

LIVESTOCK & ARABLE SYNERGY

DJL agriculture run by father and Son David & Daniel Lievesley, was set up in 2016 with a vision of bringing synergy between the livestock and arable sector. David has many years' experience working with dairy cows, his passion lies on feeding cows a healthy diet grown in a regenerative system for which Daniel provides Agronomy advice for on farm. With customers based in predominantly Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Shropshire the company is keen to expand into other areas.

At DJL Agriculture they fully embrace the biological farming approach where everything begins with the soil. Whilst taking pride in ourselves by working alongside farmers to ensure the quality of their soil remains healthy through planting a diverse range of crops.

There is much interest in the use of forage herbs which form part of a diverse cropping rotation. A practice which has been proven on DJL Agriculture clients' farms with great success in both animal and soil health. Herbs that are part of some of the existing leys on farm include, chicory, plantain and sainfoin. These deep rooting herbs provide an excellent resistance to drought which is becoming ever more important in today's climate. They also give anthelmintic properties to reduce the need for any wormers.

Diversity is key and variety is seen very much as the spice of life, a mix containing different forage grass species help to contain adequate levels of energy and protein as well as bringing in vital trace elements required to help improve stock performance. As part of the cropping rotation, Herbal leys are seen as an important part of a regenerative system. The agronomic advantages they give are tremendous and have allowed fertiliser usage to be reduced which has helped improve soil biology and has given plants a higher nutrient status which has been shown in the forage analysis which is taken before any feeding ration is prescribed.

With nitrogen prices at an all time high establishing nitrogen fixing plant species will help you reduce the amount of artificial nitrogen you apply. White Clovers can fix up to 280kg N/ha although on average is more likely to be 150 Kg N/ha. It suits both grazing and silage leys and can increase yields by up to 15% depending on the clover content. Red clover can produce more nitrogen available to the grass sward. Clover is best established after a crop that has reduced the nitrogen content of the soil such as cereals or brassicas. Broadcasting is a good method of establishment as it does not bury the seed as deep as drilling does. Clover can also be under sown with a cereal crop that is intended

for whole crop. To get the best from a legume crop the correct nutrition must be applied according to need following tissue testing and Sap Analysis so maximum nodulation occurs. This can be done using our in-field



testing equipment looking at the plant's cation and anion status in real time along with sending away tissue samples for analysis to create a healthy balanced plant. To discuss re seeding further please do get in touch and we shall be more than happy to assist you in the decision process.

Arable Silage or Whole crop mixtures are another ideal addition or alternative to grass or maize silage. Quick growing, these mixtures can be taken for silage in 10-12weeks from sowing or left until 14 -16weeks to be harvested as whole crop. These mixtures can act as an excellent nurse crop to an under sown grass ley although for successful grass establishment, the arable silage mixture should be harvested no later than 10-12weeks from sowing.

For those growing this crop for nutritional purposes to dairy cows, this whole crop forages provides an excellent feed with a well-balanced combination of starch and protein.

This crop produces Amino acids required in different amounts of each of the 10 essential amino acids, including: phenylalanine, valine, threonine, tryptophane, isoleucine, methionine, histidine, arginine, leucine, and lysine.

Methionine and lysine are the two most studied essential amino acids and have been shown to be limiting output of milk protein in dairy cows. The feed quality of this whole crop has been proved and backed up by forage analysis. For Feeding

advice, formulation of diets and rations please do get in touch, this is then backed by a 'hands on' presence on farm, resulting in cost effective rations that really work!

To find out more about what we do and to see our newsletters published each month please visit www.djlagriculture.co.uk

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“Since using the services of DJL agriculture we have seen improved soil health and used less fertilizer without compromising yield”
Andrew & Michael Broadley,
Whitecroft