

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

How farmer cluster groups can
change the world











Littleton Farm

- West coast of Scotland
- Total farm area 136Ha.
- 117Ha is pasture, 14Ha woodland.
- Glacial till – clay 22% across farm, sandier towards the sea, siltier away from it.
- 40m-145m above sea-level
- 30 yr average rainfall is 1072mm.





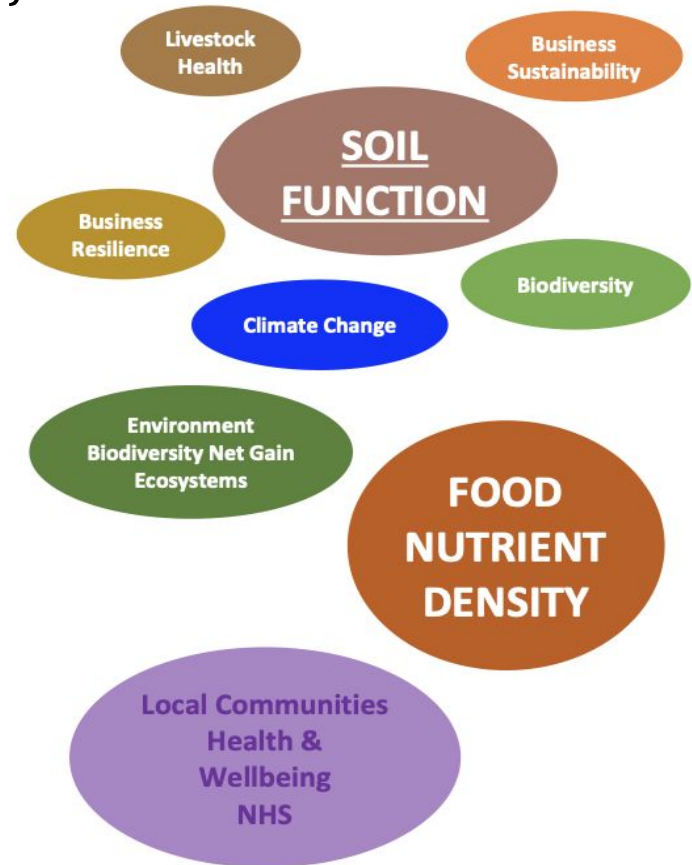
Cows & Grazing

- 40-50 cows + followers
- Mixture of Aberdeen Angus and Hereford - traditional types
- Breeding for a hardy maternal cow
- PFL certified farm
- 45-day bulling period
- Calve from mid-April; wean in Feb/Mar.
- Daily moves and long rest periods
- All animals outwintered on deferred grazing with supplementary bales when the cows tell us they need them!





Why?















Are **you** a member of a farmer knowledge sharing group?




What do you think are the *key ingredients* for an effective group?

About our group: a potted history

- Formed in 2021 as a small Cluster of 20(ish)
- Soil Health Group formed 2022
- Won the Nature of Scotland Food and Farming Award 2023
- Sessions at ORFC, GO Falkland & other conferences
- Input into Scot Agri Bill and MSP lobbying
- Interest from other regions - supporting new Clusters and co-creating Governance





The Regenerative Farming Network wants farming in Scotland to be part of the solution to the climate, nature and public health crises.



We want farming to be profitable, sustainable, resilient and nature friendly.

You REALLY need an Abi.



A (*paid*) facilitator.



Because farmers are notoriously
difficult to get off farm ...



but we really appreciate the
knowledge sharing and
connection when we do!





Ingredient 1: A Culture of Respect









What could a culture of respect look like in
your farming community?



Ingredient 2: Common Purpose and Goals









What would your common goals
and purpose be?



Ingredient 3: Seeing is Believing



Regenerate
Outcomes
&
Liz Genever

Look
Touch
Feel
Smell

The same
paddock just
3 weeks later






Hands on practical,
Questions & Discussions
Fiona Lovatt / Ark Vets

GRAZING BULLOCKS AT CHAPEL 2015 - 2024




	Av Age @ Sale	Av LWt @ Sale	LWt/Age		fert [25/5/5]
Sold	[days]	[kg]	Av Life DLG	Grazing Policy	bags/ac
2015	542	457	0.78	stores rotated	1 .5 /ac
2016	576	482	0.78	"	"
2017	534	453	0.78	"	"
2018	516	431	0.77	"	"
2019	529	475	0.83	cows rotated	"
2020	519	499	0.89	"	"
2021	502	480	0.89	"	"
2022	494	480	0.90	"	1 bag
2023	491	469	0.88	"	3/4 bag/ac
2024	480	493	0.95	"	half bag/ac

Average DLG improvement from 2015/16/17 to 2022/23/24 = 16.6%



What skills and knowledge do you
most want to know or share?



