

# DairyCo Research Partnership

## Demonstration farms



The DairyCo Research Partnership on Soil, Forage and Grassland is now underway. We are running a series of farm demonstrations in collaboration with BGS, to demonstrate some of the research outcomes. Our first two demo farms begin this Summer in Cheshire and Devon.

### Ray Brown, Cheshire

**The Orchards, Twemlow, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire CW4 8DS**

**Stock:** 300 cows

**Livestock genetics:** Pedigree Holstein

**Production:** 9500 litres

**Grazing:** Strip grazing fields close to the parlour, zero grazing fields further away from parlour

**Soils:** Sandy-clay loam, clay soils

**Farm developments:** Anaerobic digestion unit under development.



### Demonstrations

#### Demo 1: Utilising slurry in the grazing rotation

Ray is aiming to replace (in part and in total) nutrients supplied by artificial fertiliser throughout the grazing season, with nutrients from slurry. We will be monitoring sward and animal performance, and the practicality of administering these techniques.



#### Demo 2: Techniques for alleviating soil compaction

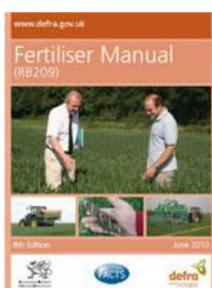
Soil compaction has been a major issue this year and Ray will be looking at the impact of sward lifting and spike aeration techniques on alleviating compaction and on subsequent grass growth.



Sward lifting began in autumn, results are being assessed.

#### Demo 3: Grassland nutrient requirements (RB209 validation survey)

The farm is being used as a site to help validate fertiliser recommendations for grassland (RB209), ADAS are running a number of trial sites across GB to validate grass yield response to different levels of Nitrogen (N) application.



### Rob Taverner, Devon

**Lower Brenton Farm, Kennford, Exeter, Devon EX6 7YL**

**Stock:** 250 cows

**Livestock genetics:** Crossbred (Norwegian/Swedish Red x Friesian x Holstein)

**Production:** 6500 litres

**Grazing:** Paddock grazing

**Soils:** Red Devon clay

**Farm developments:** Moved out of organic production, separate farm ice-cream business. Measuring pasture productivity for the first year this year.



### Demonstrations

#### Demo 1: Optimum soil nutrition for grazing pastures

Rob will be looking at different strategies to optimise soil nutrition such as fertiliser type and lime usage to help him achieve maximum grass growth throughout the grazing season.



#### Demo 2: What is the best method for alleviating compaction at reseeding time?

Soil compaction can severely hinder grass root development. We will be looking at the different options available for dealing with compaction at reseeding time.

#### Demo 3: Choosing different seed mixtures for grazing fields

In September 2012, Rob reseeded five discrete areas in one field. One was sown with a single variety, as a monoculture, while the others were sown with a range of mixtures. Performance of each of these will be monitored during the grazing rotation.



### Dates for your diary

The first demonstration farm visit at Ray Browns will be held on **11<sup>th</sup> July 2013**.

The first demonstration farm visit at Rob Taverners will be held on **16<sup>th</sup> April 2013**.

For more information visit [www.britishgrassland.com](http://www.britishgrassland.com)

