



School of Sustainable Food and Farming

School of Sustainable Food and Farming – Project Funding Report

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Identifying opportunities to increase carbon sequestration in permanent pasture through changes in management practices

Budget: £14,780

Interim report

Final report to be submitted September 2022

An MRes student was recruited and commenced studies in October 2021.

Objectives of the project

1. To analyse current management practices for permanent pasture in the UK

A survey is due to be launched to a pilot group for feedback and then more widely this month to UK beef and sheep farmers using social media platforms and to Morrisons red meat suppliers to understand current management practices for permanent pasture, covering aspects such as:

Nutrient management

Grazing management

Mechanical operations e.g. drainage, harrowing, topping, rolling

2. To identify through the literature potential changes in management practices which could increase carbon sequestration in permanent pasture

A systematic review of the literature is ongoing to identify management practices which could be implemented to increase carbon sequestration. Indications from this part of the project suggest that the following management practices have the potential to increase carbon sequestration:

Mob grazing

Techno grazing

Multi-species grazing systems

Leader-follower systems

Tree planting

Bale grazing

Sowing herbal leys/mixed species swards

Measuring grass covers using software, plate meter, sward stick or other

Grass/forage budgeting

Silvopasture

3. To evaluate potential for implementation of these changes in management practices in UK systems

The aforementioned survey will include questions relating to the management practices identified above to determine their current uptake and their potential for implementation on UK farms. Questions will also try to identify what the barriers to uptake of these practise may be.