Ingredient 4: Effective Leadership and Organising

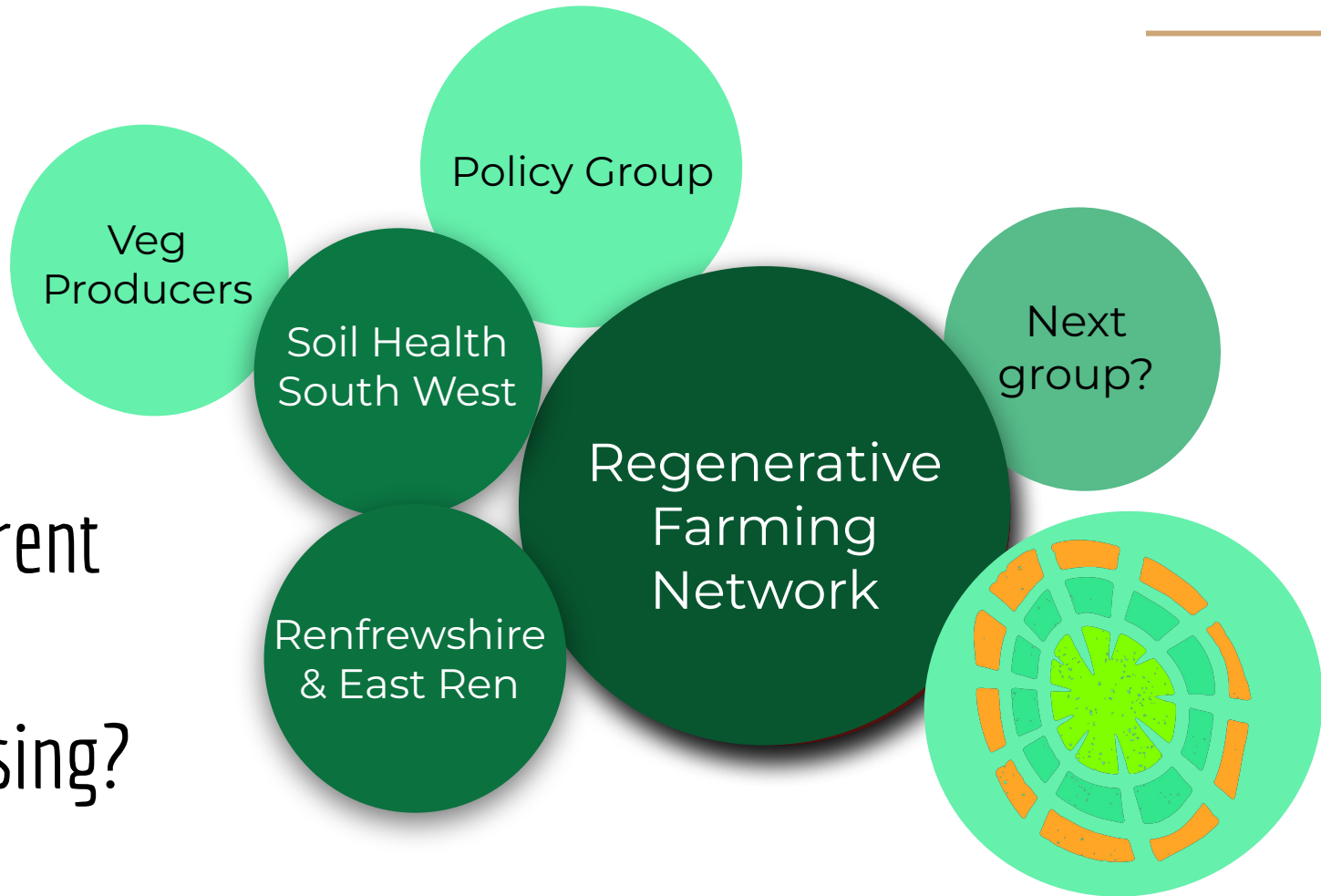



- Democratic
- Transparent
- Empowering
- Representative
- Accountable

A **budget** to pay facilitators and enable members to take a lead




A different
way of
organising?





How would you share and
delegate organising?



How do these ingredients help to change the world?

(discussion)

