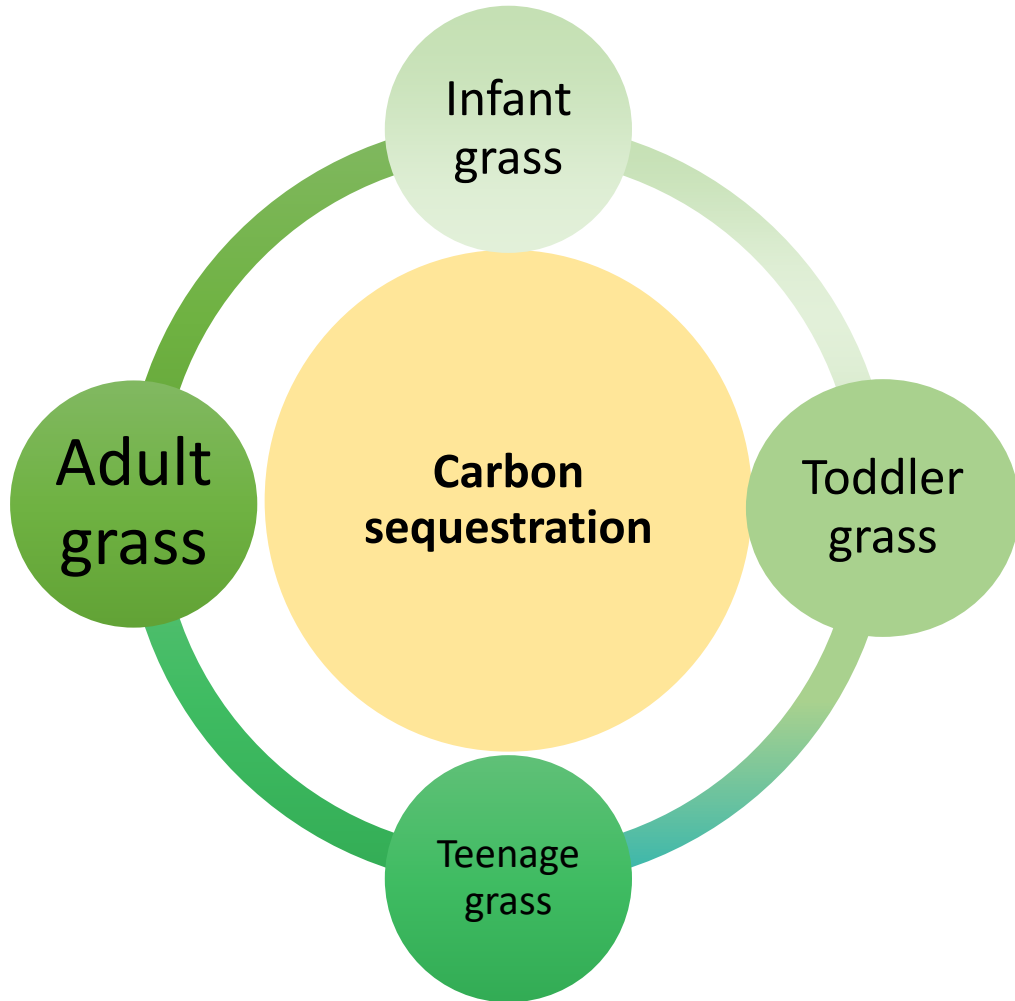




Cows can help turn the clock
back on global warming

- **Cows are not the problem**
- Encourages grass growth through proper pasture management
- Pruning of grass leads to sequestration of carbon

The cow is a mob stocking,
herbivorous, solar-converting,
liquefied carbon sequestrator.





There are two types of farmers ...

Farmers with < 1 000 cows

- Health of cows and pastures at heart
- Tries to cut costs and keep production up

Corporate farmers > 12 000 cows

- receives big price advantage on volume
- can produce milk at much lower cost than a small farmer

Dairy farmers are getting fewer ...

- In 2009, there were 3 551 dairy farmers
- In 2019, there were 1 064 dairy farmers

During the past 10 years, we have lost a dairy farmer every second day!



Biodiversity is being wiped out in our country and the world!

Monoculture is agriculture's original sin.



Act now, to reverse the trend

What is the true cost of production?

The true cost would need to account for

- lowering of the soil organic carbon
- degradation of topsoil
- soil loss
- water usage
- practice of monoculture
- use of GMO technology



Biodiversity = sustainability

- Farmers need to be incentivised
- An incentive to fund biodiversity could reverse the biodiversity collapse

Elephant in the room



The farmer is removed from the consumer. We cannot influence or educate the consumer.

Farmers are price takers

South African farmers are not being treated fairly in the marketplace

- Unfair global competition – cannot compete with imports subsidised by their governments
- A system that incentivises farmers to have a biodiverse farm - that pays for carbon sequestration



Incentive system for biodiverse farmers

Ireland

- incentivise sustainable farming practices
- grading of farms on sustainability = higher milk price
- small biodiverse farmers can support communities

South Africa

- farmers are paid on volume, not for sustainable farming
- Corporate farmers are incentivised and small farmers are not

Dairy farming can stop climate change

A woman with glasses, wearing a green t-shirt and blue jeans, stands in a grassy field with a herd of cows. The cows are of various breeds, including black and white, brown and white, and black. The background shows rolling green hills and trees under a cloudy sky.

**The question remains ...
What can you do?**



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