



Summary and Resources for Small Scale Grazing

Strategies on 17th April 2019 at Brookmead, Colwall. Thanks to Lindsay and Jane Williams, James Hawkins, Sue Holland and Colwall Orchard Group.

Introduction to holistic rotational grazing was based on Penn Rashbass' Hebridean flock in Derbyshire and the effects of grazing pressure and rest periods on leaf and root production. Penn has made paper copies of her notes available – please ask Caroline Hanks for one. Some Herefordshire Meadows smallholders taking similar approaches with consideration of how to adapt electric fences / tape / pig netting to sit well in the local landscape.

Strategies reflect the owner's objectives such as all year round grazing, maximising grass and beef / lamb production, resilience to drought and poaching, wildlife habitat management / conservation grazing and wildflower meadows and pastures. Most have multiple objectives. We agreed that maintaining flower rich swards requires additional attention to detail and timeliness. During **meadow creation / enhancement** the grazing / mowing strategy must allow for soil / seed contact and enough light for seedling establishment. To **maintain flower rich grassland** broad leaved plants must flower and set viable seed that returns to the seedbank. Managing wildflowers among trees and scrub brings extra challenges so that all components of habitat mosaic can thrive.

For those without their own livestock good **communication** between grazier and meadow owner is key to reaching objectives. Good fencing, loading areas, water supply, realistic payments / rent, timing of grazing and other operations are critical to success.

Sources of Information

Jim Gerrish; The fear of wasting grass https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7X_Bz91zWOW&feature=youtu.be

[Rare Breed Survival Trust and Grazing Animals Project GAP Resources](#) This is a wonderful website and is the new home of the updated GAP Resources; almost everything you need to know about grazing animals and conservation grazing - Pen Rashbass is updating more leaflets for this site and has kindly provided :-

[Gathering, handling and transporting stock leaflet](#) available in draft format until it is uploaded on the site

Click here for details of how to join the active discussion group [Nibblers](#)

RegenAgUK and PFLA run holistic grazing courses with Rob Havard and others <https://www.pastureforlife.org/>

Soil health +light farming – Joel Williams www.integratedsoils.com Christine Jones www.amazingcarbon.com

Andre Voisin: [Grass Productivity – an introduction to rational grazing](#)

Temple Grandin's [Guide to working with farm animals](#)

Sarah Flack [The Art and Science of Grazing](#)

Fred Provenas [Nourishment: What Animals can teach us about rediscovering our Nutritional Wisdom](#)

For photos and more about Herefordshire Meadows discussion at Colwall go to [NEWS](#)

Digital copy of this sheet with active links is available at www.herefordshiremeadows.org.uk

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