



DairyCo-BGS Demo Farms: Demonstrating Research in Practice

Trink Dairy – Cornwall

The Knowles run a 325 cow herd with 285 youngstock (25% Jersey x 75% Friesian) at Trink Dairy between Hayle and St Ives, Cornwall. Since the late 1990's they have operated an extended grazing system, which was their solution to the low milk prices of that period. The grazing platform at Trink comprises 250 acres, with a further 250 acres off-land, all of which is down to either short or long-term grassland.



Chris and Rachel Knowles at Trink

They won the Mole Valley Forage for Profit award in 2012 and the Cornwall Best Dairy Business award in 2013.

Production stats	
Butterfat	4.6
Production (litres/cow/year)	5500
Cell count	120
Concentrate use per litre	0.18kg

In April 2014 Chris Knowles agreed to become a demo farm looking into

a) Soil Condition and Aeration

b) Outwintering Heifers



Soil from demo plot at Trink

Soils at Trink are generally light and freely draining being a sandy loam with a high organic content over granite parent-rock. Although these soils are more suited to extended grazing than heavier, wetter soils Chris still notices the influence of soil compaction, especially where fields have been trafficked and during prolonged or torrential wet weather events.

Over recent years Chris has been using a soil aerator annually as a matter of course. As part of the DairyCo-BGS Demo Farms Project the Trink Dairy has been running trials to investigate the influence on **soil condition** and grassland **productivity** of a) the type of aerator used and b) the timing of undertaking the aeration operation.

Trink Dairy will be holding several knowledge exchange events in 2014/15 as part of the demo farms project. These events will be free to attend. For more information and forthcoming events contact charlotte.evans@britishgrassland.com or Rebecca.Miles@dairyco.ahdb.org.uk