



Mentor Profile:

Matthew Ingram

Like many of the U.K.s grassland farmers back in the 2000's Matthew's grazing practice was semi-rotational in the Summer months, following the well-established methodology of grazing roughly one third of the farm and cutting two thirds, then swapping round, then grazing the whole farm in the second half of the season.

Matthew contract farms 500 Autumn-calving crossbred cows and followers on Lord Cawley's mixed enterprise estate. 138 ha grazing land is supported by 29 ha maize and 24 ha of mowing grass grown in the arable rotation.

Matthew is delighted to have come a long way since switching the focus to improved grazing – He now grazes from February to November and targets a maximum of 100 days housed.

Matthew agreed to become a Grazing Mentor in recognition of the benefit he gained from other farmers whilst adopting his grazing system. He gives credit to 11 other farmers in local discussion groups, and says that *"becoming a grazing mentor is a chance for me to give something back to others who may wish to improve grassland utilisation"*.

"I can remember being astonished in 2006 to be told that I should be grazing the whole farm before the grass even starts growing properly!

Where would all the silage come from?

I am now in my 11th extended grazing season. I love it and would never go back, despite its challenges."

