But we know very little about what would happen to the soil if no livestock ever steps back on it — forever.

With thanks for grazed pasture -
In 2003, Adam Nieman et al created an image of the world’s water as a sphere sitting next to the earth rather than spread over its surface.

The large sphere is the total amount of water on the planet.

The smaller sphere is the total amount of fresh water.

The smallest sphere, barely distinguishable, is the total amount of fresh water that we can access in lakes and rivers.
The world’s top soil

....in a sphere just 25 km in diameter!

4.2 billion hectares to a depth of 20cm
The pastures of Mongolia

Grazing cattle

The Maasai in East Africa
Grazing cattle in Argentina

Grazing sheep in Romania
Around one third of all the world’s large ruminants are in India
75 million dairy farmers
Milk Vending machine in shopping mall in central Delhi
Soil loss from arable versus grassland soil
North Wyke Farm Platform (systems based experiment)
Heritage wheat planted directly into permanent pasture

The farm at Naroques – southern France

The farm’s mowing machines
Nutrient dense, low gluten heritage wheat produces high quality bread produced on the farm and sold around Toulouse.
Hill Top Farm, Malham
@hilltopfarmgirl
Farming is a conversation with nature

A conversation is two-sided – always to a degree mysterious; it requires faith. (Wendell Berry)